



# Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards

# Recreational SCUBA

# Diving

Version 1.0 July 2008



# Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard

## Recreational Scuba Diving

Adventure Activity Standards benchmark the minimum industry requirements and responsibilities for organisations and leaders conducting outdoor adventure activities for commercial and non – commercial groups.

The Adventure Activity Standards are designed to be applied when the participants are, for the purposes of participating in recreational scuba diving, either

- In a pre-existing group
  - where either the group members (and or its representative third party) have made a collective purchase of / collective decision to participate in the activity (ie a school, corporate or community group); or are
- Formed into a new group
  - where the participants have purchased / made the decision to participate in the activity as individuals or smaller groups but having done so become a part of a new group for the purposes of participating in the activity (ie citizens or tourists who, having purchased an activity from an organisation or leader individually, are formed into a group for the purposes of participating in the activity provided)

In all cases the relationship between the group of participants and the activity provider is one based upon dependence by way of contract and or duty of care.

*The existence of other types of groups where the group is less defined and NOT dependent as a group upon an activity provider for the conduct of the activity is acknowledged. (ie qualified independent divers participating in an activity). It is intended that such less defined groups of qualified independent participants are not “captured” by the AAS.*

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards were developed by an industry wide consultative process coordinated by Outdoors WA following the recommendations of the 2006 State Government Adventure Tourism Visitor Safety Task Force Report. The Project received grant funding via the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The development and implementation of the AAS allows the outdoor adventure industry to demonstrate its collective integrity and agreed standards. This, in turn will provide a measure of quality for the purposes of assisting

1. Consumers of our services to make informed choices about the services they select
2. Training organisations to produce graduates who understand and meet industry standards
3. Media, insurance and legal scrutineers of our industry and its members, to understand what is acceptable practice and what is not
4. The development of sustainable use practices that consider the specific natural and cultural heritage values of areas in which we conduct outdoor activities

The AAS are a critical component of the ***industry quality framework*** comprising four aligned and inter-connected components

1. **Accreditation** - the required business operating standards for businesses and organisations
2. **Adventure Activity Standards** - the minimum standards to which an activity must be conducted by a provider to dependent groups of participants
3. **Leader Qualification / Registration Schemes** - the responsibilities and competencies required of the leaders conducting the outdoor activities
4. **Codes of Conduct** – the behavioural expectations of persons operating as outdoor leaders

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## INTRODUCTION

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) have been developed to assist organisations and leaders to plan and conduct outdoor adventure activities with commercial and non-commercial dependent groups of participants where there is a duty of care based in contract and or in authority.

The purpose of the AAS is to maintain the perception of adventure whilst simultaneously reducing / managing the real risk for participants. Increased outdoor physical activity with reduced incident and accident rates will be the ultimate performance indicators of the value of the AAS.

The AAS provide a valuable resource for the development of operating procedures, and or for the purposes of comparing existing operating procedures to industry agreed benchmarked standards. All groups differ in their collective skills and experience and in their degree of dependence upon the leader. They participate in outdoor activities at a range of sites with varying conditions (including weather). It therefore **remains the responsibility of the leader to make the professional judgements and decisions concerning the conduct of the activity to ensure the safety of the group.** The AAS are designed to assist such judgements and decision making.

The AAS are also designed to promote knowledge and awareness of the broad and activity specific impacts increasing recreation and travel opportunities place upon the natural environment. The AAS are designed to assist the protection of biodiversity values and the preservation of cultural sites balanced with the increased access demands. The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace are imbedded within the AAS.

Whilst not statutory standards, the AAS provide the basis for policy formation and decision making by jurisdictions external to the outdoor adventure activity industry including, but not restricted to, licensing, insurance and legal jurisdictions.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The activity of Recreational SCUBA Diving involves underwater activity where a diver is supplied compressed air by means of SCUBA or surface supply.

SCUBA Diving may be boat or shore based.

