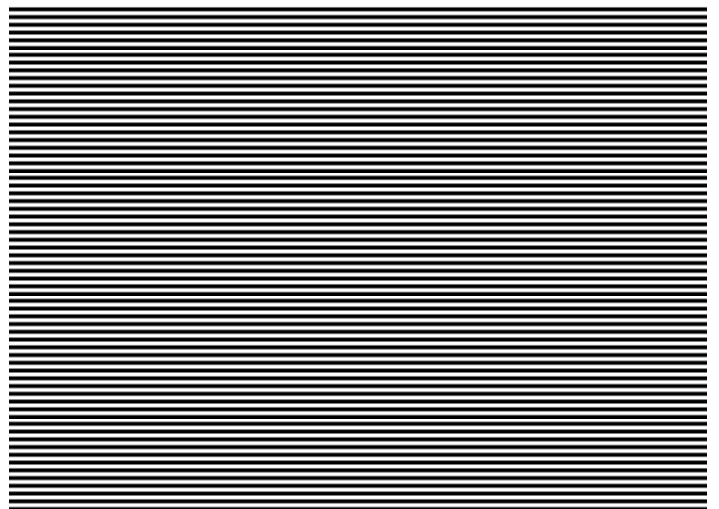


Training & Dive Centre Standards

SSI Thailand Region Version - English
Effective March 2009



SSI Training and Dive Centre Standards

SCUBA SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

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NOTICE

These standards are designed and developed to be used while functioning through Scuba Schools International Thailand and the territories it services. Should you transfer to another Regional Centre's area, either on a temporary or permanent basis, you will need to acquaint yourself with and adhere to their standards while teaching in that location.

Instructors teaching in the international market are to have and use SSI materials in the language as applicable to the region, if and when available.

Understand that the majority of SSI Training and Dive Centre Standards are the same throughout the world, but due to local law there may be subtle differences and requirements.

It is and remains the responsibility of the SSI Dive Leader and SSI Dive Centres' Monitors to ensure the most up-to-date version of the standards are being used and adhered to.



serious diving • serious fun

SSI Thailand Co. Ltd., 9/18 Moo 2, T. Koh Tao, A. Koh Pha Ngan, Suratthani, Thailand 83680
Tel/Fax: +66 (0) 77 456 783 • Web: www.ssithailand.com • Email: info@ssithailand.com

Contact Information for SSI Thailand

Email Addresses

General Information: info@ssithailand.com
Certifications: certs@ssithailand.com / odin@ssithailand.com
Membership Enquiries: members@ssithailand.com
Training Enquiries: training@ssithailand.com
Materials Orders: orders@ssithailand.com
Sales Enquiries: sales@ssithailand.com
Legal Team: legal@ssithailand.com

Websites:

Global Website and Online Divers Network (ODiN): www.DiveSSI.com
SSI Thailand Regional Website: www.ssithailand.com

Office Address & Telephone:

Address: 9/18 Moo 2,
T. Koh Tao
A. Koh Phangan
Suratthani 84360
Thailand
Telephone: +66 (0) 77 456 783
Office Hours: Monday to Saturday, 09:00 to 17:00

Student Certification Cards submitted via the Online Divers Network (ODiN) are processed the same day or next day.

Dive Leader (Member) Applications are processed within five (5) working days of receipt of complete paperwork.

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How to Use SSI's Training & Dive Centre Standards

The following provides an explanation of the content and structure of the SSI Training & Dive Centre Standards.

The document is separated into four sections:

1. Standards for training which include information on all of the SSI courses and ratings;
2. Standards for SSI Dive Centres, which include information on the various Dive Centre ratings available with SSI.

Changes and Additions

It is important that the entire document is read in order to obtain full understanding of the SSI Education System. There have been several changes and additions to both the style and the content of this document (see Key Changes and Additions, page 9).

For the following Training Standards, please see the SSI Global Standards, downloadable from the Online Divers Network at www.DiveSSI.com.

3. Scuba Rangers Standards;
4. Technical Extended Range Standards.

General Guides:

Statements that appear in *italics* are simply recommendations by SSI. These statements are not SSI standards but may reflect state/territory or Thailand Regional standards requirements. They also provide additional guidance that may be used whenever student needs and ability, environmental conditions, diving activities, and/or equipment make(s) it possible to enhance the enjoyment and/or safety of the diving activities.

It should be noted that compliance with SSI standards may not necessarily meet the requirements of state/territory codes of practice where applicable. SSI standards should be used in conjunction with these codes to insure that local laws and codes of practice are fulfilled.

Revised and Effective Dates:

SSI Training Standards have a Revised Date and an Effective Date.

Please review the new, revised edition of the SSI Training Standards against the previous edition, so you will be aware of any changes to SSI Standards.

You may implement the revised Training Standards immediately or any time prior to the Effective Date. Please call SSI Headquarters with any questions.

Revised Date. The date the Training Standards were published. The Revised Date is listed at the end of the Contents page.

Effective Date. The date the Training Standards become effective and supersede the previous edition or printing of the Standards. The Effective Date is listed in several places in the document: on the front page, at the end of the Contents page, at the top of each page.

The Effective Date on the top of each page may reflect a revised page and the Effective Date of that page, and thus differ from the Effective Date of the Standards document.

First Aid and CPR Training Requirements:

Many SSI Courses list first aid and CPR training as a prerequisite to begin training, or to receive certification. It is recommended to find out from your Regional Centre what first aid and CPR agencies and programmes they approve before beginning a first aid and CPR course.

Contextual Definitions

The following terms are defined as they apply to the Training and Dive Centre Standards:

Active Status. An individual, who has been certified as a dive leader, maintains professional liability insurance (if required) and is current (renewed) active status with a training agency. If insured through another insurance carrier other than SSI's, the dive leader must list SSI as an additional insured and provide proof of insurance to SSI Headquarters.

Certified Assistant. An active SSI Dive Control Specialist, an active Instructor, or active Assistant Instructor from another certification agency with no actions pending.

Excursion Dive. An excursion dive is a dive without formal performance requirements made prior to completion of all open water training dives.

Initiating Instructor. In the case of a Referral, the Instructor who conducts pool and academic training and issues the referral forms.

Licensed Medical Practitioner. A Physician, Licensed Nurse Practitioner or a Physicians Assistant.

Prerequisites. Conditions required to be met before candidates or students are eligible to enrol in a particular SSI course.

Referral Instructor. In the case of a Referral, the Instructor who conducts open water training dives.

Requirements for Certification. Conditions required to be met during a particular SSI course before candidates or students are eligible for certification.

Confined Water. Any body of water that simulates pool like conditions regarding clarity, calmness and a maximum depth of 6 metres (20 feet).

***SSI Dive Control Specialist (DiveCon).** An individual who has met the requirements of both Dive Master and Assistant Instructor and is certified by SSI.

SSI Dive Leader. An SSI Dive Leader may be an SSI Dive Control Specialist or SSI Instructor.

***SSI Instructor.** An individual who has met the requirements for instructor certification and is affiliated with an SSI Dive Centre.

SSI Dive Centre. An SSI Authorised facility that has been approved as an SSI Dive Centre and maintains an annual renewal with SSI. There are two types of SSI Dive Centre, **Dive Centres** and **Dive Resorts**.

Dive Centre Ratings

- Dive Centre
- Instructor Training Centre
- Diamond Dive Centre
- Diamond Instructor Training Centre
- Dive School

Dive Resort Ratings:

- Dive Resort
- Instructor Training Centre
- Diamond Dive Resort
- Diamond Instructor Training Centre
- Dive Boat

Total Diving System (TDS). The Total Diving System consists of the Snorkelling System, the Exposure System (where applicable), the Air Delivery System, the Information System, the Total DiveLog System, the Buoyancy Control System and the Specialty Training and Accessory System.

*These are courses offered by SSI. Please see the appropriate Standards for detailed information.

SSI Training and Dive Centre Standards

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Summary of Key Standards

Begin Your Adventure	DIVER COURSES						
	MINIMUM AGE	RECOMMENDED HOURS	MINIMUM OPEN WATER TRAINING	RATIO	MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR RATING	PREREQUISITE	
	Orientation to Snorkelling	None	1 to 4	Pool/Open Water	8 to 1	Dive Control Specialist	None
	Snorkel Diver	None	4 to 12	Pool/Open Water	8 to 1	Dive Control Specialist	None
	Try Scuba	None	2 to 4	Pool Only	4 to 1	Dive Control Specialist	None
	Resort Dive	10	2 to 4	1 dive	4 to 1	Dive Control Specialist	None
	Passport Diver	10	3 to 5	2 dives	4 to 1	Open Water Instructor	None
	Scuba Diver	10	12 to 16	2 scuba/1 snorkel	8 to 1	Open Water Instructor	None
Open Water Diver	10	16 to 32	4 scuba/1 snorkel	8 to 1	Open Water Instructor	None	
Continue Your Adventure	SPECIALTY COURSES						
	MINIMUM AGE	RECOMMENDED HOURS	MINIMUM OPEN WATER TRAINING	RATIO	MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR RATING	PREREQUISITE	
	Advanced Adventurer	12	6 to 12	5 Dives	8 to 1	Open Water Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Computer	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Deep Diver	15	6 to 12	4 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water
	Digital Underwater Photography	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Dive Control Specialist	Indoor Diver or Jnr. Indoor Diver
	Drysuit Diver	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV)	15	6 to 12	2 Dives	4 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water
	Enriched Air Nitrox Level 1 (up to 32% Oxygen)	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Enriched Air Nitrox Level 2 (up to 40% Oxygen)	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Equipment Techniques	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Photography	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Dive Control Specialist	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Navigation	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Night/Limited Visibility	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Science of Diving	18	6 to 12	None	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Search & Recovery	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Shark Diver	12	6 to 12	None	N/A	Dive Control Specialist	Snorkel Diver
	Waves, Tides & Currents	12	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water or Jnr. OWD
	Stress & Rescue	15	6 to 12	4 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water
	Wreck	15	6 to 12	2 Dives	8 to 1	Specialty Instructor	Open Water Diver
CONTINUING EDUCATION RATINGS			AGE	TRAINING	EXPERIENCE	PREREQUISITE	
Specialty Diver			12	2 Specialty Courses	12 Dives	Open Water Diver	
Advanced Open Water Diver			12	4 Specialty Courses	24 Dives	Open Water Diver	
Master Diver			12	4 Specialty Courses & Stress & Rescue	50 Dives	Open Water Diver	
Share the Adventure	DIVE LEADER COURSES						
	MINIMUM AGE	RECOMMENDED HOURS	MINIMUM OPEN WATER TRAINING	RATIO	MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR RATING	PREREQUISITE	
	Dive Guide	18	40	3 Dives	8 to 1	Advanced Open Water Instructor	Advanced Open Water & Stress & Rescue & 24 Dives
	Divemaster	18				Advanced Open Water Instructor	Dive Guide & Science of Diving & 50 Dives
	Dive Control Specialist	18	30 to 80	3 Dives	8 to 1	Dive Control Specialist Instructor	Advanced Open Water & Stress & Rescue & 24 Dives
	Instructor Training Course	18	50 to 100	2 Dives	N/A	Instructor Trainer	Dive Control Specialist
	Instructor Evaluation	18	8 to 16	N/A	N/A	Instructor Certifier	Associate Instructor
	Specialty Instructor	18	6 to 16	N/A	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Dive Control Specialist
	Advanced Open Water Instructor	18	6 to 32	N/A	N/A	Specialty Instructor	Open Water Instructor
	Dive Control Specialist Instructor	18	10 to 40	N/A	N/A	Instructor Trainer	Adv. Open Water Instructor
	Master Instructor	20	-	-	-	SSI Headquarters	DiveCon Instructor
	Instructor Trainer	21	-	-	-	SSI Headquarters	DiveCon Instructor
Instructor Certifier	21	-	-	-	SSI Headquarters	Instructor Trainer	

Summary of Key Standards (Continued)

A Lifetime of Adventure	DIVER RECOGNITION LEVELS				
	DIVER RECOGNITION LEVELS	AGE	TRAINING	EXPERIENCE	PREREQUISITE
	Century Diver	10	None	100 Dives	Open Water Diver
	Gold ⁵⁰⁰ Diver	10	None	500 Dives	Open Water Diver
	Platinum ¹⁰⁰⁰ Diver	10	None	1000 Dives	Open Water Diver
Platinum Pro ⁵⁰⁰⁰ Diver	18	None	2500-5000 Dives Diver for 10 Years	Open Water Diver	
INSTRUCTOR RECOGNITION RATINGS					
INSTRUCTOR RECOGNITION RATINGS	AGE	TRAINING	EXPERIENCE	PREREQUISITE	
Century Instructor	18	None	100 Points	Open Water Diver	
Gold ⁵⁰⁰ Instructor	18	None	500 Points	Open Water Diver	
Platinum ¹⁰⁰⁰ Instructor	18	None	1000 Points	Open Water Diver	
Platinum Pro ⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructor	18	None	5000 Points	Open Water Diver	

Key Changes and Additions

Snorkel Instructor – Section added.

