



Occupational safety code for diving operations



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***CSA Z275.2:20
February 2020***

Title: *Occupational safety code for diving operations*

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CSA Z275.2:20
Occupational safety code for diving operations



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Published in February 2020 by CSA Group
A not-for-profit private sector organization
178 Rexdale Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 1R3

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or call toll-free 1-800-463-6727 or 416-747-4044.

ICS 97.220.40
ISBN 978-1-4883-2633-2

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Contents

Technical Committee on Occupational Diving and Hyperbaric Environments 6

Subcommittee on Diving Operations 11

Preface 15

1 Scope 17

1.1 General 17

1.2 Limitations 17

1.3 Terminology 17

1.4 Units of measurement 18

2 Reference publications 18

3 Definitions 20

4 General requirements 26

4.1 Qualification of diving personnel 26

4.1.1 Medical qualification 26

4.1.2 Training qualifications 27

4.2 Diving records 28

4.2.1 Diver's personal logbook 28

4.2.2 Daily record 29

4.3 General dive procedures 29

4.3.1 Planning of diving operation 29

4.3.2 Supervision 29

4.3.3 Understanding of duties 29

4.3.4 Transportation to the water surface 30

4.3.5 Recovery of an unconscious diver 30

4.3.6 Inspection of equipment in preparation for the dive 30

4.3.7 Standby diver 31

4.3.8 Adherence to planned procedures 31

4.3.9 Identification of work site 31

4.4 Diving hazards 31

4.4.1 General 31

4.4.2 Floating equipment 31

4.4.3 Approach to intakes/water-control structures and penetration 31

4.4.4 Hazardous mechanisms — general 32

4.4.5 Use of explosives 32

4.5 Emergency services and contingency planning 33

4.5.1 General duty 33

4.5.2 Medical standby 33

4.5.3 Backup hyperbaric facilities 33

4.5.4 Emergency procedure — termination of dive 33

4.6 Breathing mixtures 33

4.6.1 General 33

4.6.2	Bailout systems	33
4.6.3	Bailout quantities	33
4.6.4	Purity standards	34
4.6.5	Non-standard gases	34
4.7	Compressed breathing air composition and purity	34
4.7.1	Air composition	34
4.7.2	Air purity	35
4.8	Sampling and analysis of compressed breathing air or gas mixture	35
4.8.1	General	35
4.8.2	Sampling	35
4.8.3	Analysis	36
4.9	Purity of oxygen, nitrogen, and helium	38
4.10	Purity and sampling of gas mixtures	39

5 Decompression procedures and tables 40

5.1	General	40
5.2	Hyperbaric chambers (non-saturation)	40
5.2.1	General	40
5.2.2	On-site requirement	40
5.2.3	Access and location	40
5.2.4	Communication	40
5.2.5	Firefighting	40
5.2.6	First aid	41
5.2.7	External chamber check	41
5.2.8	Internal chamber check	42
5.2.9	Control panel	43
5.3	Hyperbaric chamber operator	43
5.4	Schedule of diving operations	44
5.5	Pressure-related illness	44
5.6	Air transportation of distressed divers	44
5.7	Diving after treatment for a pressure-related illness	44
5.8	Diving supervisor's responsibilities	44

6 General equipment requirements 44

6.1	Diving equipment	44
6.1.1	Design, performance, and maintenance of equipment	44
6.1.2	Alternative energy sources	45
6.2	Gauges and metering equipment	45
6.2.1	Checking of gauges and metering equipment	45
6.2.2	Submersible depth gauges	46
6.3	Compressed breathing air system requirements	46
6.3.1	General	46
6.3.2	Air intakes	47
6.3.3	Compressor requirements	47
6.3.4	Air purification elements and purifier moisture monitoring	47
6.3.5	Compressor operator	48
6.3.6	Compressor maintenance cleaning solvents	48
6.4	Oxygen installations	49
6.4.1	Hoses	49

- 6.4.2 Flow velocity 49
- 6.4.3 Valves 49
- 6.4.4 Oxygen storage area 49
- 6.5 Design and testing of pressure vessels 49
- 6.6 Compressed breathing air pipelines 50
- 6.7 Lifeline systems 51
- 6.8 Communications 51
- 6.9 Additional diver's equipment requirements 52
- 6.10 Surface diving base equipment 52
- 6.11 Diver launch and recovery 53
- 6.12 Diving stages 53
- 6.13 Wet bells 54
- 6.14 Remotely operated vehicles ROVs and diving operations 54
- 6.15 Alarms 55

