

Australian Standard™

**Training and certification of recreational  
divers**

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



**S t a n d a r d s A u s t r a l i a**

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.

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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  
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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.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL</b>	
1.1 SCOPE .....	4
1.2 OBJECTIVE .....	4
1.3 APPLICATION .....	4
1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	4
1.5 DEFINITIONS .....	5
1.6 SELECTION CRITERIA .....	5
<b>SECTION 2 TERMINAL OBJECTIVES AND TRAINING TOPICS</b>	
2.1 TRAINING COURSE .....	6
2.2 OPEN WATER TRAINING DIVES FOR TABLE 2.4 .....	6
2.3 OPEN WATER TRAINING TIMES FOR TABLE 2.4 .....	6
<b>SECTION 3 TRAINING PLAN, ASSESSMENT, EQUIPMENT AND OPEN WATER DIVING</b>	
3.1 DEVELOPING THE TRAINING PLAN .....	12
3.2 STANDARDS OF INSTRUCTION AND COMPETENCE OF INSTRUCTORS .....	12
3.3 EQUIPMENT .....	12
3.4 OPEN WATER DIVING .....	13
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
A PREDIVING MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR PROSPECTIVE RECREATIONAL SCUBA DIVERS .....	14
B TYPICAL MEDICAL FORM FOR PROSPECTIVE RECREATIONAL SCUBA DIVERS .....	19
C ADVICE TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN .....	24
D SPECIALIST DIVING MEDICINE CONTACTS .....	25
E COMMUNICATION SIGNALS .....	27

## 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 qualification, 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 1.2(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

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 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  |

## AS/NZS

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