Snorkelling Club – Section added

Indoor Diver / Junior Indoor Diver – Section added.

Resort Dive – Credit towards Scuba Diver and Open Water Diver certification defined.

Passport Diver – Section removed – replaced with Scuba Diver in 2007/2008.

Scuba Diver –Resort Dive Credit defined.

Open Water Diver – Time Period for Completion and Resort Dive Credit defined.

Junior Open Water Diver – Separated from Open Water Diver Standards.

Enriched Air Nitrox Specialties – Section significantly altered: Nitrox Level 1 and Level 2 defined.

Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Course – Section significantly altered. Minimum Age: 15 years old, Training Requirements: at least 2 pool/confined water sessions and at least 4 open water training dives.

Dive Guide – Section added.

Divemaster – Section added.

Dive Control Specialist – Competency in oxygen administration and knowledge of medical principles and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit added.

Associate Instructor - Replaced with Instructor Training Course Qualifications

Instructor Evaluation - Competency in oxygen administration and knowledge of medical principles and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit added.

Instructor Trainer Crossover – Section added.

ECOLOGICAL Standards – Section added.

Ethical Standards

All SSI Dive Leaders shall display correct and professional behaviour in the field of business and in any SSI related activities. Therefore Dive Leaders should follow the below listed guidelines next to the SSI Training Standards. All Dive Leaders shall:

1. Have no prior or pending felony convictions.
2. Exhibit honesty and act like a role model throughout their diving and business activities
3. Conduct all SSI programs with a professional attitude following the goal to provide the best possible training and service to the customer
4. Adhere to SSI Training Standards and attend Dive Leader updates on a regular basis.
5. Do not publicly communicate negativity or disparagement about SSI Members or any other member of the diving industry.

General Training Standards

1. **Recommendation vs. Standard:** Included within the Standards are guidelines. These guidelines are offset in *italics* and use words such as "may" or "should." The guidelines are not requirements. They do provide additional guidance that may be used whenever student needs and ability, environmental conditions, diving activities or equipment availability make it possible to enhance the enjoyment and safety of the diving activities.
2. **Validity of SSI Material:** The SSI Training Standards, the SSI Instructor Manual and other SSI printed materials form the basis of the SSI Teaching System and are to be used for SSI diving courses. Whenever there is a disparity between any of these materials, the SSI Training Standards take precedence. If in doubt, contact SSI Headquarters for guidance or interpretation.
3. **Active Status:** SSI diver certifications are issued only through active SSI Dive Centres for training conducted by Active SSI Instructors or Referral Instructors in compliance with these Standards.
4. **Ordering C-Cards:** SSI Dive Centres are required to issue the appropriate SSI Diver Certifications or referrals to all successful students in all levels of scuba training. All certification registration should be ordered through the ODIN system within 4 (four) days of completion. Hand written forms must be sent to SSI within 10 (ten) days of completion of the last training session. SSI Dive Centres must apply for a specific waiver for any deviations (see Standard 8 for more details on waivers).
5. **Dive Leader Registration:** SSI Dive Centres are to allow a minimum of 5 (five) working days for Dive Leader certifications to be processed once they are received by SSI HQ.
6. **Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor or Referral Instructor is to be present and in control of all SSI training activities. Whenever possible, Instructors should use Certified Assistants.
7. **Exceeding Standards:** *SSI Instructors may exceed Standards, may provide more complete coverage of the materials, and may provide additional pool or open water diving time. As newer, easier, safer and more efficient techniques and equipment become available, Instructors should use these. If in doubt, contact SSI Headquarters for guidance.*
8. **Deviating from Standards (Waivers):** Waivers to SSI Standards are to be requested in writing, from SSI Headquarters, well in advance of the needed deviation. The request is to explain why the waiver is needed and what is to be done to ensure student safety and enjoyment. Each waiver will be given an expiration date.

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9. **Use of Logbooks:** All scuba diving students in courses for certification are to have and use logbooks for all open water training dives. The Instructor and student are both to initial/sign the training record log page when completed. This may be done after each dive or at the completion of the day's training. *Logbooks may also be used for snorkel diving, including pool training, or for scuba diving that does **not** lead to certification, such as Try Scuba/Resort Dive experiences or underwater tours.*
10. **Use of Training Records:** Records used for monitoring and evaluating each student's progress, skills and knowledge shall be maintained and retained for 5 (five) years by SSI Dive Centres.
11. **Reporting Procedures:** SSI Thailand is to be notified immediately if a Dive Centre or Dive Leader becomes aware of any act, error, omission or accident, or if a claim or suit is brought.
12. **Course Duration:** SSI Dive Centres and Dive Leaders are to ensure that each student has the required skills and knowledge to safely and enjoyably dive at the particular level of training before certification is issued. *There are no required minimum course hours for SSI diving courses. Each course does have a recommended range of hours.* Actual time needed will vary depending on the number of students, the age and skills of the students, environmental conditions and course logistics.
13. **Dives per Day:** The maximum number of open water training dives per day is listed in the individual course Standards. Otherwise, the maximum open water scuba dives for training is three (3).
14. **Student to Instructor Ratios:** The maximum allowed student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training is provided in each course standard. The student-to-Instructor ratio for classroom and pool activities is set by the individual Instructor, based on the ability of the Instructor to deal effectively with student needs. *Whenever possible, additional Instructors or Certified Assistants should be used during the training. If open water diving conditions dictate decreasing the student-to-Instructor ratio below the maximum allowed, then active Certified Assistants may be used, or the Instructor may conduct open water training with only part of the class on each dive.*
15. **Physical Proximity:** How close the Instructor-to-student control is to be (proximity of students to the Instructor during open water dives) is specified in each of the course standards. *SSI Instructors may retain closer control of students than the course standards require, but Instructors should not lose sight of their obligation to train divers who can take responsibility for themselves, and dive independently of an Instructor.*
16. **Definition of Open Water:** Open water is any body of water other than a swimming pool. Open water sites are to be realistic of local diving conditions.
17. **Definition of Confined Water/Pool:** Confined Water is any body of water that approximates the safety and comfort of a pool, and that simulates pool like conditions regarding clarity, calmness and a maximum depth of 6 metres, with adequate access to water shallow enough to stand up in. Pool classes may be conducted in Confined Water.
18. **Duration of Training Dives:** Open water dives that are made to meet the minimum number of dives for certification are to be: a minimum of 15 minutes, and have an entry and exit from the water and the putting on and taking off of scuba equipment. Minimum depth for a dive is listed in each course standard. *If used, protective suits do not necessarily need to be removed between dives. It is recommended that the total bottom time of open water training dives during the Open Water Diver course should be 20 minutes in duration with a total of no less than 100 minutes bottom time for the course (excluding pool/confined water training).*

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19. **Cancelling or Modifying Dives:** SSI Instructors have an obligation to cancel or modify open water training dives when environmental conditions, student's physical or mental condition, and/or equipment difficulties make it advisable. *This is a value judgment that can only be made by the SSI Instructor at the time and place of the open water-training dive.* If a student does not successfully complete all skills during a dive, they must complete those skills during a dive later that same day or at another time.
20. **Use of Surface Float:** A boat or other surface float is required to be available at the site of training dives. *The boat or surface float may be in the water when this will increase the safety or enjoyment of the students. The float is **not** required to be in the water if it is not common practice to use a float for local diving or if the float would create difficulties during the dive. Floats may be anchored at one central location or towed during the diving activities.*
21. **Emergency Plan:** Each Instructor conducting open water training is to have a written emergency plan for diving accidents. The written plan can be provided by SSI or another source. Emergency equipment that is to be available in the vicinity of the dive site includes a first aid kit, oxygen unit and communications equipment. This equipment may be provided by the Instructor or Dive Centre, a local public safety agency, or by other means.
22. **Forcing Students:** SSI Instructors are **not** to force students to do skills during open water dives. If a student verbally or by behaviour indicates a desire **not** to do a skill, then the SSI Instructor is **not** to force the student. The Instructor may come back to the incomplete skill later in the dive or on a later dive. *If the skill is required for certification and has not been completed by the end of the course, the student may come to the next course or the student may be provided private instruction.*
23. **Skill Level:** Instructors are **not** to harass students at any time. When students have reached the level of training that they are ready to deal with underwater problems, then realistic problems are to be presented. The students are then to solve these problems as they would in real life diving situations.
24. **Care Obligation:** SSI Instructors and Dive Control Specialists are to inform students that if they become excessively cold or tired, are under undue stress, are low on air, injured, not feeling well, or have recently been sick, they are not to dive, or are not to continue the dive, as is appropriate.
25. **Care Obligation:** SSI Instructors and Dive Control Specialists are **not** to require or encourage students to dive if they have motion sickness or if they are ill from some other cause. *Nausea in a diver should be handled carefully. Cancelling or modifying a dive may be the best decision.*
26. **Student Materials:** SSI Dive Centres and Instructors are to ensure that all students participating in SSI training programmes and courses receive the appropriate student materials during the course and are given the opportunity to retain personal copies of these materials if they wish.

If Dive Centres use library copies of student materials, these copies must be kept in good condition. Poor quality library copies must be replaced at the discretion of SSI headquarters staff.

27. Minimum equipment requirements:

During **all scuba** training each **student** must be equipped a complete Total Diving System with at least:

- a. Mask;
- b. snorkel (attached or attachable to mask);
- c. fins;
- d. buoyancy compensator with power inflator designed to maintain the head above the water surface when inflated;

- e. Air delivery system, compressed air cylinder and valve as required in accordance with local codes of practice and/or laws, regulator with alternate air source and submersible depth and cylinder pressure gauges;
- f. backplate, if appropriate;
- g. quick release weight system;
- h. emergency surface signalling device;
- i. exposure protection, as appropriate

In addition, the equipment for the trainee during instruction should include the following:

- a. *timing device;*
- b. *compass/direction monitor;*
- c. *cutting implement/diver's tool.*

During **all open water scuba** training, each **Dive Leader** must be equipped with at least **all student equipment** plus:

- a. surface marker buoy (SMB) or delayed surface marker buoy, an emergency signalling device,
- b. cutting device,
- c. compass;
- d. timing device.

Protective suits are recommended for both Instructors and students whenever possible. Students should be encouraged to purchase and use their own equipment. This becomes increasingly important during the more advanced levels of training.

28. **Medical Declaration:** Each student is to complete a medical history form prior to any **water** activity. If the medical history form or the appearance/behaviour of the student indicate any condition contrary to participation in scuba diving activities, the student is to be required to secure medical approval by a licensed medical practitioner based on a diving medical examination prior to **any** water activity. The medical history forms of minors are to be reviewed and signed by a parent or legal guardian prior to **any** water activity.
29. **Liability Release:** Each student is to complete an SSI Waiver & Release of Liability Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement and a Statement of Understanding prior to any **water** training. The forms of minors are to be reviewed and signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world.

30. **Documentation for Children:** Children under the age of 12 involved with any water activity are required to watch the SSI Risk Awareness for Children Video with their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) prior to **any** water work. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are required to sign the SSI Parental Statement of Understanding and Liability Waiver and Release prior to **any** water work.

Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world.

31. **Emergency Skills in Open Water:** An active SSI Instructor or Referral Instructor is to directly supervise all self-aid or emergency skills conducted underwater in open water, for certification, using scuba. *Examples of these skills are: all ascents performed under simulated emergency conditions, air sharing, mask clearing, and regulator clearing. Under the indirect supervision of an Instructor, all pool skills, open water snorkel diving skills, open water scuba skills performed on the*

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surface, and underwater tours may be conducted by Dive Control Specialists or other Certified Assistants.

