

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Training and certification of  
occupational divers**

**Part 4: Bell diving**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/17, Work in Compressed Air. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 3 June 1992 and published on 20 July 1992.

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The following interests are represented on Committee SF/17:

Association of Offshore Diving Contractors of Australia  
Australian Council of Trade Unions  
Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology  
Australian Marine Sciences Association  
Australian Medical Association  
Australian Pipeline Industries Association  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Work in Compressed Air to supersede AS 2815.4—1985, *Training and certification of divers Part 4: Bell diving*.

The Standard is one part (Part 4) of a series of Standards relevant to the training and certification of underwater divers, where the requirements of regulatory authorities and industry demand a prescribed degree of training and competence to ensure an adequate degree of safety, performance and economy.

This Standard is particularly related to the training of personnel who will be engaged in underwater operations as bellmen and lockout divers. Such qualification is the minimum required by the regulatory authorities responsible for the control of deep diving off-shore, e.g. oil and gas exploration.

Other Standards in the series relate to SCUBA diving to 30 m (Part 1), air diving to 30 m (Part 2) and air diving to 50 m (Part 3). Other parts for the AS 2815 series may also be prepared for training of other persons/operators involved in diving operations, e.g. diving supervisors.

Persons who successfully complete the training course specified in this Standard are eligible for certification from a State certification scheme such as that administered by the WorkCover Authority, N.S.W. or under the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) administered by the Victorian Department of Manufacturing and Industry Development subject to ADAS approval of the diver training establishment.

This Standard is largely based on requirements originally developed by the (U.K.) Manpower Services Commission (MSC) and the European Diving Technology Committee of the EEC, which were developed to comply with the (U.K.) Health and Safety Executive Diving operations at work regulations. Such regulations require all divers entering construction or off-shore oil and gas industries in the United Kingdom to have achieved the appropriate requirements of the appropriate underwater working training Standard and to be certified as thus by the relevant regulatory authority.

Australian industry and the Committee have strongly supported the objectives of developing training Standards compatible with the U.K. Standards and to provide for reciprocal acceptance of diver qualification/certification within Australia *and with* the U.K. and European authorities. Such reciprocity is most desirable to provide uniform control and regulations for a itinerant workforce of professional divers. To this end, close contact has been maintained with the U.K. authorities and arrangements for reciprocal approval of diver training schools (curriculum and facilities) were being negotiated by the Victorian Department of Manufacturing and Industry Development. It should be noted that these reciprocity negotiations were based on the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme, not on the restricted occupational certification scheme.

In the U.K., the relevant authority (Health and Safety Executive) has also established a Certification Board for diving training to advise on contingencies not covered by Standards, as follows:

- (a) Criteria by which diver training may be assessed for certification purposes.
- (b) Criteria by which experience may be assessed for certification purposes of a standard not less than the standard of training in Item (a).
- (c) Establishments providing training satisfying the criteria in Item (a).
- (d) Equivalence to Items (a) and (b) in respect of training and experience in foreign countries.
- (e) Arrangements for—
  - (i) issuing of certificates in respect of diver training;
  - (ii) declaring such certificates to be no longer valid; and
  - (iii) approval of persons taking part in diving operations as part of training.

Advice on how the above matters are to be handled in Australia should be sought from the relevant State regulatory authority or the ADAS administrator.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL</b>	
1.1 SCOPE .....	4
1.2 APPLICATION .....	4
1.3 PURPOSE AND UNITS OF COMPETENCY .....	4
1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	4
1.5 DEFINITIONS .....	4
1.6 SELECTION CRITERIA .....	5
<b>SECTION 2 UNITS OF COMPETENCY</b>	
2.1 TRAINING COURSE CONTENT .....	5
2.2 APPLY DIVING PHYSICS .....	6
2.3 DIVE USING A DIVING BELL AND CHAMBER COMPLEX .....	6
2.4 PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE .....	5
2.5 COMMUNICATE DURING DIVING OPERATIONS .....	14
2.6 LIVE UNDER SATURATION CONDITIONS .....	15
2.7 PARTICIPATE IN LENGTHY DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES .....	16
2.8 APPLY KNOWLEDGE OF DIVING PHYSIOLOGY AND FIRST AID .....	17
2.9 UNDERSTAND AND APPLY RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE ..	18
<b>SECTION 3 TRAINING PLANS, ASSESSMENT AND PLANNED EXPERIENCE</b>	
3.1 DEVELOPING THE TRAINING PLAN .....	19
3.2 METHODS OF TRAINEE ASSESSMENT .....	19
3.3 STAFFING, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES .....	19
3.4 PLANNED EXPERIENCE .....	20

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**Training and certification of occupational divers**

**Part 4: Bell diving**

**SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL**

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard specifies the training activities and competencies required for the training and accreditation of experienced air divers to work safely and competently as bellmen and lockout divers.

**1.2 APPLICATION** The Standard recognizes that training may take place in a diving school or within an organization.

Regulatory authorities may utilize the Standard to—

- (a) approve establishments to run courses to this Standard;
- (b) monitor courses to ensure standards are being maintained; and
- (c) issue or accept certificates of competence, restricted or otherwise, to or from persons who have completed the specified training tasks and are adjudged competent to achieve the competencies described in this Standard.

**NOTES:**

- 1 At the time of publication investigations were under way to determine if reciprocal recognition of diver qualification and certification could be arranged between Australian and the European authorities (U.K. and EEC).
- 2 The Victorian Department of Manufacturing and Industry Development is currently working with other equivalent State regulatory bodies in Australia, under the auspices of the Australian Minerals and Energy Council (AMEC) Standing Committee on Off-shore Petroleum Legislation, to institute and implement a uniform national system for occupational diver accreditation. This Standard is seen as the vehicle by which uniform training criteria can be set in Australia for diving activities requiring such certification.

**1.3 PURPOSE AND UNITS OF COMPETENCY**

**1.3.1 Purpose** The purpose of this Standard is to describe the organizational and syllabus requirements necessary to train experienced air divers to operate safely and competently as bellmen and lockout divers.

The following important aspects need to be stressed:

- (a) *Safety and health* The safety and health of the diver and the development of safe working practices must be integrated into all aspects of the training course.
- (b) *Team training* The training, particularly in practical diving and underwater work, should be directed not only towards developing individual competence, but also towards helping the trainee to think and act as a member of a team.

**1.3.2 Units of competency** The units of competency describe what the trainee must be able to do on completion of training and can be classified broadly into two groups as follows:

- (a) Units which develop some degree of competence in the trainee to dive and work safely.
- (b) Units which are limited to developing in the trainee an appreciation of, or acquaintance with, a piece of equipment or a procedure.

**NOTES:**

- 1 The wording and interpretation of the units of competency are very important as they are used to produce the topics to be included in the training program.
- 2 Details of the curriculum and criteria for assessment are subject to approval by the relevant regulatory authority.

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

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| AS 2815.4   | Occupational diving                               |
| AS 2815     | Training and certification of occupational divers |
| AS 2815.3   | Part 3: Air diving to 50 m                        |
| C of A 1980 | Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Acts Part VIII        |

**1.5 DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**1.5.1 Regulatory authority**—a Minister of the Crown, a government department or other public authority having power to issue regulations, orders or other instructions having the force of law in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.