Divers may or may not be diving for the specific purpose of interacting with wildlife.

This Standard excludes “cave diving”

*This Standard is to be read and applied in association with the Australian Standards AS4005.1 and AS2299.3, AND training agency standards (eg. PADI, SSI, NAUI)*

## PLANNING and PREPARATION

The AAS provides a planning and preparation framework considered critical in maximising participant safety and enjoyment. All planning must be finalised and the relevant components documented before the activity is undertaken. A suggested planning and preparation framework includes

- Preliminary Information
- Dive (Site / Route) Plan
- Risk Management Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Minimal Environmental Impact Plan

***Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org](http://www.outdoorswa.org)***

### Preliminary Information

The following are the minimum information requirements for conducting a SCUBA dive or dives

- Objectives / desired outcomes of the dive / dives (recommended only)
- Planned start and finish times (may also include sector times)
- Leader to participant ratio and group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Profile of the group (skill level, diving experience, assessment of swimming ability)
- Land / site manager requirements including
  - Access restrictions
  - Group sizes
  - Booking and permit requirements
  - Current environmental management policies and biodiversity issues affecting the Region (refer to [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au))
- Equipment requirements (refer Equipment)
- Transport requirements
- Dependent participants' names and emergency contact details
- Medical information – being either a
  - Current diving qualification; OR
  - Current medical certificate if undertaking open water or professional level training; OR
  - Completed medical checklist if the activity is a “resort dive” or “discover SCUBA dive” or any other training
- Medications - what is it / why is it required / how is it administered / where is it kept
- Group members are advised, in writing and or in a verbal briefing, of
  - Potential risks associated with the activity
  - Zero tolerance requirements re alcohol and drugs other than prescription drugs NOT effecting the participant's ability to participate
  - The requirement to conform to responsible and attentive behaviour
- Participant signed legal liability disclaimer accepted by a training organisation (eg. PADI, SSI); informed consent / waiver to sue / authorisation to seek / provide emergency medical treatment (retain for a time frame as dictated by the Statute of Limitations Act 2005); dependent participants under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent / guardian if required by the organisation that has legal responsibility for them
- An understanding of the natural and cultural history / diversity of the dive site(s) / location(s)

## Dive (Site / Route) Plan

The purpose of the dive (site / route) plan is to assess issues re access, environmental impact, risk and emergency communications relative to a particular dive (site / route) plan.

The dive (site / route) plan shall provide details of

- Assessment of the suitability of the dive (site / route) plan for the size, diving experience, fitness and skill level of the group
- Suitability / availability of entry and exit points for divers and boats including the best routes to take to minimise environmental impact
- How to make an emergency contact (by mobile or satellite phone if coverage available, by radio or by a runner party to a land line, by EPIRB/PLB) and where is the best place to make these calls from
- Prevailing dive (site / route) plan characteristics
  - Weather forecast including prevailing wind direction and strength
  - Water temperature, swell, depth
  - Potential risks including rips and currents, tides, wave height and direction, and submerged rocks
  - Specific route characteristics
  - Remoteness of dive (site / route) (proximity to medical and rescue services)
- Contingency plans for forecast / foreseeable weather and ocean conditions
- Location of any culturally significant areas, structures or artefacts that need to be avoided
- Location of any rare or endangered plants or animals, or sensitive areas
- Ability of site(s) to withstand visitation with minimal impact

***Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org](http://www.outdoorswa.org)***

## Risk Management Plan

The purpose of the Risk Management Plan is to identify the human, site specific, equipment and environmental risks for the safe conduct of the activity. By identifying, analysing and evaluating these risks, appropriate strategies to reduce / manage the risk can be developed and implemented.

SCUBA leaders must assess the chosen dive site(s) for potential hazards and adapt the planning of the activity as required. Information with regard to any new hazard must be made available within the group / organisation and to the relevant land manager.

***Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org](http://www.outdoorswa.org)***

The Risk Management Plan must consider

- Leader(s) have the required authorisation, skills, qualifications and experience to
  - Conduct the activity in the selected environment
  - Satisfy the planned objectives
  - Effectively manage incidents (refer Requirements of Leaders)
  - Preserve the environmental integrity of the activity site(s) and surrounding areas
- Leader : Participant ratio (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group profile
  - Dive qualifications / dive log
  - Skill / experience levels
  - Fitness levels
  - Needs / requirements
- Knowledge of environmental minimum impact strategies
- Availability of suitably qualified first aid persons
- Availability of suitable of equipment (medical, participants', communications, rescue, required quantity of rescue oxygen)
- Methods for managing the group at all times including
  - Participants in the water
  - Participants out of the water

## Emergency Response Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Response Plan is to provide a set of steps for leaders to follow in the event of an emergency which may include injury or death. The plan must detail how to minimise the escalation of the situation, the injuries incurred and how to reduce the likelihood of further incidents occurring. The Emergency Response Plan must address and document current details including

- Entry and exit points for rescue support
- Contingency plans for effective rescue with minimum environmental impact to the site
- Group assembly points
- Emergency contact details which may include
  - Rescue Services
    - Sea Search and Rescue
    - Diving Emergency Services (DES)
    - Divers Alert Network (DAN)
  - Police
  - Relevant Agencies (EG Department of Environment and Conservation, land owners, rescue services, Department of Planning and Infrastructure)
  - Next stage of definitive medical care (hospital, doctor)
- Specific communication requirements / available networks

ALL leaders must be fully aware of the emergency response plan. A copy of the emergency response plan must also be kept (with other documentation) with a non-participating contact and be accessible by the leader via an available telecommunication method in the event of an incident / emergency.

The leader is to communicate the estimated return time with the relevant external contact(s). Upon failure to do so the external contact must action the emergency response plan which may include contacting the appropriate rescue service (DES, DAN) and police. In situations where there is only one leader, the emergency response plan shall have been introduced to, and be available to members of the group so that it may be actioned in the event that the leader becomes unfit to do so.

***Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org](http://www.outdoorswa.org)***

## Leader: Participant Ratios and Group Size

The ratio of leaders to dependent participants will depend upon the

- Conditions / characteristics of the dive (site / route) plan
- Profile of the group including their degree of training, fitness and diving experience
- Purposes of the SCUBA activity
- Experience of the leader(s)

Supervision ratios should meet national and international industry training standards (eg. PADI, SSI, NAUI). There must be a dive supervisor who has experience appropriate to the site / area when divers are in the water.

## Group size will be determined by, in addition to the above

- Distance from shore line
- Availability of access and egress points

## **Minimal Environmental Impact Plan - Leave No Trace 7 Principles**

### **1. Plan Ahead and Prepare\***

- Be aware of regulations and special concerns relevant to the area in which you plan to dive
  - Group size
  - Fishing
  - Camp fires
- Obtain access permits or permission if required
- Schedule your trip for off peak times
- Test your buoyancy over sandy areas, not the reef.
- Lower and retrieve your anchor before going to a reef area
- Check that your boat is in good working order (no oil / fuel leaks); refuel on land whenever possible
- Prepare for emergencies including isolation, weather hazards, water temperature, currents and tides by obtaining information
- Repackage food to minimise waste and take some sturdy rubbish bags
- Carry extra warm and wet weather clothing
- Carry a small trowel for emergency toileting on land

### **2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces\***

- Dive within designated areas of reef, if any or follow appropriate paths determined by local guidelines
- Avoid the temptation of exploring new untouched sites
- Follow natural paths, which can be determined by the direction of currents, especially along the reef walls
- Be careful not to kick coral with your fins
- Avoid shallow and narrow portions of the reef flat and crest where you could damage coral or injure yourself
- Avoid kicking up sand from the bottom
- Take care when entering fringing reefs from the beach; look for designated access points and if none, choose the deepest channel or groove to swim over
- Never walk on reef surfaces