32. **Ascent Training:** Any ascent training conducted during open water scuba dives that simulates any emergency condition is to be done from depths of 12 metres (40 feet) or less. *Examples are emergency ascents, air sharing ascents and emergency swimming ascents. Normal swimming ascents or normal controlled ascents are **not** included among these simulated emergency ascents.*

It is recommended that Emergency Swimming Ascents be conducted from a depth of six to nine metres (20-30 feet) so that the Instructor is satisfied that the student(s) adequately demonstrate(s) correct procedure. An ascent/decent line is recommended for additional control.

33. **Recommended Depth Limits:** All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training. The recommended depth limits based on the certification levels are:

- a. Scuba Diver - 12 metres (40 feet)
- b. Junior Scuba Diver - 12 metres (40 feet) (only with Dive Leader)
- c. Open Water Diver - 60 feet (18 metres)
- d. Junior Open Water Diver (age 10 & 11)- 12 metres (40 feet) (after certification with no additional training)
- e. Junior Open Water Diver (age 12-15)- 18 metres (60 feet) (after certification with no additional training)
- f. Advanced Adventurer - 30 metres (100 feet) (when a Deep Dive was used in the program)
- g. Junior Advanced Adventurer – 21 metres (70 feet)
- h. Deep Diving Specialty Diver - 40 metres (130 feet)

Maximum depths during training must not exceed these limits*.

**It is possible that divers taking part in the Open Water Diver Course who are certified as Scuba Divers have completed training dives up to 18m. See Scuba Diver Programme Standards for more information.*

34. **Rules and Regulations:** All members and Dive Centre are to abide by rules and regulations as now and hereafter established by SSI, meet or exceed the training standards as now and thereafter established by SSI, and issue certifications only to people who meet the intent as well as the letter of the standard.

35. **Copyright:** All SSI training materials are covered by copyright and may not be modified or reproduced. SSI forms and other relevant SSI materials are available on the Online Divers Network downloads section. *These SSI forms may be downloaded and printed **but not modified**.* Student record folders may not be reproduced and must be purchased from SSI.

SSI Snorkel Diving Standards

Orientation to Snorkelling

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors to be covered in the orientation to snorkelling for Non-divers are those provided in the SSI Snorkelling Instructor Outline.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the orientation to snorkelling is to provide non-divers with an opportunity to snorkel in a safe and enjoyable manner under controlled conditions; the intent is not to teach snorkelling.
3. **In-Water Training:** In-water snorkelling time is required during the orientation to snorkelling. The orientation to snorkel dives may be done in a swimming pool, the open water or both. There is no requirement for a specific number of dives or hours in the water.
4. **Course Duration:** The recommended hours for orientation to snorkelling are 1 to 4. Time beyond this recommendation would be better done as training toward certification.
5. **Minimum Age:** There is no minimum age for Orientation to Snorkelling.
6. **Ratios:** The participant-to-Dive Leader ratio for open water snorkelling activities is 8 to 1 for orientation to snorkelling or 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
7. **Proximity:** During open water orientation to snorkelling dives, participants are to remain under the indirect supervision and in the general vicinity of the Dive Leader.
8. **Use of Surface Floats:** For the open water orientation to snorkelling dive, some form of flotation is to be in the water and available for use by the participants, such as a surface float or boat; a BC or vest worn by each diver; or some part of a wet suit worn without a weight belt. These methods of providing flotation may be used in combination or separately.
9. **Dive Leader Level:** The Dive Leader should keep all presentations as simple as possible so the "nice to know" does not get in the way of the "must know" information.

Snorkel Diver Course Standards

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered during the Snorkel Diver course are those provided in the SSI Snorkel Instructor Outline.
2. **In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the Snorkel Diver course. This training may be in a swimming pool, open water, or both. The Snorkel Diver course does not require open water training, but whenever possible open water dives are recommended.
3. **Sessions per Day:** For snorkel diving and all academic or pool training, the number of classes, hours, sessions or dives per day is set by the individual Dive Leader, based on student needs, student ability, and water conditions.
4. **Course Duration:** The recommended course hours for snorkel diving are 4 to 12.
5. **Minimum Age:** There is no minimum age for Snorkel Diver.
6. **Ratios:** The student-to-Dive Leader ratio for open water training activities of the Snorkel Diver course is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
7. **Proximity:** During open water snorkel dives, students are to remain under the indirect supervision and in the general vicinity of the Dive Leader.

Snorkel Instructor

1. **Course Content:** The content of the Snorkelling Instructor course is listed in the Snorkelling Instructor Outline. This course should entitle non-diving persons with adequate prerequisites to teach Snorkelling lessons theoretically and practically.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Snorkelling Instructor program is to provide Dive Leaders and non-divers with the adequate knowledge to conduct Snorkelling programs in a safe and enjoyable manner.
3. **Dive Leader Level:** Qualified and active Advanced Open Water Instructor or higher are allowed to conduct SSI Snorkelling Instructor Programs.
4. **Prerequisites for the Snorkelling Instructor program are:**
 - a. At least 18 years old
 - b. Provide basic Snorkelling equipment adequate for a Snorkelling Instructor Level
5. **Requirements for Snorkelling Instructor Certification are:**
 - a. Complete the Snorkelling Instructor training
 - b. Professional liability insurance with SSI (Scuba Schools International) listed as additional insured (where applicable)
 - c. Provide proof of current CPR/First Aid
 - d. Provide proof of current Stress & Rescue (just surface rescue exercises and oral or written test)
 - e. Snorkel 730 metres (800 yards) in less than 15 minutes without the aid of their arms with mask, snorkel and fins.
 - f. Demonstrate instructor quality skills in the water
 - g. Demonstrate instructor level rescue and self aid skills in the water
 - h. Each Snorkel Instructor Candidate is required to maintain own current SSI training materials.
6. **Duration:** The recommended course duration for Snorkelling Instructor courses is 10–15 hours.
7. **Active Status:** Active Snorkelling Instructors are required to maintain current professional liability insurance (if require in the local area) and current SSI snorkel training materials and pay their annual member fee for Snorkelling Instructors.
8. **Entitlement:** Snorkelling Instructor who are active may conduct the Snorkelling Program and Specialties/Club Events in the classroom, pool and in the open water

Snorkelling Club

An SSI Membership as Snorkelling Club is applicable when fulfilling the following prerequisites:

- Be an SSI Dive Centre, Dive School, or Dive Resort.
- Provide a professional image and fun Club atmosphere
- Have an active status Snorkelling Instructor on staff to conduct Snorkelling events
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with Scuba Schools International or any other training organization
- Conduct an operation with a commitment to high quality
- Have an active Club Monitor on staff
- Monitor and oversee Snorkelling Instructors using the Snorkelling Monitor's Assessment Procedures, or a Snorkelling Headquarters approved alternative program
- Use official SSI Snorkelling training materials when teaching Snorkelling Courses

Snorkelling Definition of Terms

Snorkelling Club Event: Land-based activities designed to encourage participation in the Snorkelling Club and expose the guests to various fields including but not limited to the underwater world.

Snorkelling Specialty: In-water activities designed to encourage participation in the Snorkelling Club and enhance Snorkelling experience (i.e. a biology seminar).

SSI Recreational Scuba Diving Standards

Try Scuba (Pool Only) Standards

1. **Dive Leader Level:** An active Dive Control Specialist or higher may conduct the Try Scuba programme in the pool.
2. **Conditions:** Try Scuba is to be conducted in the pool environment only.
3. **Course Content:** The Dive Leader should deal only with the participant's immediate concerns, such as equalizing pressure and breathing, not with the mechanics or diving science. The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Try Scuba programme are those provided in the Try Scuba/Try Scuba Diving Instructor Outline.
4. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Try Scuba is to provide non-divers with an opportunity to try scuba in an enjoyable manner; the intent is not to teach diving.
5. **Course Duration:** *The recommended hours for Try Scuba are 1 to 2 hours.*
6. **Age Limits:** The minimum age for Try Scuba is 8 years. There is no upper age limit.
7. **Ratios:** The participant to instructor ratio for pool training is 6 to 1.
8. **Junior Ratios:** For students under the age of 12, the participant to instructor ratio is 4 to 1 for pool training.

Resort Dive Programme Standards

Note: Try Scuba & Try Scuba Diving teaching outlines are available but are not required as Instructor materials for Resort Dive programmes. However, the standards listed below are to be adhered to when conducting the SSI Resort Dive programme.

Teaching outlines and Instructor courses for the Resort Dive programme are being developed in 2009 to be taught in conjunction with the SSI ITC programs.

Any medical advice received in relation to resort divers should be recorded. If the information on the prospective diver reveals they have consumed alcohol within 8 hours prior to the dive, he or she should not dive.

1. **Programme Intent:** The intent of the Resort Dive programme is to provide non-divers with an opportunity to dive in an enjoyable manner under controlled conditions; the intent is not to teach diving.
2. **Number of Dives:** A minimum of one open water dive is required for the Resort Dive programme.
3. **Conditions:** The Resort Dive programme may be conducted in:
 - a. the pool or confined water and the open water; or
 - b. the open water.

Resort Dives must be conducted during daylight hours unless specific approval is given from SSI headquarters.

All Open Water Resort Dive training dives **must** be conducted on site which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may **not** be conducted in Wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice.

4. **Programme Duration:** *The recommended hours for Resort Dive Programme are 2 to 8 hours.*
5. **Age Limits:** The minimum age for Resort Course is 10 years of age. There is no upper age limit.

6. **Dive Leader Level:** An active SSI Dive Control Specialist, Associate Instructor, or Instructor, or higher may conduct the Resort Dive programme. It is highly recommended that an Active SSI Instructor indirectly supervises this programme.

7. **Programme Content:** The Dive Leader should deal only with their participant's immediate concerns, such as equalising pressure and breathing, not with the mechanics or diving science.

The Dive Leader should keep all presentations as simple as possible so the "nice to know" does not get in the way of the 'must know' information.

The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the SSI Resort Dive programme, are those provided in the SSI Resort Dive pamphlet Skills Preview. *Participants' knowledge should be evaluated using the Resort Dive Code of Practice.*

If an Instructor is conducting the Resort Dive programme, knowledge factors and skills from the Try Scuba Diving Instructor Outline may be conducted but this is not a requirement.

Divers must also be instructed and/or informed about;

- a. Breathing underwater;
- b. equalising their ears, sinuses and mask; and
- c. using appropriate hand signals.

Consideration must also be given to the following issues during information and instruction sessions

- d. Environmental conditions and marine life at the dive sight e.g. depth, currents, visibility, and behaviour of marine animals likely to be encountered;
- e. health and safety issues relating to the vessel e.g., entry and exit points;
- f. health and safety issues relating to dive site entry, e.g., beach, jetty, pontoon, river bank;
- g. location and roles of supervisory staff e.g., dive instructors, dive supervisors and lookouts.

8. **Programme Limitations:** The Dive Leader must clearly emphasise the importance of training and certification to each participant of the Resort Dive programme.

9. **Skills:** Prior to commencing the open water dive, participants must perform in the water, but whilst still on the surface:

- a. a mask clear;
- b. a regulator removal, replacement and clear; and
- c. equalisation technique practice.

10. **Ratios:** If an Instructor is conducting the Resort Dive in open water, the maximum participant to Instructor ratio is 4 to 1.

If a Dive Control Specialist or Associate Instructor is conducting the Resort Dive in open water, the maximum participant to Dive Leader ratio is 2 to 1.

Junior Ratios: If the group is comprised of more than 1 participant under the age of 12, an Active SSI Open Water Instructor or higher must conduct the open water dive and the ratio is decreased to 2 to 1.

The Dive Leader is to decrease these ratios whenever conditions require.

11. **Proximity and Contact:** During open water dives the participants are to remain under the direct supervision of the Dive Leader so that physical contact can be made at anytime. When only one Dive Leader is used to conduct the open water dive, "single file" is not permitted.

12. **Maximum Depths:** The maximum depth of the open water dives for participants 10 and 11 years of age is 6 metres. The maximum depth of the dives for individuals over the age of 12 is 12 metres.

