

Australian Standard[®]

**Training and certification of
occupational divers**

Part 3: Air diving to 50 m

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.

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
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Defence
Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations, Qld
Department of Labour, S.A.
Department of Manufacturing and Industry Development, Vic.
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, W.A.
Division of Fisheries, CSIRO
Manufacturing interests
Melbourne Water
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
National Association of SCUBA Diving Schools Australasia
Police Department, N.S.W.
Port of Melbourne Authority
Seamen's Union of Australia
South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society
The WorkCover Authority, N.S.W.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Work in Compressed Air to supersede AS 2815.3—1985, *Training and certification of divers Part 3: Commercial air diving with surface compression facilities*.

The Standard is one part (Part 3) 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 described in AS 2299, *Occupational diving*, using surface-supplied compressed air or self-contained breathing apparatus and having access to a surface compression chamber. Such qualification is the minimum required by the regulatory authorities responsible for the control of off-shore diving operations, 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 bell diving (Part 4). 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. Restricted certificates may be issued to divers who complete all training with the exception of specialist task modules. Persons successfully completing the modified training syllabus may only carry out diving operations using limited plant, tools and equipment. Upgrading of the diver's qualification and underwater task capacity may be achieved by completion of the relevant specialist task modules and endorsement for the type of work the module covered. The relationship between the various parts of the AS 2815 series and the certification schemes available to successful candidates is shown in the diagram.

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 the 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.