

Actsafes Safety Bulletin #7

SCUBA DIVING RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The following recommendations and requirements apply where SCUBA equipment using compressed air or compressed oxygen will be utilized in filming.

24.9 Notice of project

- (1) The employer must submit a notice of project for diving activity, or notify WorkSafeBC by telephone, at least 24 hours before commencing a diving operation which involves
 - (a) construction diving,
 - (b) engineering inspection diving,
 - (c) diving in a contaminated environment,
 - (d) diving under ice, under or between nets, or into other areas of potential entrapment,
 - (e) exceeding the no-decompression limit, or
 - (f) the use of mixed gas other than nitrox as a breathing medium.
- (2) The notice of project must indicate the date, location and diving equipment to be used and the scope of the diving operation.
- (3) Before diving commences, a copy of the notice of project must be posted at the work-site, or if notification is provided by telephone, a written summary of that notification that contains the information required by subsection (2) must be posted at the worksite.
- (4) If in an emergency it is not practicable to notify WorkSafeBC prior to the start of a diving operation, WorkSafeBC must be notified as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the diving operation has begun.

24.13 Evidence of competency

- (1) The employer and diving supervisor must ensure that all divers
 - (a) meet the minimum requirements of CSA Standard Z275.4-97 Competency Standard for Diving Operations, and
 - (b) are competent to use the diving equipment that will be used in the diving operation.
- (2) A certified copy of competency documents for each diver must be available for inspection on site by an officer.

CERTIFICATION

The term "Certified Diver" refers to a diver holding a current and valid occupational certification card (restricted or unrestricted whichever is required for the type of dive) issued by WorkSafeBC or Diver Board of Canada Certification (DCBC) or a school accredited by DCBC. Non-commercial certifications (including PADI and NAUI) will not be acceptable on their own. Under some circumstances, WorkSafeBC can issue an equivalency certification. Divers who have military diving experience or another type of "commercial training" may be deemed to have acceptable training, however, it will be on a case by case basis.

In order to be deemed acceptable by WorkSafeBC, the following will be required:

- Occupational Diving certifications
- Diving school attended
- Dive logs

Acts safe Safety Bulletin #7

SCUBA DIVING RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

A formula of Occupational Diving bottom times and dive logs will be applied and is dependant on the depth and hazards related to the specifics of the dive plan. This formula can be obtained from WorkSafeBC.

Required personal documentation to be kept at the dive site are:

- Divers log
- Dive Medical (by physician acceptable to the Board)
- Medical alert tag or bracelet stating the diver's status and indicating the possibility of decompression sickness or other diving illness
- First aid
- CPR
- O2 therapy

For questions on certification and to obtain the formula identified above, please contact WorkSafeBC Officer Warren Fulton (warren.fulton@worksafebc.com).

A list of these accredited training schools and other information related to diver certification can be found at <http://www.divercerification.com>. Occupational certified divers must be duly apprised of all applicable WorkSafeBC health and safety regulations and restrictions related to scuba diving. Consult Addendum A (WCB OHS Guideline 24.13) for special considerations related to the motion picture industry. See WorkSafeBC regulations Part 24 for a complete outline of requirements.

1. The finalization of an underwater location shall depend upon the safety and health conditions of the location as determined by supervisory film industry personnel, one of whom shall be an Occupational Certified Diver in consultation with the Director.
2. Any person using SCUBA equipment while filming or being filmed underwater shall be a Certified Occupational Diver, with the exception of performers who are essential for an underwater close-up. When this exception arises, for safety reasons, these players shall be under the supervision of a Certified Occupational Diver, and shall have received sufficient instructions for the job at hand.
3. The appropriate depth for safe filming shall be determined by the Certified Instructor supervising the safety of the player or players. Performers who are not Certified Divers (ie., with only a valid recreational diver's certificate) shall not be required to work in depths in excess of fifteen (15) feet. Performers without a valid recreational diver's certificate shall not be required to work in depths in excess of 7 feet. Water time should be limited to the time required to perform the underwater shot.
4. All safety divers shall be duly certified and when SCUBA is used, he or she shall be equipped with an alternate air supply, (ie. Octopus or bail out bottle, etc.).
5. Any person performing a stunt where water safety is involved shall require properly equipped safety diver(s).
6. Any person performing a stunt where the possibility of being trapped underwater exists shall have standby breathing equipment immediately available.
7. For dives below thirty (30) feet, each individual diver shall be concerned with following his or her decompression procedure as necessary and safety rules shall be available at appropriate departments and on the job-site.
 - a. Any individual designated to log dives shall be an Occupational Certified Diver and shall be knowledgeable as to proper logging procedures.

Actsafes Safety Bulletin #7

SCUBA DIVING RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- b. The company will determine the nearest location of a re-compression chamber and methods of transportation to that chamber and notify all concerned persons.
 - c. Functional recall system equipment shall be made available on site.
8. It shall be the responsibility of the company to ensure that any persons using re-breathing equipment or mixed gas systems will have been properly trained in the use of this equipment.
9. SCUBA tanks when transported to and from location will be secured in such a manner as to prevent them from rolling or allowing the valves to be struck by other objects.
10. When not in use, SCUBA tanks shall be equipped with valve covers and shall be stored in the shade.
11. Adequate medical oxygen (100% oxygen) and resuscitation equipment shall be available at all times when SCUBA equipment is in use. Do not use the air in the SCUBA tanks as it does not contain 100% oxygen.
12. No electrical power other than DC shall be used in the water or in the vicinity which could lead to contact with the water.