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- If a Dive Control Specialist or Associate Instructor is conducting the Resort Dive in open water, the maximum depth is 6 metres.
13. **Supervision:** If the Resort Dive is conducted in open water, the Dive Leader **must not** engage in any activities other than supervision. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate Dive Leader is to be used for the video or photography activities.
 14. **Paperwork:** *On completion of the programme, the SSI Resort Dive diploma should be completed by the Dive Leader and issued to the participant. SSI's insurance for Resort Divers is dependant on the issuance of this diploma.*
 15. **Validity:** If the participant is conducting a repeat Resort Dive programme more than seven (7) days after, or at a different SSI Dive Centre than the previous Resort Dive Programme, additional Resort Dive Statement of Understanding, Medical Declaration and Waiver and Release of liability & Assumption of Risk must be completed and signed by the participant. A copy of these forms is included in the Resort Dive pamphlet.
 16. **Participation:** The Instructor conducting open water dive section of the Resort Dive programme may allow the person to participate only if:
 - a. They have successfully completed the SSI Wavier and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk for Resort Diving forms and have the forms signed by a witness. All divers under the age of 18 and are required to have the forms signed by a parent or legal guardian; and
 - b. They have completed the SSI Medical Declaration for Resort Diving form and have the form signed by a witness. Should a medical declaration disclose a medical condition or the Instructor suspects that the declaration is false or misleading, the Instructor/Employer must seek medical advice from a diving medical practitioner.
 17. **Resort Dive Credit:** Credit towards SSI Scuba Diver, Indoor Diver and Open Water Diver courses is as follows:
 - a. A maximum of 1 (one) Resort Dive is creditable towards certification as a Scuba Diver. All other academic, pool and open water requirements must be met.
 - b. If the same Instructor conducts the Resort Dives and the Open Water Diver Course, a maximum of two (2) Resort Dives are creditable towards certification as an Open Water Diver. Otherwise, a maximum of one (1) Resort Dive is creditable towards certification as an Open Water Diver. All other academic, pool and open water requirements must be met.

Resort Dive credit is given at the Instructor's discretion. *The Instructor should use their judgement and conduct further open water training depending on the students' needs.*

Indoor Diver (Including Provisions for Junior Indoor Diver)

The Indoor Diver Program was founded with regard to Indoor Dive Centres with large dimension pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions in order to allow divers taught in these conditions to dive in these surroundings after they complete the programme.

1. **Course Content:** The content of the Indoor Diver course is exactly the same as the Open Water Diver Course. The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Indoor Diver programme, including the Junior Indoor Diver, are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor Manual and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
2. **Dive Leader Level:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct this Programme.
3. **Training Sites:** The training sites in the pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water must contain a shallow training area in order to train the pool sessions as described in the material of the course safely, if pool training is conducted there.

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Additionally there must be a Deep Water area deeper than 15 feet (5 metres) in order to perform the exercises for the open water sessions as described in the material in an adequate training depth.

The minimum water surface must be 100 square metres or 1000 square feet.

4. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Indoor Diver programme is 10 years old. Minimum age for certification as a Junior Indoor Diver is 10 years old. Minimum age for certification as an Indoor Diver is 15 years old.
5. **Prerequisites:** Students in the Indoor Diver course are to demonstrate effective watermanship and comfort in the water with a watermanship evaluation that includes a 200-yard surface distance swim or a 300-yard surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins and a 10-minute survival swim/float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids.
6. **Programme Duration:** *The recommended programme hours for the Indoor Diver course are 16 to 32. For all academic or pool training, the number of classes, hours, sessions or pool/confined water dives per day is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs and student ability.*
7. **Risk Awareness:** Each Indoor Diver student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to any water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any deep water training (if applicable by liability regulations in the country and if available in a language the student understands).
8. **Number of Dives:** The Indoor Diver course requires a minimum of four Deep Water scuba dives. No more than three deep water area (deeper than 15 feet, 5 metres) scuba dives may be conducted per day for Indoor Diver training.
The scuba dives may be any combination of training and excursion dives.
The total accumulated dive time of the four deep water area dives prior to certification must be minimum 80 minutes (*minimum 100 minutes recommended*).
Whenever practical, a snorkel dive and additional Deep Water scuba dives are recommended. Snorkel skills are required but may be combined with Deep Water area scuba dives. If a student does not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills during a dive later that same day or at another time.
9. **Maximum Depth:** All four Deep Water area scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 18 metres (15 and 60 feet).
The first two Deep Water Scuba Training dives should be conducted at depths between 5 and 12 metres (15 and 40 feet).
All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training.
10. **Training Conditions:** All four Deep Water area scuba training dives must be conducted under conditions with light in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in artificial wrecks, caverns, caves or any other obstacles.
11. **Ratios:** The maximum number of students for Deep Water training is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
12. **Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for certification. The only exception is in Deep Water area scuba dive number four, when navigation training is being conducted; the Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision.

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13. **Use of Certified Assistants:** Following satisfactory performance of the skills evaluation during the second or subsequent Deep Water area scuba training dives, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor.
14. **Assistant Ratio:** The maximum number of students per Certified Assistant for the escorting of students is two (2).
15. **Certification:** Following satisfactory completion of the four required deep water area scuba dives, the students should receive their Indoor Diver certificates. For the purpose of expanding experience they may participate in additional dives under indirect supervision of the instructor and assistants before certification.
16. **Validity:** Students are required to complete their Deep Water area dives within 12 months of their last academic/pool/confined water training dive. If it has been more than six months but less than 12 months after the completion of the academic/pool/confined water training, the Dive Centre/instructor will need to conduct a Scuba Skills Update (see Scuba Skills Update Standards) to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills required to proceed with the Deep Water area training dives, or if a complete course of retraining is required. If Deep Water area training dives are requested more than 12 months after the student completed their academic/pool/confined water training, they must attend a complete course.
17. **Qualification:** Indoor Divers who hold a Indoor Diver certification (entitled to dive in pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions) may:
 - a. Dive in open water conditions only under the direct supervision of an active SSI Instructor. Maximum ratio of 4 to1 up to a depth limit of 12 metres (40 feet)
 - b. Dive in conditions they were taught in under the indirect supervision of Dive Leader. Maximum ratio of 4 to1 up to a depth limit of 18 metres (60 feet)
 - c. Juniors Indoor Divers at the age of 10 and 11 years old are allowed to dive to 12 metres (40 feet), 12 to 14 years old may dive to 18 metres (60 feet) only with a Dive Leader. In a Ratio of 2 to 1.
 - d. Upgrade to SSI Open Water Diver ratings and have the Indoor Diver training count full toward certification requirements.
 - e. Enrol in Specialty Training in pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions of Specialties allowed to be trained in this environment and have this training count full towards Continuing Education certification requirements once the upgrade to Open Water Diver is done.
18. **Specialty Training:** Indoor Divers may enrol in the following Specialty Training in pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions. All Specialty C-Cards will be marked with "Indoor Diver" on the backside:
 - a. Perfect Buoyancy
 - b. Equipment & Techniques
 - c. Computer Diving
 - d. Digital Underwater Photography & Underwater Photography
 - e. Shark Diver (in Shark Aquariums)
19. **Upgrade:** When an Indoor Diver wants to upgrade to Open Water Diver he has to:
 - a. Provide proof of Indoor Diver certification and proof of at least 6 logged indoor dives in the last 6 months.

— AND —

- b. Pass an oral or written knowledge review and complete all four open water scuba dives and the snorkel skills dive with an active SSI or Referral Instructor to ensure that the Indoor Diver is ready for the Open Water Diver certification. All exercises can be performed at any time in one or more dives that once the student finished the exercises with mastery he/she can collect more open water diving experience. (see Open Water Diver Standards). *It is recommended that Junior Indoor Divers take the course with an adult family member.*

Scuba Diver Programme Standards (Including Provisions for Junior Scuba Diver)

1. **General:** The knowledge factors to be covered in the Scuba Diver Programme are those provided by the SSI Open Water Instructor Outline (Academic 1-3, Pool 1-3 & Open Water dives 1- 3) and the SSI Open Water Diver Course materials.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Scuba Diver Programme is to provide non-divers with the training necessary to dive under the direct supervision of an Instructor or Dive Leader. Instruction should be as close as possible to the outline concerning knowledge and skills needed to dive with minimal risk within the limitations of these standards.
3. **Course Duration:** The recommended course hours are 3 - 5 each for Academic and Pool Session. For all pool or confined water training the total number of hours or sessions is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
4. **Dive Leader Level:** Only qualified and active SSI Open Water Instructors or higher may conduct the SSI Scuba Diver course.
5. **Age Limits:** The minimum age for participation in the Scuba Diver course is 10 years old. *It is recommended that individuals under 15 years of age take the course with an adult family member.*
6. **Prerequisites:** Before certification, all Scuba Diver course students are to demonstrate effective watermanship and comfort in the water with a watermanship evaluation that includes:
 - a. a 200-metre surface distance swim or a 300-metre surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins; and
 - b. a 10-minute survival swim/ float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids.
7. **Risk Awareness:** Each Scuba Diver student view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to any water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any open water training (if applicable by liability regulations in the country and if available in a language the student understands).
8. **Pool Training:** The Scuba Diver Programme requires pool or confined water training to develop a level of skill that will allow participants to dive comfortably and effectively as buddy divers in open water under direct supervision.
9. **Number of Dives:** The Scuba Diver Programme requires two open water scuba training dives and snorkel skills and Scuba Diver certification.
10. **Maximum Depths:** Both open water scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 18 metres (15 and 60 feet). *It is recommended that both scuba dives are limited to 12m (40 feet).*
11. **Conditions:** Both open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice.
12. **Ratios:** The maximum number of students for open water training is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require. Although additional assistants may

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- be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor.
13. **Supervision:** During any open water training dive, Instructors or Dive Leaders shall not engage in any activities other than supervision. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate individual is to be used for those activities. The additional individual may not be counted toward the participant-to-instructor ratios.
 14. **Minimum Equipment Requirements:** During all open water dives students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI courses. See General Standards item 27.
 15. **Supervision:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for Scuba Diver certification.
 16. **Certification:** Following satisfactory performance of the skills evaluation during the second open water scuba training dive, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor. The maximum number of students per Certified Assistant for the escorting of students is 2.
 17. **Qualification:** Once certified, Scuba Divers may:
 - Dive in open water only under the direct supervision of an active Instructor or Dive Leader. Maximum ratio of 4 to 1.
 - Dive up to a depth limit of 12 metres (40 feet)
 - Enrol in an SSI Open Water Diver course and have the Scuba Diver training count full toward certification requirements.
 18. **Exam Pass Mark:** The pass mark for the Scuba Diver Final Exam is 80% or 90% when learnt through home study techniques.
 19. **Course Limitations:** The Instructor must clearly emphasise to each participant the importance of Open Water Diver Certification training and certification.
 20. **Resort Dive Credit:** A maximum of 1 (one) Resort Dive is creditable towards certification as a Scuba Diver. All other academic, pool and open water requirements must be met. Resort Dive credit is given at the Instructor's discretion. The Instructor should use their judgement and conduct further open water training depending on the students' needs.

Open Water Diver Course Standards

1. **General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Open Water course, including the Junior Open Water Diver Course, are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor Manual and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
2. **Regional Amendments:** In Thailand (and the SSI Thailand Region) the following amendments to standards have been implemented:
 - a) The Emergency Swimming Ascent is an **optional skill** in Open Water Training.
 - b) **Under no circumstances**, is it permissible to teach the Emergency Buoyant Ascent in Open Water Training.
 - c) **Both** the Emergency Buoyant Ascent and the Emergency Swimming Ascent are **required** skills in confined water training.
3. **Age Limitations:** The minimum age for participation in the Open Water Diver course is 10 years old. Minimum age for certification as an Open Water Diver is 15 years old. Minimum age for certification as a Junior Open Water Diver is 10 years old. *It is recommended that individuals under*

15 years of age take the course with an adult family member. See Junior Open Water Diver Standards for more information.

