

Australian Standard™

**Training and certification of recreational
divers**

**Part 1: Minimum entry-level SCUBA
diving**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/83, Recreational Underwater Diving. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 17 January 2000 and published on 1 March 2000.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/83:

Australian Dive Council
Australian Medical Association
Australian Underwater Federation
Australian Underwater Scuba Instructors
The British Sub-Aqua Club
Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, Qld
Department of Sport and Recreation, N.S.W.
Dive Queensland
Divers Alert Network SE Asia-Pacific
Maritime Union of Australia
National Association of Scuba Diving Schools Australasia
Nau Services Australia
PADI Asia Pacific
Scuba Divers Association of New South Wales
Scuba Schools International Australia
SDI Australia and New Zealand
South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society
WorkCover New South Wales

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee CS/83, Recreational Underwater Diving, to supersede AS 4005.1—1992.

The Standard was originally prepared in response to a request by the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF). The AUF expressed concern about the wide differences between courses being taught in Australia.

The major changes in this edition of the Standard are as follows:

- (a) Removal of the reference to the National SCUBA Qualifications Commission.
- (b) Reorganization of the in-water skills training to require some of the exercises to be carried out in a pool or confined water.
- (c) Replacement of the medical certificate with a medical statement which provides more information to the candidate and the instructor.

On successful completion of training to the requirements of this Standard, the graduate should be able to dive safely and competently under reasonably controlled conditions. Training by itself, however, cannot convert a graduate into a fully competent diver. With all diving, this requires further experience, as it is only by reinforcing the skills and knowledge acquired during training that the graduate will become fully competent. Graduates should be aware of the need for area orientation at dive sites which are new to them and seek information on the local area and conditions before planning a dive.

Additional training for other special types of recreational diving may also be undertaken subsequent to certification as an entry-level diver. Some of these specialties are advanced recreational, cavern, deep, ice and night diving, various levels of instructor certification, underwater naturalist and underwater photography.

The illustrations for the handsignals shown in Appendix E are reproduced with the permission of PADI Asia Pacific Ltd.

This Standard is Part 1 of a series on training and certification of recreational divers. The series is as follows:

- Part 1: Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving (this Standard)
- Part 2: Recreational SCUBA dive supervisor
- Part 3: Assistant SCUBA instructor
- Part 4: SCUBA instructor
- Part 5: SCUBA instructor trainer

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Training and certification of recreational divers

Part 1: Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard specifies the minimum training activities and terminal objectives required for training and accreditation of persons who wish, for recreational purposes, to—

- (a) dive safely and competently using self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) in the area in which training was undertaken; and
- (b) engage in open water SCUBA diving with a diver of similar qualifications, without supervision.

NOTES:

- 1 Whenever divers encounter a new diving environment they are encouraged to seek orientation to the new conditions and local diving practices.
- 2 Persons wishing to engage in other forms of recreational diving or use equipment other than compressed air SCUBA will require training other than that covered in this Standard.
- 3 Conditional certification is addressed in Clause 1.6(a).

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to specify the organizational and syllabus requirements to train recreational divers to operate safely and competently to a depth of dive of 18 m using SCUBA.

1.3 APPLICATION The training specified in this Standard applies to diving in reasonable environmental conditions which allow direct and immediate access to the surface.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

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| 2030 | The verification, filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of cylinders for the storage and transport of compressed gases |
| 2030.1 | Part 1: Cylinders for compressed gases other than acetylene |
| 4005 | Training and certification of recreational divers |
| 4005.2 | Part 2: Recreational SCUBA dive supervisor |
| 4005.3 | Part 3: Assistant SCUBA instructor |
| 4005.4 | Part 4: SCUBA instructor |

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|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 2299 | Occupational diving operations |
| 2299.1 | Part 1: Standard operational practice |