### **3. Dispose of Waste Properly\***

- Pack and carry to shore all packaging rubbish and leftover food including organics in sturdy bags stowed securely
- Refrain from throwing food into the water as it spoils the scenery and is bad for the fish
- Do not dump oil anywhere; have a spill kit onboard
- Do not dump plastic anywhere; plastics include synthetic ropes, plastic garbage bags, and synthetic fishing lines and nets
- Do not burn rubbish
- Be careful not to create rubbish; secure all loose articles on board
- Pick up any rubbish you see floating or on the bottom
- Store all sewage in holding tanks and use pump ashore facilities where possible
- Do not dump human waste within 3 nautical miles of the nearest land / marine park boundaries or within any port limits (water from showers is not considered to be human waste, however, do not put this over the side in anchorages or in enclosed waters)
- Use established toilet facilities onshore before departure
- In smaller boats use a portable toilet and dispose of waste in a latrine or similar device
- When camping on land, carry a trowel and deposit solid human waste inland in cat holes

dug in topsoil – usually 10-15cm deep and at least 100 metres from water, camp and tracks (if toilet paper use is necessary, use it sparingly and bury it deeply or preferably, carry it out; urinate on bare ground away from vegetation and tracks)

- Pack out all hygiene products in a suitable container
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 100 metres inland and away from streams and pools; avoid using any soaps or detergents; if they must be used, use only small amounts of biodegradable soaps and detergents; scatter strained dishwater
- Hand sanitisers are a good alternative for personal hygiene

#### **4. Leave What You Find\***

- Do not remove coral or shells
- Leave dive sites as you find them
- It is illegal to excavate, disturb or remove archaeological, historical and cultural artefacts from any public or wilderness lands and waters
- Avoid walking close to indigenous sites on shore to respect for the culture and ensure their longevity
- Do not touch rock art which can be damaged by the natural oils from human skin
- Avoid walking in areas where rare and vulnerable plants or animals are found
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches
- Do not scrub or clean the hull of your boat on or near a reef; do this ashore
- Be aware of non-native species and report sightings of them to appropriate agencies (EG Zebra Mussels etc.)

#### **5. Minimise the Impact of Fire\***

- Observe Total Fire Bans and campfire regulations; liaise with local land management staff
- Use a lightweight stove for cooking or use a candle lantern for light when possible
- Where fires are permitted, use designated, constructed fireplaces only
- Keep fires small; use of fallen fuel and sticks
- Extinguish fire completely

#### **6. Respect Wildlife\***

- Do not feed fish or other wildlife
- Do not pick up or handle reef flora and fauna (or relocate for photographic purposes)
- Refrain from making loud noises above or below water
- Stay clear of free-swimming animals; do not block or attempt to alter their natural path
- Run boat engines only to enter or exit reef areas
- Anchor away from sensitive wildlife areas
- When motoring, be on watch for large marine animals like whales, dolphins, sea lions and dugongs
- Report any boat strikes; do not follow the animal
- Observe wildlife from a distance; do not follow or approach them
- Understand through education the role each species plays in each environment in order to realise the importance of its position within an ecosystem
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, and raising young; touching nests or young animals may cause their parents to abandon them
- Beaches and dunes are the nesting sites of many birds and turtles, tread carefully, keep clear and do not disturb nests
- Never feed wild animals or birds; store food and rubbish securely

- Conform to fishing requirements including licensing and size/volume restrictions
- Control pets at all times or better yet, leave them at home. All National Parks restrict pets so check for regulations first
- Report any injured animals to the local land managers. Do not attempt to handle the animal