4. **Prerequisites:** Students in the Open Water course are to demonstrate effective watermanship and comfort in the water with a watermanship evaluation that includes a 200-metre surface distance swim, or a 300-metre surface distance swim using a mask snorkel and fins, and a 10-minute survival swim/float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids.
5. **Course Duration:** *The recommended course hours for the Open Water Diver course are 16 to 32. For all academic or pool training, the number of classes, hours, sessions or pool/confined water dives per day is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability, and water conditions.*
6. **Risk Awareness:** Each Open Water Diver student view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to **any** water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any **open water** training (if applicable by liability regulations in the country and if available in a language the student understands).
7. **Training Requirements:** The Open Water Diver course requires a minimum of four (4) open water scuba dives. No more than three (3) open water scuba dives may be conducted per day for entry-level training. The three scuba dives may be any combination of training and excursion dives. *Whenever practical, a snorkel dive and additional open water scuba dives are recommended. Snorkel skills **are required** but may be combined with confined water and/or open water scuba dives. If a student does not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills during a dive later that same day or at another time.*
8. **Maximum Depth:** All four open water scuba-training dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 18 metres. Any excursion dives conducted prior to the satisfactory performance of the skill evaluations for the first training dive are to be conducted under the direct supervision of the instructor. *During the first open water scuba dive, it is recommended not to exceed 12 metres (40 feet). All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training.*
9. **Training Conditions:** All four open water scuba-training dives **must** be conducted during daylight hours in water that allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives **may not** be conducted in wrecks, caverns, and caves or under ice.
10. **Ratios:** The maximum number of students for open-water training is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual Certified Instructor.
11. **Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor or Referral Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for certification. *The only exception is in open water scuba dive number four, when navigation training is being conducted; the Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision.*
12. **Certified Assistants:** Following satisfactory performance of the skills evaluation during the second or subsequent open water scuba training dives, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor.
Ratio to Certified Assistant: The maximum number of students per Certified Assistant for the escorting of students is two (2).

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13. **Training without Pool:** If the entire Open Water Diver course is conducted in open water (no pool is used), then the number of open water dives is to be increased to a minimum of 1 snorkel dive and 6 open water scuba dives, for a total of 7 open water dives.
14. **Experience Dives:** *Following satisfactory completion of the four required open water scuba dives, the students, for the purpose of expanding experience, may participate in additional dives under indirect supervision of the Instructor and assistants.*
15. **Time Period for Completion:** Students are required to complete their Open Water dives within 12 months of their last academic/pool/confined water training dive. If it has been more than six months but less than 12 months after the completion of the academic/pool/confined water training, the Dive Centre/Instructor will need to conduct a Scuba Skills Update (see Scuba Skills Update Standards) to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills required to proceed with the Open Water training dives, or if a complete course of retraining is required. If Open Water training dives are requested more than 12 months after the student completed their academic/pool/confined water training, they must attend a complete course.
16. **Exam Pass Mark:** The pass mark for the Open Water Diver Final Exam is 80% or 90% when learnt through home study techniques.
17. **Record Keeping:** *A signed copy of Student Study Guides should be retained in Student Training Record Folder.*
18. **Sequencing:** *Open water scuba dives 1 and 2 should be conducted only after all Academic and Pool requirements for Sections 1 to 3 have been met or exceeded.
Open water scuba dives 3 and 4 should be conducted only after Academic and Pool requirements for Sections 4 to 6 have been met or exceeded.*
19. **Resort Dive Credit:** If the Instructor that conducted the Resort Dives is the same instructor conducting the Open Water Diver Course, a maximum of two (2) Resort Dives are creditable towards certification as an Open Water Diver. Otherwise, a maximum of one (1) Resort Dive is creditable towards certification as an Open Water Diver. All other academic, pool and open water requirements must be met.

Resort Dive credit is given at the Instructor's discretion. The Instructor should use their judgement and conduct further open water training depending on the students' needs.

Junior Open Water Diver Course

1. **Course Content:** The Junior Open Water Diver course is the same as the Open Water Diver course with the exception that the student must be at least 10, but no more than 14 years of age.
2. **Qualification:** The Junior Open Water Diver certification is restricted so the diver may only dive with a certified adult diver. *It is recommended that Junior Open Water Diver take the course with an adult family member.* See numbers 3 and 4 for 10 and 11 year old requirements.
3. **Maximum Depth:** The maximum depth for 10 and 11 year old during open water scuba training dives is 12 metres (40 feet).
4. **Junior Diving:** Once certified, 10 and 11 year old Junior Open Water Divers must dive with a certified adult family member or active dive leader to a maximum depth of 12 metres (40 feet).
The maximum depth for 12 to 14 year olds is 18 metres (60 feet)
5. **Upgrade:** *When a Junior Open Water Diver becomes 15 years old, it is recommended that the junior upgrade to Open Water Diver by having an oral and/or written knowledge review and a skills dive with an SSI Open Water Instructor or higher to ensure that the Junior Diver is ready for the Open Water Diver certification.*

It is recommended that Junior Open Water Divers take the course with an adult family member or legal guardian.

Provide proof of certification of at least four (4) logged dives in the last 12 months.

– OR –

Provide proof of certification and complete a Scuba Skills Update.

6. **Ratios:** The maximum number of students for open-water training when 10 or 11-year-old students are participating is 4 to 1. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor.
7. **Family Supervision:** *It is recommended that individuals under 15 years of age take the course with an adult family member.*

Student Diver Referral Standards within SSI

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in a Student Diver Referral are those provided in the Open Water Instructor Manual.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Student Diver Referral Standards is to provide an effective and enjoyable way for students in an SSI Open Water course to complete their open water dives with an SSI Instructor other than the SSI Instructor commencing the academic and pool training. *It is recommended that Students be provided with complete contact information in order to arrange for their open water training sessions. A complete, current listing of all SSI Dive Centres is available online at www.DiveSSI.com.*
3. **Referring:** The Initiating SSI Instructor is to complete, and then review with the student, the student's SSI Dive Log and Student Referral Record. Entries for all completed academic and pool Sections are to be made with appropriate Instructor and student initials and signatures. If Pool and Academic training is incomplete, or part of the open water training has been completed, this is to be recorded on the reverse side of the Student Referral Record form.
4. **Time period for completion:** The student is eligible for referral training for twelve months from the date of completion of any academic, pool and open water training. If an open water referral is requested more than six months but less than twelve months after the completion of any academic, pool and open water training, the Dive Centre/Instructor must conduct a Scuba Skills Update (see Scuba Skills Update Standards) to determine if the student is proficient in the academics and water skills required to proceed with the open water training dives, or if a complete course of retraining is required. Referrals are valid for a period of 12 months from completion of any academic, pool and open water training.
If an open water referral is requested more than twelve months since the student completed their academic, pool and any open water training, they must attend a complete course.
5. **Requirements:** Each student being referred to another Dive Centre for completion of the open water dives is to provide the following paperwork:
 - a. Student Referral Record form with the appropriate parts completed by the Initiating Instructor(s) who conducted any academics, pool and open water training.
 - b. Copy of the completed current medical history questionnaire, and a copy of a medical signed by a physician, if required.
 - c. *The instructor should completed academic and pool log pages in student's Dive Log*
6. **Liability Release:** The Referral Instructor is to complete a Waiver and Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement for each student.

Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world.

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7. **Risk Awareness:** Each Referral student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to **any** water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any **open water** training. (if applicable by liability regulations in the country and if available in a language the student understands).
8. **After Open Water Training:** Upon completion of the open water dives, the Referral Instructor is to issue certification and complete the Open Water Training page in the student's Dive Log.
9. **Certification:** The student is to take the original Student Referral Form back to the Initiating Dive Centre to have the certification card issued. *As an exception the certification may be issued by the Referral Dive Centre, if this has been prearranged between participating Dive Centres.*
10. **Referral Form:** A copy of the SSI Referral Form is to be retained by the facility conducting the open water dives.

Student Diver Referral Standards Universal Referral System

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in a Student Diver Referral are those provided in the Universal Referral Programme manual.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Student Diver Referral Standards Universal Referral System Standards is to provide an effective and enjoyable way for students in an SSI Open Water course to complete their open water dives with an SSI Instructor or Referral Instructor other than the SSI Instructor providing the academic and pool training. *It is recommended that Students be provided with complete contact information in order to arrange for their open water training sessions. A complete, current listing of all SSI Dive Centres for use during this referral process is available online at www.DiveSSI.com.*
3. **Referring:** The Initiating SSI Instructor is to complete, and then review with the student, the student's SSI Dive Log and SSI Diver Training Record. All academic and pool entries are to be made with appropriate Instructor and student initials and signatures. If part of the open water training has been completed, this is to be recorded in a like manner. The Initiating Instructor is to complete a Universal Referral Form.
4. **Time Period for Completion:** The Universal Referral Form is valid for six months from the date the Form was signed by the Initiating Instructor. If open water training is requested after the Form has expired, the Dive Centre/Instructor will need to conduct a Scuba Skills Update (see Scuba Skills Update Standards) to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills required to proceed with the open water training dives, or if a complete course of retraining is required.

The student is eligible for referral training for six months from the date of completion of the academics and pool. A Universal Referral Form may be issued at anytime during the period of eligibility. If an open water referral is requested more than six months but less than twelve months after the completion of the academics and pool training, the Dive Centre/Instructor will need to conduct a Scuba Skills Update (see Scuba Skills Update Standards) to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills required to proceed with the open water training dives, or if a complete course of retraining is required. If an open water referral is requested more than twelve months since the student has completed their academic and pool training they must attend a complete course.

5. **Requirements:** Each student being referred to another Dive Centre or a Referral Location for completion of the open water dives is to provide the following paperwork:
 - a. Universal Referral Form with the appropriate parts completed by the Initiating Instructor who conducted the academics and pool training.

- b. Copy of the completed current medical history questionnaire and a copy of a medical signed by a physician, if required.
 - c. *The instructor should complete all academic and pool log pages in student's Dive Log.*
6. **Liability Release:** The Referral Instructor is to complete a Waiver and Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement for each student.
Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world.
7. **Risk Awareness:** Each Referral student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to **any** water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any **open water** training. (if applicable by liability regulations in the country and if available in a language the student understands).
8. **After Open Water Training:** Upon completion of the open water dives, the Referral Instructor is to complete and sign the Universal Referral Form, and complete the Open Water Training page in the student's Dive Log.
9. **Certification:** The student is to take the original Universal Referral Form back to the Initiating Dive Centre to have the certification card issued. *The certification may be issued by the Referral Dive Centre if this has been prearranged between participating Dive Centres.*
10. **Universal Referral Form:** A copy of the Universal Referral Form is to be retained by the facility conducting the open water dives.
11. The Student is to complete a Universal Referral Feedback Card and send it to SSI Headquarters.

Scuba Skills Update Course

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Scuba Skills Update course, including the Junior Open Water Diver, are those provided in the SSI Scuba Skills Teaching Outline and the SSI Scuba Skills Update diver materials.
2. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Scuba Skills Update programme is to provide:
 - a. Certified divers a safe and enjoyable way to update their skills.
 - b. A way to increase diving activity.
 - c. A way to increase divers' in-water comfort level.
 - d. A refresher for inactive divers.
 - e. Resorts with an easy way to update divers.
3. **Dive Leader Level:** An active Dive Control Specialist or higher may conduct the Scuba Skills Update. The minimum age is 10. Exceptions see number 9.
4. **Eligibility:** Any certified diver regardless of agency is eligible for the Scuba Skills Update. For non-certified divers, see number 9.
5. **Training Conditions:** Water work is required, *but this may be done in pool, open water or both.*
6. **Ratios:** The participant-to-Dive Leader ratio for open water diving activities is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require. For 10 and 11 year old ratios, refer to the Open Water Diver standard #10.
7. **Academic Session:** A review of diving knowledge is required prior to in-water work. *This may be done with the use of audio/visuals, lecture/discussion, written tests or a combination of these.*
8. **Training:** *Scuba Skills Update program may be conducted separately or integrated into an Open Water Diver course.*

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9. **Non-certified Divers:** When non-certified Divers participate in the Scuba Skills Update Program, it must be conducted by an active Open Water Instructor or higher.

Experienced Diver and Junior Diver Testing

1. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Experienced Diver Testing Standards is to provide an effective and enjoyable way for experienced divers to become qualified as SSI Open Water Divers.

These divers may have:

- a. *Certificates from other diver training organizations.*
 - b. *Training in military, commercial or scientific diving.*
 - c. *Partial training from another active Instructor.*
 - d. *Been diving for years with little or no training and no certification.*
2. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for the Experienced Diver Test, divers are to:
- a. Be at least twelve years old.
 - b. Provide a signed statement listing all training and experience in snorkel and scuba diving.
 - c. If not certified by another recreational training agency they must provide proof they have a total of prior experience and training of at least 50 hours. If this requirement is not met the diver should take a complete Open Water course.
3. **Requirements:** Divers certified by another training organization and requesting an equivalent SSI rating are to provide proof of certification and proof of at least 4 logged dives in the last 12 months.