7 SCUBA diving 55

- 7.1 General 55
- 7.2 Maximum depth 56
- 7.3 Emergencies 56
- 7.4 Communications 56
- 7.5 Minimum crew 56
- 7.6 Diving team roles 57
- 7.7 Standby diver 58
- 7.8 Diving equipment 58
 - 7.8.1 Divers 58
 - 7.8.2 Standby SCUBA equipment 58
- 7.9 Sledding 58
 - 7.9.1 General 58
 - 7.9.2 Boat captain or pilot 58

8 Surface-supplied diving 59

- 8.1 General requirements 59
 - 8.1.1 General 59
 - 8.1.2 Work restrictions 59
 - 8.1.3 Surface-supplied of shore gas and oil diving 59
- 8.2 Crew 60
 - 8.2.1 Minimum crew 60
 - 8.2.2 Diver's tender 60
 - 8.2.3 Standby diver 60
- 8.3 Equipment requirements 60
 - 8.3.1 General 60
 - 8.3.2 Air lines 60
 - 8.3.3 Bail out system 61
 - 8.3.4 Non-return valves 61
 - 8.3.5 Diving recovery harness 61
 - 8.3.6 Umbilicals 61
 - 8.3.7 Diving support equipment 62
 - 8.3.8 Dive control 62
 - 8.3.9 Communications 63

8.3.10	Testing and compliance declaration of diving recovery harness	63
8.3.11	Diver heating system	63
8.4	Liveboating	65
8.4.1	General	65
8.4.2	Boat captain	65
9	Deep diving	65
9.1	Scope	65
9.2	Offshore diving	66
9.3	Surface-supplied mixed-gas (SSMG) diving	66
9.3.1	Application	66
9.3.2	Use of breathing mixtures	66
9.3.3	SSMG diving for operations other than offshore gas and oil operations	67
9.3.4	SSMG diving for offshore gas and oil operations	69
9.4	Submersible compression chamber (SCC)/saturation diving systems	69
9.4.1	General	69
9.4.2	Types of saturation diving systems	70
9.4.3	General system safety	70
9.4.4	SCC/saturation system components	71
9.4.5	Submersible compression chambers (SCCs)	72
9.4.6	SCC/Saturation breathing mixtures	74
9.4.7	SCC/Saturation breathing gas heating	74
9.4.8	Reserve gas supplies	74
9.4.9	Emergency gas supplies	74
9.4.10	Diving team restrictions and working hours for saturation diving	75
9.4.11	Crew	76
9.5	Hyperbaric evacuation unit (HEU) and life support package (LSP)	77
9.5.1	Availability of an HEU and an LSP	77
9.5.2	Hyperbaric evacuation	77
10	One-atmosphere diving	78
10.1	Atmospheric diving suits (ADS)	79
10.2	Design requirements	79
10.3	Required equipment	79
10.4	Backup (standby) vehicle	80
10.5	Life-support system	80
10.6	ADS handling systems	80
10.7	Risk assessment and contingency plan	80
10.8	Crew (minimum crew size)	81
11	Diving in contaminated environments	81
11.1	Application	81
11.2	Qualification	81
11.3	Identification and planning	81
11.4	SCUBA diving	82
11.5	Surface-supplied diving	82
11.6	Contaminated water diving (CWD) categories	82
11.7	Minimum standards of protection for personnel	82
11.8	Minimum crew	83

11.9	Thermal hazards	83
11.10	Decompression	83
11.11	Equipment	83
11.12	Work and support areas	84
11.13	Medical requirements and emergency procedures	84
11.13.1	General	84
11.13.2	Preventive measures	85
11.13.3	Emergencies	85
11.13.4	Treatment and surveillance	85

12 Nitrox diving 86

12.1	General	86
12.2	Safety considerations	86
12.3	Risk assessment	86
12.4	Oxygen toxicity	86
12.5	Maximum ppO ₂	86
12.6	Safe handling of gases	86
12.7	Sampling	87
12.8	Nitrox storage area	87
12.8.1	Storage area	87
12.8.2	Nitrox storage cylinders	87
12.9	Air to be mixed or used with nitrox	87
12.10	Gas supplies for surface-supplied diving	87
12.11	Surface-supplied standby diver gas supply	87
12.12	Bail-out bottle contents for surface-supplied diving	87
12.13	Bail-out bottle contents for SCUBA diving	88
12.14	Cleaning	88
12.15	Equipment general	88
12.15.1	General	88
12.15.2	Analyzers	88
12.15.3	Oils, lubricants, and reactive substances	88
12.15.4	Compressors and filtration systems	89
12.15.5	Labelling of nitrox cylinders	89
12.15.6	Firefighting equipment	89