### **7. Be Considerate of Your Hosts and Other Visitors**

- Run boats at low throttle near divers to reduce noise impacts and increase safety
- Keep your distance from other divers/groups of divers
- Never descend on top of another diver
- Avoid stirring up the bottom, especially inside caverns, caves, and canyons
- Do not use underwater horns (barring emergency situations) to herd your group or catch somebody's attention (use a predetermined time)
- Anchor away from Indigenous heritage sites
- Do not use infrastructure or moorings without permission of the owner
- Vacate a public mooring as soon as you can to allow other visitors a turn
- Respect others' wilderness experience by examining your own behaviours to minimise any negative impact; make reasonable efforts to minimise the impact of the group on others
- Assist other parties in difficulty provided that this action does not adversely affect the safety of your group
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience; be diplomatic with other groups and other recreational users of the area
- Be courteous; give way to others
- If possible camp out of sight and sound of other visitors
- Let everyone enjoy nature's sounds; keep noise to a minimum
- Avoid the use of bright lights, radios, electronic games, mobile phones and other intrusive urban devices

*Further information is available at Leave No Trace Australia [www.lnt.org.au](http://www.lnt.org.au)*

## **REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS**

The performance of the leader is a critical factor in the safe conduct of a SCUBA activity. The leader is required to

- Accept responsibility for the planning, preparation and conduct of the activity
- Maintain current skills, qualifications and experience as required
- Accept responsibility for the environmental preservation of the site and surrounding area

This does not exclude the fact that dependent participants are responsible for their own actions in relation to the potential risks that may be encountered by choosing to participate in a diving activity.

### **Responsibilities of Leaders**

Leaders are required to accept the following responsibilities in the preparation of the dive plan

- To use professional judgement to make decisions that will ensure the safety of all group members and maintain the integrity of the environment including matters relevant to
  - People based risks\*
    - Collect all documentation / forms signed by all dependent participants / parents or guardians (or ensure data is collected by the third party responsible for the group)

- Communicate the risks relating to the activity to the group in a pre-activity briefing; ensure that the group is able to understand the briefing
- Match the diving experience / qualifications, swimming and fitness levels of the group to the conduct of the activity and the conditions
- Application of recognised dive tables
- Ensure the supervision of all divers in the water
- Assess the physical and psychological state of the group to undertake the dive; monitor before, between and after dives as appropriate
- Implement a written “check in / check out” strategy to account for all participants entering and exiting the water
  - Monitor air, depth, bottom time and head count
- Ensure that a qualified rescue responder qualified in first aid AND in in-water rescue / resuscitation is available to attend to the group
- Ensure all incidents and accidents are documented and reported to the appropriate certifying / training agency (eg. PADI, SSI)
- Site based risks\*
  - Be familiar with the selected site(s) / route(s) and the scope of variation of conditions at the dive (site(s) / route(s)); check weather forecasts and water conditions pre - departure
  - Appropriately manage hazards
  - Be aware of and comply with the land / site manager’s guidelines including minimal impact
  - Manage the whole group effectively; ensure that your group behaves with respect for other users
  - Provide all dependent participants with suitable boundaries
    - Time
    - Depth
    - Remaining air supply
    - Direction of dive
  - Appoint appropriate external contacts to notify rescue services, police etc. if not contacted by designated time/s (as appropriate)
  - Notify appropriate external contacts of safe return / completion
- Equipment based risks\*
  - Check suitability, condition and use of all equipment prior to, during and on return
  - Ensure correct use of equipment by all dependent participants
  - Maintain and service all equipment in keeping with manufacturer’s specifications
  - Ensure that a First Aid Kit, medical, oxygen and communication equipment suitable for the site / location are sufficient and in good order
- Environmental based risks\*
  - Apply Leave No Trace Principles
  - Comply with the land / site manager’s guidelines including minimal impact principles relative to flora, fauna and rubbish removal
  - Report all environmental damage to the Department of Environment and Conservation or other land manager
  - Report any perceived breaches of the SCUBA AAS to the relevant certifying / training agency (eg. PADI, SSI)

***The Diving and Snorkelling Codes of Practice (Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation: 2003) provides comprehensive details of recommended dive leader***

*responsibilities)*

### **Competencies of Leaders**

Leaders require a range of technical and group facilitation skills to effectively conduct group SCUBA diving activities. Leaders are deemed to be competent to lead SCUBA diving activities if they are currently qualified as a Dive Master, Open Water SCUBA Instructor, or another “higher” rating. An Oxygen Administration qualification is also required.