— OR —

Provide proof of certification and complete a Scuba Skills Update.

4. **Course Content:** All General Training Standards apply to the Experienced Diver Test. These Standards are to be reviewed before conducting the Experienced Diver Test to be sure that all requirements are met.
5. **Final Exam:** The Experienced Diver Test consists of:
- a. Oral and written knowledge examinations on diving safety prior to open water scuba diving.
 - b. At least one open water snorkel dive. This may be combined with the scuba dives.
 - c. At least two open water scuba dives if they cannot provide proof of completing at least 4 scuba dives in the past 12 months.
 - d. Satisfactory performance of open water skills required for Open Water Diver Certification.
6. **Certification:** When the knowledge examinations, open water dives and open water skills are satisfactorily completed and the General Training Standards have been met, then Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver Certification may be issued. *The Experienced Diver Test may be conducted separately or may be integrated into an Open Water course.*

Advanced Adventurer/Junior Advanced Adventurer Programme

All other SSI Standards apply to the Advanced Adventurer Course.

1. **Programme Content:** The SSI Advanced Adventurer Programme (not to be confused with the SSI Advanced Open Water Diver Rating) is designed to allow divers to experience dives from different SSI Specialty courses. The knowledge factors to be covered in the Advanced Adventurer Programme are those provided by the SSI Advanced Adventurer Instructor Manual and/or the SSI Specialty programme materials.

2. **Programme Intent:** The intent of the Advanced Adventurer Programme is to provide Open Water Divers a detailed look into different SSI Specialty Courses under the direct supervision of an active SSI Dive Leader. Instruction should be as close as possible to the outline concerning knowledge and skills needed to dive with minimal risk within the limitations of these standards.
3. **Programme Duration:** The recommended course hours are 5 for all Open Water Sessions. There is no required theory content, or exams as this programme is designed to be completely focused on practical diving skills. The total number of hours is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
4. **Dive Leader Level:** Only Active SSI Open Water Instructors or higher are allowed to independently conduct Advanced Adventurer Programmes. *Instructors should only conduct specialty dives they have adequate experience in.*
5. **Eligibility:** Any Open Water Diver or equivalent can participate in the Advanced Adventurer Programme. When the Instructor teaching an Advanced Adventurer course does not know the skill level of each student or believes the students would benefit from a skills review, use of the Scuba Skills Update Programme is recommended.
6. **Age Limits:** The minimum age for participation in the Advanced Adventurer course is 12 years old. Minimum age for certification as an Advanced Adventurer is 15 years old. The Junior Advanced Adventurer course is the same as the Advanced Adventurer course with the exception that the student must be at least 12 years old. Only dives from Specialty Courses that junior divers can complete may be performed. *It is recommended that Junior Advanced Adventurers take the course with an adult family member.*
7. **Ratios:** The student-to-Instructor ratios for Open Water training are as below:
 - Adult:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Advanced Specialty course is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The SSI Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor.
 - Junior:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for Junior Advanced Specialty course is 6 to 1, or 8 to 2 when using a Certified Assistant. The Instructor is to decrease the student-to-SSI-Instructor ratio when conditions dictate.
 - Combined Class of Adults and Juniors:** If the number of Junior Specialty students in a combined class is greater than three, then the junior ratio is to be used.
8. **Training Dives:** The Advanced Adventurer Programme requires five Open Water Training Dives, and must include a Deep dive and a Navigation dive, for graduation and Advanced Adventurer C-Card issuance.

The remaining 3 dives are to be a skill dive from a different and approved SSI Specialty course.

A certification card is to be issued after completion, but is not a certification level.

Student Divers must be informed of what they will need to do to gain their Specialty, Specialty Diver or Advanced Open Water Diver ratings.

The Advanced Adventurer certification is a recognition-level certification.
9. **Credit towards Specialty Diver / Advanced Open Water Diver Certification:** To obtain a Specialty, Specialty Diver or Advanced Open Water Diver rating, the diver must complete all necessary academic, and in-water requirements including any additional training dives for that rating. *Students may count the dives completed on their Advanced Adventurer Course towards their Specialties, Specialty Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver rating providing the instructor signs each logged dive and lists the specialty area in the student's logbook.*

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10. **Maximum Depths:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 30 metres (15 and 100 feet). The maximum depth for 12 to 15 year olds during open water scuba training dives is 18 metres (60 feet), with the exception of the deep dive, for which the maximum depth for 12 to 15 year olds is 21 metres (70 feet).
11. **Qualification:** All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experienced during training.
12. **Training Dives:** Each dive is to be a skill dive from a different and approved SSI Specialty course. Students must be informed of what they will need to do to gain their complete Specialty, Specialty Diver and SSI Advanced Open Water Diver ratings.
13. **Equipment:** During all open water dives students have to wear a complete Total Diving System as outlined in the Standards plus the necessary pieces of equipment for the covered specialties.
14. **Supervision:** An active Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for C-Card issuance.

As the purpose of this training is to develop independence on the part of the diver, the diver need not remain with the Instructor unless specific exercises require it, such as:

 - a. During the Deep Dive, the divers must be accompanied by the SSI Instructor.
 - b. During the Night Dive & Wreck Dive, student divers must be accompanied by either the SSI Instructor or Certified Assistant.
 - c. If Certified Assistants are to accompany Student Divers on Night Dives or Wreck Dives, the student to Dive Leader ratio is 4:1.
15. **Certified Assistants:** An active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during the dives except Deep Dives. The instructor always has the responsibility of indirect supervision during the programme.
16. **Upgrades:** When a Junior Advanced Adventurer becomes 15 years old, it is recommended that the Junior upgrades to Advanced Adventurer by having an oral or written knowledge review and a skills dive with a Dive Leader to ensure that the Junior Diver is ready for the Advanced Adventurer certification.
17. **Record Keeping:** Students and Instructors must use and sign log books, liability releases and medical statements.

Specialty Courses — Including Provisions for Junior Specialty Courses

All Standards apply to both adults and juniors unless otherwise specified.

1. **General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Specialty Diving courses are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty Diver materials.
2. **Course Intent:** The Specialty Diving courses are designed to introduce and familiarize students with the various diving activities and provide limited experience in those areas. The specialty courses are **not** intended to be comprehensive. The specialty courses that are available include:
 - a. Boat Diving*
 - b. Computer Diving*
 - c. Deep Diving
 - d. Digital Underwater Photography*
 - e. Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV)
 - f. Diver Stress & Rescue
 - g. Dry Suit Diving*
 - h. Enriched Air Nitrox*
 - j. Night/Limited Visibility Diving*
 - k. Navigation*
 - l. Perfect Buoyancy*
 - m. Search & Recovery*
 - n. Shark Diver*
 - o. Underwater Photography*
 - p. Waves, Tides & Currents*
 - q. Wreck Diving

i. Equipment Techniques*

* These specialties are available to Junior Divers. All specialties are available to adults.

Any single specialty or any combination of these specialties may be taught for certification. In order to enhance the enjoyment and learning during specialty dives, other underwater activities may be combined with the specialty dives, such as underwater photography, underwater environmental studies, light salvage and underwater work.

3. **Dive Leader Level:** Instructors wishing to teach specialties are to register with and be approved by SSI Headquarters for each specialty.

Instructors wishing to teach unique specialties (specialties other than those listed here, under SSI Specialty Diving Course Standards) are to apply and be approved by SSI Headquarters to teach each unique specialty.

4. **Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing certification in a Specialty Diving course is 15 years old.

Junior: The minimum age for issuing certification in Junior Specialty Diving courses is 12 years old. After certification, Junior Specialty Divers are required to dive with an adult. *It is recommended that children of Junior Scuba Diver age take the course with an adult family member.*

Divers aged 10 and 11 are not eligible for any specialty training.

Junior Divers aged 10 and 11 are not eligible for any specialty training.

5. **Course Duration:** The recommended course hours for each Specialty diving course are 6 to 12.

6. **Eligibility:** Divers taking Specialty Diving courses are to have an Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency (see number 14 for the exception for open water training dives).

7. **Ratios: Adult:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving courses is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The SSI Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

Junior: The student-to-Instructor ratio for Junior Specialty Diving courses is 6 to 1, or 8 to 2 when using a Certified Assistant. The Instructor is to decrease the student-to-SSI-Instructor ratio when conditions dictate.

Combined Class of Adults and Juniors: If the number of Junior Specialty students in a combined class is greater than **three**, then the **Junior** ratio is to be used.

8. **Maximum Depths: Adult:** The depth of open water scuba diving is not to exceed 40 metres (130 feet). The open water scuba dives of Specialty Diving courses are to expose students to depths of at least 6 metres (20 feet).

Junior: The maximum depth of open water training dives is not to exceed 18 metres (60 feet). The open water scuba dives of the Junior Specialty Diving course are to expose students to depths of at least 6 metres (20 feet).

9. **Supervision:** As the purpose of this training is to develop independence on the part of the diver, the diver need not remain with the Instructor unless specific exercises require it. However, the diver is required to stay with the assigned buddy.

Dive Leaders must accompany students during training dives whenever the depth exceeds 18 metres (60 feet). *On training dives deeper than 18 metres (60 feet) it is recommended that the Instructor decrease the student-to-Dive Leader ratio.* On training dives deeper than 30 metres (100 feet) the student-to-Instructor ratio **must** be reduced to 4 to 1.

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Following satisfactory completion of the skills, the Instructor, may delegate direct supervision of the students to a certified assistant.

If Certified Assistants are to accompany student divers on the underwater tour part of the open water dives on the Wreck or Night/Limited Visibility Specialty, the ratio is 4:1.

10. **Conditions:** Night diving is included in both the curriculum and diving activities of several SSI courses. If it is not reasonable or safe to conduct a night dive, even though the curriculum calls for such a dive, then another dive combining both enjoyable underwater activities and a skills review is to be done in the place of the night dive.
11. **Skills evaluation:** When the Instructor teaching a specialty course does not know the skill level of each student or believes the students would benefit from a skills review, and then the first one or two dives are to be done as a review, with the subsequent dives covering the skills of the specialty.
12. **Equipment:** If specialized equipment is used or environmental conditions require specialized equipment be used in the Open Water Diver course, those open water dives may be counted towards specialty training provided that all academic and pool/confined water requirements are completed.
13. **Number of Dives:** The maximum number of **open water scuba dives** for specialty training is three (3) per day. If the student does not successfully complete a dive, that student may take that dive later in the same day, or on another day. For all academic or pool training, the number of classes, hours, sessions or pool/confined water dives per day is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability, and water conditions.

Each specialty course, in order to qualify towards Specialty, Advanced or Master Diver Ratings, is to include at least two open water dives.

Exceptions are Deep Diver Course which requires 4 (four) dives, Diver Stress and Rescue, which also requires 4 (four) dives and the Advanced Adventurer Programme which requires 5 (five) Dives.

Photography, Digital Photography, Equipment, Nitrox and Shark Diver may be taught as non-diving specialties. However Non-diving specialties may not count towards Specialty Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, or Master Diver ratings until required dives, including skills review, have been conducted with an active SSI Instructor.

– OR –

When specialty courses are combined (such as a boat dive at night using underwater navigation), the dive activities, including the skills review, may be combined so the total minimum number of required dives is:

Number of Specialty Courses Combined	Minimum number of dives required
2	4
3	5
4	6
5	7
6	8

When issuing certification cards, the following rules must apply:

Specialty Diver Card: Minimum of **12** logged open water dives plus at least **2** specialties.

Advanced Open Water Card: Minimum of **24** logged open water dives plus at least **4** specialties.

Master Diver Card: Minimum of **50** logged open water dives plus at least **5** Specialties including Diver Stress & Rescue.

If Nitrox and/or Diver Stress & Rescue courses are conducted, whether individually or as part of a combined specialty programme, a Nitrox and/or Diver Stress & Rescue specialty card(s) **must** be issued by the certifying Instructor and Dive Centre.

Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty

In addition to the Specialty Diver Course Standards, the following Standards apply to the SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty.

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Diving courses are those provided in the SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Instructor Manuals and Diver Stress & Rescue materials.
2. **Course Intent:** The Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Course is designed to introduce and familiarize students with self rescue and buddy assistance diving procedures.
3. **Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing certification in an Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Course is 15 years old.