Annex A (informative)	— Guidelines for selection, installation, maintenance, and cleaning of compressor/purification-type breathing air systems	104
Annex B (informative)	— Recommended analytical procedures for the analysis of compressed breathing air	117
Annex C (informative)	— Sample collection for compressed breathing air analysis	119
Annex D (informative)	— Moisture content in compressed breathing air at typical user pressures	124
Annex E (informative)	— Medical assessment of divers	127
Annex F (informative)	— Diver's medical assessment forms	130
Annex G (informative)	— Example of diving log	140
Annex H (informative)	— Example of diving log (deep diving)	141
Annex I (informative)	— Example hazardous substance data sheet	146
Annex J (informative)	— Guidelines for penetration diving	147
Annex K (informative)	— Diver rescue procedures	149
Annex L (informative)	— Listing of regulatory authorities for occupational diving operations	151

Preface

This is the seventh edition of CSA Z275.2, *Occupational safety code for diving operations*. It supersedes the previous editions published in 2015, 2011, 2004, 1992, 1982, and 1974. It is part of a series of Standards on diving and caisson systems covering hyperbaric facilities, occupational diving, and construction work in compressed air environments.

The significant changes to this edition include the following:

- a) new provisions for SCUBA diving, combining “restricted” and “unrestricted” categories into one “occupational SCUBA” category;
- b) clarification of crew size requirements for SCUBA diving, including a new requirement to conduct a dive site risk assessment in order to determine appropriate crew size (Clause [7.5](#));
- c) incorporation of updated crew size requirements for surface-supplied diving (Clause [8.2](#)) as published in the 2018 Amendment to Z275.2-15;
- d) expanded references to IMCA guidelines for offshore diving (Clauses [9.2](#) and [9.3](#));
- e) clarification of requirements for four categories of contaminated diving (Clause [11](#) and Table [8](#));
- f) provision of further guidance on nitrox diving, along with new definitions (Clause [12](#)); and
- g) addition of a new Annex ([K](#)) on “diver rescue methods”.

This Standard has also been harmonized with regulations, standards, guidelines, and codes developed by the Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration (COGLA), the Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), and NORSOK.

This Standard is not intended to supersede the requirements of applicable occupational safety and health regulations. Criteria in this Standard have been written in a manner that allows the user to comply both with the Standard and applicable legislated requirements throughout Canada.

This Standard is not intended for use as a diving or procedure manual. It is designed to be inflexible in those matters that experience has shown to be critical to the safety of the diver, and yet flexible in those areas where the responsibility and considered judgment of operators provide the highest degree of safety in specialized operations.

Specific exposure tables and decompression schedules are not included in this Standard in view of the fact that a number of well-tested and authoritative tables are available for use by divers and for adoption by the regulatory authorities.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of the Canadian government departments responsible for occupational health and safety for the development of this edition, the Diver Certification Board of Canada, the Canadian Association of Diving Contractors, and several commercial diving companies.

This Standard is considered suitable for use for conformity assessment within the stated scope of the Standard.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Diving Operations, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Occupational Diving and Hyperbaric Environments and the Strategic Steering Committee on Occupational Health and Safety, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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- 2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
- 3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
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 - d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA Z275.2:20

Occupational safety code for diving operations

1 Scope

1.1 General

1.1.1

This Standard applies to occupational diving operations conducted in connection with all types of work and employment, and describes the requirements for occupational safety.

Note: *It is recognized that certain underwater tasks might require specialized standards of practice and/or operational techniques that differ from the requirements of this Standard yet may be acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. Users should consult applicable provincial and federal occupational safety and health regulations to determine whether they impose safety requirements additional to or more stringent than those of this Standard.*

1.1.2

This Standard addresses equipment requirements and operational procedures for the following diving systems:

- a) SCUBA diving systems (see Clause [7](#));
- b) surface-supplied diving systems (see Clauses [8](#) and [9](#));
- c) deep diving systems (see Clause [9](#));
- d) one-atmosphere diving systems (see Clause [10](#)); and
- e) diving in contaminated environments (see Clause [11](#)).

1.2 Limitations

1.2.1

This Standard does not apply to scientific diving as defined in Clause [3](#).

1.2.2

This Standard does not apply to diving operations performed solely for sport or recreation.

1.2.3

This Standard does not include work techniques associated with underwater diving operations.

1.3 Terminology

In this Standard, “shall” is used to express a requirement, i.e., a provision that the user is obliged to satisfy in order to comply with the Standard; “should” is used to express a recommendation or that which is advised but not required; and “may” is used to express an option or that which is permissible within the limits of the Standard.