## **REQUIREMENTS / RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS**

Organisations / centres sanctioning the conduct of Recreational SCUBA Diving activities for dependent groups of people are required to

- Maintain current and appropriate insurance
- Provide and maintain a point of contact for dive leaders at all times during dives
- Report incidents and accidents to relevant jurisdictions in writing within seven(7) days
  - Insurers
  - Land Managers
  - Training agency (PADI, SSI, NAUI)
  - Outdoors WA (recommended)
- Provide leaders with the necessary resources to conduct the dive in accordance with all aspects of this Standard
- Verify and accept responsibility for the current competence of leaders selected for diving activities

## **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment requirements vary with the objectives of the activity, the group characteristic profile and the environmental conditions likely to be encountered. When planning equipment requirements for a SCUBA diving session it is important to consider all possible eventualities and to select equipment that will maximise participant safety and minimise negative cultural and environmental impact of the activity. All equipment must meet ALL current regulatory standards including Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Marine and Harbours. All equipment should also be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications. (Refer to AS 4005.1, Section 3.3)

### **All Divers**

All equipment supplied to the diver should

- Perform effectively in the intended waters
- Be checked before diving starts to ensure it is in safe working condition
- Be cleaned and kept in good repair
- Be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications
- Be suitable for the type of diving being undertaken and of adequate quality

***Oral / nasal equipment should be disinfected prior to use by another person (eg. use of equipment by a variety of people during training or over a series of dives (excludes buddy breathing situations))***

## **Training Equipment**

The following equipment must be available on the boat when training is taking place

- Highly visible float with a floating mermaid line
- Displayed dive flag and light signals to regulatory standards
- Descent / ascent line incorporating a safety stop facility and suitably weighted
- Recognised dive tables (or an alternative means) to calculate dive limits and surface intervals
- Notebook and pen
- Datum marker e.g. GPS or a suitably weighted line long enough to reach the bottom at the site with a float that can be used to mark a position
- Spare, fully charged SCUBA unit, inclusive of the regulator, BCD and tank

***In addition, all equipment required by other statutory authorities should be available.***

## **Resort Divers**

All resort divers must wear the following equipment

- Fins
- Mask
- Compressed gas cylinder and valve designed specifically for SCUBA in accordance with Australian Standard 2030.1
- Buoyancy control device fitted with a SCUBA feed inflator and designed to keep the head above water
- Regulator fitted with an alternative air supply or an alternative gas supply
- Submersible depth and cylinder pressure indicators
- Quick release weight systems when weights are required
- Suitable exposure protection, as appropriate to the temperature and prevailing conditions at the location or in the water

## **Entry-level Certificate Divers**

In addition to the equipment listed for Resort Divers, all Entry-level Certificate Divers must wear the following equipment

- A snorkel attached to a mask
- A submersible timing device during an open water dive
- A knife (recommended – excludes pools)
- A dive tool or shears is recommended for each student, although the instructor and certified assistants should carry the item stipulated by the training agency requirements (eg. PADI, SSI); this excludes swimming pool locations

## **Entry-level Conditional Certificate Divers**

In addition to the equipment listed for Resort Divers, all Entry-level Conditional Certificate divers must wear the following equipment

- A snorkel attached to a mask
- A submersible timing device during an open water dive
- A knife, dive tool or shears is recommended for each student, although the instructor and certified assistants must carry the item of choice