Junior Divers ages 10 to 14 are not eligible for any Diver Stress & Rescue specialty training.

4. **Course Duration:** The SSI Stress and Rescue course is to be taught for a minimum of 20 hours with at least 2 theory sessions.
5. **Number of Dives:** 2 pool/confined water sessions and 4 (four) open water dives.
6. **Prerequisites:** Divers taking Specialty Courses are to have an Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency.
Prior to certification as a Stress & Rescue Diver, the diver must obtain or show proof of a current first aid and CPR certificate.
7. **Open Water Training:** The maximum number of open water scuba dives for specialty training is three (3) per day. *If the student does not successfully complete a dive, that student may take that dive later in the same day, or on another day.*
For all academic or pool training, the number of classes, hours, sessions or pool/confined water dives per day is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability, and water conditions.
8. **Dive Leader Level:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Instructor rating is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for Scuba Diver certification.
9. **Ratios:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving courses is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The SSI Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
10. **Supervision:** As the purpose of this training is to develop independence on the part of the diver, the diver need not remain with the Instructor unless specific exercises require it. However, the diver is required to stay with the assigned buddy.
11. **Maximum depth: Adult:** The depth of open water scuba diving is not to exceed 30 metres (100 feet) due to a adequate training depths appropriate for the specialty. The open water scuba dives of Specialty Diving courses are to expose students to depths of at least 6 metres (20 feet).
All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training.
12. **Final Exam:** Each student receiving Diver Stress & Rescue certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%. Or 90% if the course is conducted using home study methods.
13. **Course Materials:** Students must use the SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Student manual, Accident Management Slate and **RISK Awareness** Booklet.

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14. **C-Card Issuance:** Whether conducted individually or as part of a combined specialty programme, a Diver Stress & Rescue specialty card must be issued by certifying instructor.

Deep Specialty

In addition to the Specialty Diver Course Standards, the following Standards apply to the SSI Deep Diver Specialty.

1. The SSI Deep Diver Course is to consist of at least four (4) open water dives.
2. All dives must be in excess of 18 metres (60 feet), *two (2) dives should exceed 30 metres (100 feet).*
3. All open water dives must be conducted under the direct supervision of an active SSI Deep Specialty Instructor.
4. The absolute maximum depth for the SSI Deep Diver Specialty is 40 metres (130 feet).
5. The student-to-Instructor ratio for any dive deeper than 30 metres (100 feet) is 4:1.

Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialties

In addition to the Specialty Diver Course Standards, the following Standards apply to the SSI Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Courses.

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Level 1 & 2 courses are those provided in the SSI Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Instructor Manuals and Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Diver materials.

Enriched Air Nitrox EAN₃₂ only – Level 1 (Student Manual Chapters 1-3):

- a. Benefits & Limitations of Nitrox
- b. Benefits & Disadvantages of Breathing more oxygen
- c. MOD – Maximum Operating Depth
- d. Nitrox & The Total Diving System
- e. Analyzing & Documentation of a Cylinder

Enriched Air Nitrox up to EAN₄₀ – Level 2 (Student Manual Chapter 4):

- f. Managing Nitrogen & Oxygen Exposure
- g. EAD - Equivalent Air Depth
- h. Planning Nitrox Dives

2. **Course Content:** The Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Courses Level 1 & 2 are designed to introduce and familiarize students with diving procedures when using Nitrox as a breathing gas and provide limited experience in this area. The Specialty courses are not intended to be comprehensive.

3. **Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing certification in an Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Level 1 & 2 is 15 years old.

Junior: The minimum age for issuing certification in Junior Nitrox Basic & Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Course only is 12 years old. After certification, Junior Specialty Divers are required to dive with an adult.

Divers ages 10 and 11 are not eligible for any Enriched Air Nitrox specialty training.

4. **Duration:** *The recommended course hours for Level 1 is 4 to 8 hours. The recommended course hours for Levels 1 and 2 combined, is 6-16 hours.*
5. **Prerequisites:** Divers taking Specialty Courses are to have an Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency. Enriched Air Nitrox Academic sessions may be taught with a part of Open Water Diver training.

6. **Dive Leader Level:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Instructor rating is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required underwater scuba skills for certification.
7. **Ratios: Adult:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving courses is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The SSI Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
Junior: The student-to-Instructor ratio for Junior Specialty Diving courses is 6 to 1, or 8 to 2 when using a Certified Assistant. The Instructor is to decrease the student-to-SSI-Instructor ratio when conditions dictate.
Combined Class of Adults and Juniors: If the number of Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty students in a combined class is greater than three, then the Junior ratio is to be used.
8. **Supervision:** As the purpose of this training is to develop independence on the part of the diver, the diver need not remain with the Instructor unless specific exercises require it. However, the diver is required to stay with the assigned buddy.
An active SSI Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Instructor must directly supervise students must personally analyse, or witness analysis of, their own gas
9. **Equipment:** All equipment that comes into contact with greater than 40% oxygen must be oxygen clean and compatible.
10. Students are to demonstrate an understanding of EANx principles including repetitive dive planning.
11. **Course Materials:** Students must use the SSI Nitrox Manual and Tables and/or Nitrox compatible computers.
12. **C-Card Issuance:** Whether conducted individually or as part of a combined specialty programme, a Nitrox specialty card **must** be issued by certifying instructor.
13. **Training Dives:** *Open water dives are encouraged but not required. If dives are conducted, it is recommended that each student diver is briefed in the use of, and dives with, Enriched Air Nitrox compatible dive computers, after which the Instructor may view the dive profile and/or history to ensure Maximum Operating Depths and NDL's were adhered to. It's recommended that if dives are conducted, they are done so under direct or indirect supervision of an Active SSI Enriched Air Nitrox certified Dive Leader or Instructor.*
14. **Maximum depth: Adult:** The depth of open water scuba diving is not to exceed 30 metres (100 feet), or 40 metres (130 feet) for Deep Specialty Divers, or the Maximum Operating Depth for the blend using a PPO₂ of 1.4bar, **whichever is the shallower**. The open water scuba dives of Enriched Air Nitrox Diving courses are to expose students to depths of at least 6 metres (20 feet).
Junior: The maximum depth of open water training dives is not to exceed 60 feet (18 meters). The open water scuba dives of the Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diving course are to expose students to depths of at least 6 metres (20 feet)
All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training.
Dives must not exceed:
 - a. 40 metres (130 feet);
 - b. a PPO₂ of 1.4 ATA;
 - c. the no-decompression limits (Computer or US Navy Table) for the blend used;
 - d. the NOAA single dive limit listed on the CNS Exposure table.

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Students should be strongly encouraged to limit their daily oxygen exposure to a maximum of 80-90% of their NOAA daily allowance, listed on the CNS Exposure table.

15. **Specialty Rating:** Enriched Air Nitrox may be taught as a non-diving specialty. Non-diving specialties may not count towards Continuing Education ratings without dives performed. The Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Course, in order to qualify towards Specialty, Advanced or Master Diver Ratings, is to include at least two open water dives.
16. **Final Exam:** Each student receiving an Enriched Air Nitrox certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.

Only a Final MOD test is necessary when issuing a Nitrox Level 1 certification only.

17. **Qualification: Level 1:** Divers who hold an Enriched Air Nitrox EAN₃₂ – Level 1 certification may:
- Dive in open water with EAN 32 and air based dive planning or computer settings up to a depth of 100 feet (30 metres).
 - Enrol in an SSI Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Course and have the Nitrox Level 1 training count full toward certification requirements.

Level 2: Divers who hold an Enriched Air Nitrox EAN₄₀ – Level 2 certification may:

- Dive in open water with maximum EAN 40 and Nitrox based dive planning or Nitrox computer settings up to a depth of 130 feet (39 metres)

All students even after certification should be advised only to dive within depth limits they experience during training.

Specialty Diver Rating— Including Provisions for Junior Specialty Diver Rating

All Standards apply to both adults and juniors unless otherwise specified.

- General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Specialty Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty Diver materials.
- Requirements:** In order to receive a Specialty Diver rating or Junior Specialty Diver rating students are to successfully complete any two Specialty courses that involve at least 4 open water scuba dives and log a total of at least 12 open water dives for certification.
- Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing a Specialty Diver Rating is 15 years old.
Junior: The minimum age for issuing a Junior Specialty Diver Rating is 12 years old.
- Course Content:** All Specialty Diving Course Standards, including provisions for Junior Specialty Divers, apply to the SSI Specialty Diver Rating and Junior Specialty Diver Rating Standards.
- Upgrade:** When a junior with the Specialty Diver Rating becomes 15 years of age, it is highly recommended that a junior upgrade to the Specialty Diver rating by completing a Scuba Skills Update.

Advanced Open Water Diver Rating — Including Provisions for Junior Advanced Open Water Diver Rating

All Standards apply to both adults and juniors unless otherwise specified.

- General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Advanced Open Water Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty Diver materials.
- Requirements:** In order to receive an Advanced Open Water Diver rating or Junior Advanced Open Water Diver rating, students are to successfully complete any four Specialty courses that involve at least 6 open water scuba dives and log a total of at least 24 open water dives for certification.

3. **Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing an Advanced Open Water Diver certification is 15 years old.
Junior: The minimum age for issuing a Junior Advanced Open Water Diver certification is 12 years old.
4. **Course Content:** All Specialty Diving Course Standards, including provisions for Junior Specialty Divers, apply to the SSI Advanced Open Water and Junior Advanced Open Water Standards.
5. **Upgrade:** When the Junior Advanced Open Water Diver becomes 15 years of age, it is highly recommended that a Junior upgrade to Advanced Open Water Diver by completing a Scuba Skills Update.

Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver and Experienced Junior Advanced Open Water Diver Rating

1. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver Testing Standards is to provide a safe, effective and enjoyable way for experienced divers to become qualified as Advanced Open Water Divers.

These Divers may have:

- a. *Certifications from other recognized diver training organizations.*
 - b. *Training in military, commercial or scientific diving.*
 - c. *Partial training from another active Instructor.*
 - d. *Been diving for years with little or no advanced training and no advanced certification.*
2. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for the Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver Test, divers are to:
 - a. Be certified as an Open Water Diver or equivalent.
 - b. Be at least 12 years old.
 - c. Have a minimum of 24 logged dives.
 - d. Provide a signed statement listing all training and experience in a minimum of four different specialty areas. If this requirement is not met, the diver should complete all requirements for the SSI Advanced Open Water Diver rating.
 3. **Requirements:** Divers certified by another training organization and requesting an equivalent SSI rating are to provide proof of certification and proof of at least 4 logged dives in the last 12 months.
– OR –
Provide proof of certification and complete a Scuba Skills Update.
 4. **Course Content:** All General Training Standards apply to the Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver Test. The Instructor is to review these Standards before conducting the Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver Test to be sure that all requirements are met.
 5. **Exams:** The Experienced Advanced Open Water Diver Test consists of:
 - a. Oral or written examinations on diving safety pertaining to the four specialty areas in which the diver is experienced. This is to be done before open water scuba dives are conducted.
 - b. At least two open water scuba dives if they cannot provide proof of completing at least 4 scuba dives in the past 12 months. These dives would combine the skills of the four different specialties in which the diver is experienced in.
 6. **Certification:** When the knowledge examinations, open water dives and open water skills are satisfactorily completed and the General Training Standards have been met, the Advanced Open Water Diver or Junior Advanced Open Water Diver certification may be issued. The Experienced

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Advanced Open Water Diver Test may be done separately or may be integrated into ongoing Advanced Open Water Diver training.

Master Diver Rating and Junior Master Diver Rating

All Standards apply to both adults and juniors unless otherwise specified.

1. **General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Master Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty Diver materials.
2. **Prerequisites:** In order to receive a Master Diver rating or Junior Master Diver rating, students are to successfully complete any four Specialty courses and a Diver Stress and Rescue course that involves at least 7 open water scuba dives and log a total of at least 50 open water dives for certification.
3. **Age Limits: Adult:** The minimum age for issuing a Master Diver rating is 15 years old.
Junior: The minimum age for issuing a Junior Master Diver rating is 12 years old.
4. **Course Content:** All Specialty Diving Course Standards, including provisions for Junior Specialty Divers, apply to the Master Diver rating and Junior Master Diver Rating Standards.
5. **Upgrades:** When the Junior Master Diver becomes 15 years of age, it is highly recommended that a Junior upgrade to the Master Diver Rating by completing a Scuba Skills Update.