## **Certified and Trainee Divers**

In addition to the equipment listed for Resort Divers, all Certified and Trainee divers must wear the following equipment

- A snorkel, attached or able to be attached to a mask, unless otherwise advised by the instructor, e.g. in wreck penetration, rebreather diving and technical diving
- A submersible timing device during an open water dive
- A knife, dive tool or shears if there is a chance of entanglement
- Emergency signalling equipment, including a high visibility signalling device, such as a safety sausage, flag or an audible signalling device, such as a whistle
- A lighted signalling device (glow stick) when diving is done in low light situations, such as at dusk or early morning
- A torch (and a recommended back up torch) if diving at night (light signals to be displayed to regulatory standards)
- A compass or direction monitor
- Tables and/or a dive computer

## **Diving Workers (eg. Instructors)**

In addition to the equipment listed for Certified Divers, all Diving Workers must wear the following equipment

- Equipment as listed for certified divers
- A slate and writing instrument
- Adequate measures for assessing appropriate dive limits e.g. dive computer or recreational dive tables

## **Gas Quality in Gas Cylinders**

All gas cylinders should be filled with an appropriate gas as per AS/NZS 2299.1. If the dive vessel is fitted with a filling station, it shall be maintained and serviced in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (1996) regarding unfired pressure vessels. A list of competent persons who may inspect filling stations and cylinders may be obtained from Worksafe offices.

## **Recreational Diving using Compressed Gas**

Reference should be made to AS 3848.2 and the manufacturer's recommendations for filling cylinders. This section applies to all participants involved in recreational SCUBA diving who use compressed gas and who

- Supervise certified recreational SCUBA divers
- Provide diver training to
  - individuals and groups of the general public for the purposes of recreational diving
  - recreational divers, for ongoing diver training
  - dive supervisors, dive coordinators and dive instructors to further develop their diving leadership and employment capabilities
- Dive at a workplace

## **Emergency / First Aid Equipment**

The following equipment shall be available, along with a competent operator, during all group diving operations

- Appropriate first aid supplies

- Sufficient oxygen supplies considering the location of the dive site(s) and access to support services
- Resuscitator capable of providing an inspired oxygen concentration

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Activity Provider** – an entity, person or group of persons assuming the role of providing the activity (the activity provider) for a dependent group of participants for a specific commercial or not – for – profit purpose
- **Dependent Group / Participant** - a group or individual within a group whose welfare associated with participating in the activity is in part the responsibility of the leader; who is dependent upon the leader for their safe participation in the activity which may be so deemed by law or contract
- **Outdoor Leader** - term for an individual accepting the roles of leading and managing the outdoor activity; can be paid or voluntary; must be a suitably qualified
- **Competency** - minimum industry agreed standard of skill and knowledge necessary for a specific activity being conducted at a specific level
- **PADI** - Professional Association of Diving Instructors
- **SSI** - SCUBA Schools International
- **NAUI** – National Association of Underwater Instructors

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Adventure Activity Standards initially developed by The Outdoor Recreation Centre in Victoria proved to be an invaluable resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for SCUBA.

In addition, the following resources were engaged in the development of this Standard

- The Department of Sport and Recreation (Western Australia) *“Diving and Snorkelling Codes of Practice: 2003”*
- *The Australian Standard for Training and Certification of Recreational Divers: 2000*
- *PADI General Standards and Procedures*

## FEEDBACK, REVIEW & APPEALS

The AAS are designed to be ‘living’ standards with feedback, requests for review and/or appeal against aspects of a standard considered to be healthy part of the development process, one that will ensure the currency & relevancy of the standards. Feedback, requests for review and/or appeals will be managed by the Industry Standards Panel. Details and proformas are available at [www.outdoorswa.org](http://www.outdoorswa.org) / industry quality framework / Industry Standards Panel.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Outdoors WA for further information or to obtain contact details of the organisations conducting diving activities and training.

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