Diver Recognition Levels

Century Diver

1. **Eligibility:** To qualify for Century Diver, the diver is to provide proof of certification and 100 logged dives.
2. **Requirements:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Century Diver certification.

Gold⁵⁰⁰ Diver

1. **Eligibility:** To qualify for Gold⁵⁰⁰ Diver, the diver is to provide proof of certification and 500 logged dives.
2. **Requirements:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Gold⁵⁰⁰ Diver certification.

Platinum¹⁰⁰⁰ Diver

1. **Eligibility:** To qualify for Platinum¹⁰⁰⁰ Diver, the diver is to provide proof of certification and 1000 logged dives.
2. **Requirements:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Platinum¹⁰⁰⁰ Diver certification.

Platinum Pro⁵⁰⁰⁰ Diver

1. **Eligibility:** To qualify for Platinum Pro⁵⁰⁰⁰ Diver, the diver is to:
 - a. Provide proof of 5000 logged dives;
 - b. Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing Platinum Pro Divers.
 - c. Have minimum 10 years diving experience.

– OR –

 - a. Provide Proof of logging 2500 dives.
 - b. Have 10 or more years of professional experience in the scuba diving field.
 - c. Have made a significant contribution to the diving industry.
 - d. Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing Platinum Pro Divers.
2. **Requirements:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Platinum Pro⁵⁰⁰⁰ Diver certification.

Dive Leader Standards

Dive Guide

1. **General:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Dive Guide course are provided in the SSI Dive Guide Instructor Manual, and the SSI Dive Guide materials.
2. **Prerequisites:**
 - a. Be at least 18 years old.
 - b. Logged at least 24 open water dives.
 - c. Provide own scuba equipment of leadership quality.
 - d. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - e. Be certified at least at the Advanced Open Water Diver level or equivalent.
 - f. Have logged experience in Navigation, Night Diving, Deep Diving and Search and Recovery.
 - g. Have completed a Diver Stress and Rescue Specialty course or equivalent.
3. **Requirements:**
 - a. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
 - b. Provide proof of current training in first aid.
 - c. Serve apprenticeship time and do practice guiding as listed in the course curriculum.
 - d. Complete a fitness and watermanship evaluation.
 - e. Logged a total of at least 50 open water dives.
 - f. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit
 - g. Each Dive Guide Candidate receiving an certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 90%.
4. **Course Duration:** *The recommended course hours for the Dive Guide course are 40, which are to include a minimum of 20 hours under the direction and supervision of an active Advanced Open Water Instructor.*
5. **Course Material:** Each Dive Guide Candidate is required to maintain their own current SSI training materials.
6. **Ratios:** The student-to-SSI-Instructor ratio for open water training activities is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
7. **Maximum Depth:** The depth of open water scuba diving is not to exceed 40 metres (130 feet). Open water scuba dives are to expose students to depths of at least 15 feet (5 meters).
8. **Qualifications:** After certification Dive Guides may:
 - a. Conduct underwater tours to certified Scuba Divers.
 - b. Attend an SSI Dive Control Specialist Course after having completed the Science of Diving Specialty Program.
 - c. Teach Snorkel Diving after having passed the Snorkel Instructor Module.
 - d. Issue Snorkel Diver certifications.

Dive Guides are required to work through an active SSI Dive Centre and, when necessary, with an active SSI Instructor.

9. **Limitations:** Dive Guides may/do not:
- Conduct the Scuba Skills Update program for certified divers.
 - Assist certified SSI Instructors with academic, pool, and open water training.
 - Take students in training on underwater tours.
 - Teach Open Water Diver open water scuba diving.
 - Issue Open Water Diver scuba certification.
 - Meet the criteria to act as a Certified Assistant.

Divemaster (DM)

- Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered for the Divemaster are provided in the SSI Dive Guide Instructor Manual and Science of Diving Instructor Teaching Outline, and the SSI Dive Guide and Science of Diving materials.
- Requirements for certification as a Divemaster are:**
 - Have completed a Dive Guide course or equivalent.
 - Have completed a Science of Diving Specialty Program or equivalent.
- Application:** The Divemaster rating is a recognition level. Therefore Divemasters have the same rights and limitations as certified Dive Guides.
- Course Material:** Each Divemaster Candidate is required to maintain his own current SSI training materials.

Dive Control Specialist Course

- Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Dive Control Specialist course are provided in the SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor Manual, and the SSI Dive Control Specialist materials.
- Dive Leader Level:** Only Dive Control Specialist Instructors or above may conduct the Dive Control Specialist course.
- Prerequisites for the Dive Control Specialist course are:**
 - Be at least 18 years old.
 - Logged at least 24 open water dives.
 - Maintain professional scuba equipment of leadership quality and own their mask snorkel and fins.
 - Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed physician
 - Be certified at least at the Advanced Open Water level.
 - Have logged experience in Navigation, Night Diving and Deep Diving.
 - Complete a Diver Stress and Rescue course or equivalent.
- Requirements for Dive Control Specialist certification are:**
 - Provide proof of current certification in CPR.
 - Provide proof of current certification in first aid.
 - Serve apprenticeship time of at least 2 complete open water courses and practise teaching as listed in the course curriculum.
 - Logged a total of at least 60 open water dives.

- e. Obtain a pass mark of 90% on the final theory exam
- f. Complete a watermanship evaluation.

5. **Watermanship Evaluation is to include:**

- a. 300-metre swim without swimming aids (no time limit)
 - b. 800-metre snorkel swim (mask, snorkel & Fins) within 17 minutes
 - c. 15-minute survival float
6. **Course Duration:** The recommended course hours for the Dive Control Specialist course are 80, which are to include a minimum of 40 hours under the direction and supervision of an active Dive Control Specialist Instructor.
7. **Ratios:** The student-to-SSI-Instructor ratio for open water training activities is 8 to 1. The ratio may increase to 10 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 12 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Dive Leader is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
8. **Maximum Depth:** The depth of open water scuba diving is not to exceed 130 feet (40 metres). Open water scuba dives are to expose students to depths of at least 30 feet (9 metres).
9. **Qualification:** After certification, Dive Control Specialists who are active may:
- a. Conduct the Scuba Skills Update program for certified divers.
 - b. Give underwater tours to certified scuba divers.
 - c. Assist certified SSI Instructors with academic, pool, and open water training.
 - d. Teach the Open Water Diver academic and pool under the indirect supervision of an active SSI Instructor.
 - e. Escort students, no more than two (2) at a time, on underwater tours after the students have successfully completed the required skills with an Instructor. This is to be done no sooner than after the completion of skill training in open water scuba dive two and is to be under the indirect supervision of an SSI Instructor.
 - f. Assist students, both in and out of the water, under the indirect supervision of an active SSI Instructor.
 - g. Meet the criteria to act as a Certified Assistant.
 - h. Attend an SSI Instructor Training Course.
 - i. Conduct the Try Scuba Program in Pool
 - j. Conduct limited Specialty training and issue certification.
 - k. Conduct limited Specialty training and issue certification. (Contact SSI Headquarters for a list of Specialty programmes Dive Control Specialists are authorised to teach.
 - i. Equipment Techniques
 - ii. Underwater Photography / Underwater Videography / Digital Underwater Photography / Digital Underwater Videography
 - iii. Shark Diver / Fish ID / Naturalist / Underwater Life / EcoLogical Diver
 - iv. Perfect Buoyancy / Advanced Buoyancy Control
 - v. Computer Diving
 - vi. CPR / First Aid
 - vii. O2 Provider / Advanced O2
 - viii. AED

Dive Control Specialists are required to work through an active SSI Dive Centre and, when necessary, with an active SSI Instructor.

10. Dive Control Specialists may not:

- a. Teach Open Water Diver open water scuba diving without the direct control of an active SSI Instructor.
- b. Conduct student open water skill evaluations or practice exercises involving any self aid or emergency skills that are done underwater using scuba equipment.
- c. Issue Open Water Diver scuba certification

11. **Course Material:** Each Dive Control Specialist must be issued with a Dive Control Specialist kit containing*:

- a. Dive Control Specialist Student Manual
- b. Dive Control Specialist Training Record
- c. Dive Leader Total DiveLog®
- d. **RISK Awareness** Booklet
- e. Scuba Skills Update Instructor Manual
- f. Scuba Skills Update Student Manual
- g. Snorkelling Course Instructor Manual
- h. Snorkelling Course Student Manual
- i. Dive Roster Slate
- j. US Navy Table Slate
- k. SSI kit bag
- l. Stickers, t-shirt voucher, promotional items

**Contents of this kit may change without notice.*

Instructor Training Course (ITC)

1. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the Instructor Training Course are those provided in the SSI Instructor Training Course Manual and the SSI Instructor Training Course Teaching Guide.
2. **Dive Leader Level:** Only Instructor Trainers or above may conduct the Instructor Training Course.
3. **Prerequisites for the Instructor Training Course include:**
 - a. Be recommended by an active Dive Centre.
 - b. Logged at least 75 open water scuba dives. • Be at least 18 years old.
 - c. Be certified as a Dive Control Specialist or equivalent.
 - d. Complete a Diver Stress and Rescue course or equivalent.
 - e. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
 - f. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality,
4. Requirements for passing the Instructor Training Course include:
 - a. Serve apprenticeship time and do practice teaching as listed in course curriculum.
 - b. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
 - c. Provide proof of current training in first aid.
 - d. Complete a watermanship evaluation.
 - e. Complete the Instructor Training Course.
 - f. Logged a total of at least 100 or more open water dives.

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5. **Course Duration:** The Instructor Candidate is to complete at least 100 hours of training. A minimum of 50 hours is to occur under the direction and supervision of an active Instructor Trainer.
6. **Course Material:** Each Instructor Candidate is required to maintain their own current SSI training materials and must be issued with an Instructor Training Course kit containing*:
 - a. Instructor Binder or CD_ROM containing at least:
 - i. Open Water Instructor Manual
 - ii. Advanced Adventurer Instructor Manual
 - iii. Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Instructor Manual
 - iv. The History of SSI Booklet
 - v. Teaching Continuing Education Study Guide
 - vi. Learning and Instructor Methodology
 - b. Instructor Training Course Home Preparation Guide
 - c. Instructor Training Course Study Guide
 - d. Instructor Training Course Workbook
 - e. Instructor Training Record
 - f. Open Water Diver Instructor Q-Cards (Pool and Open Water)
 - g. Diver Stress and Rescue Instructor Q-Cards (Pool and Open Water)
 - h. Open Water Diver Student Manual
 - i. Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Student Manual
 - j. Accident Management Slate
 - k. **RISK Awareness** DVD
 - l. SSI kit bag
 - m. Stickers, t-shirt voucher, promotional items

**Contents of this kit may change without notice. Up-to-date outlines and standards are available to download on ODIN.*

7. **Qualifications:** After successful completion of the Instructor Training Course Instructor Candidates have the same rights and limitations as certified Dive Control Specialists plus attending an SSI Instructor Evaluation and teaching academic sessions and pool.
8. **Limitations:** Instructor Candidates may not conduct underwater skill evaluation during the open water training dives unless under the direct supervision of an active SSI Open Water Instructor.

Open Water Instructor Evaluation (IE)

1. Prerequisites for the Open Water Instructor Evaluation include:

- a. Be at least 18 years old.
- b. Log at least 24 dives in the last 12 months.
- c. Be certified as an Associate Instructor or the equivalent of another association.
- d. Complete a Diver Stress and Rescue course or the equivalent of another association.
- e. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- f. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality.
- g. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit.

2. Requirements for Open Water Instructor certification include:

- a. Complete an Open Water Instructor Evaluation.
- b. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
- c. Provide proof of current training in first aid.

3. **Course Materials:** Open Water Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials as detailed in the Instructor Training Course Standards above.

4. **Qualifications:** After certification, active Open Water Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all courses and activities that Dive Control Specialists are qualified for, plus:

- a. Try Scuba (Confined Water/Open Water)*
- b. Indoor Diver courses*
- c. Scuba Diver courses*
- d. Open Water Diver courses*
- e. Advanced Adventurer courses*
- f. Specialty Diver*
- g. Advanced Open Water Diver*
- h. Master Diver
- i. Century Diver*
- j. Gold 500 Diver*
- k. Platinum 1000 Diver*
- l. Scuba Skills Updates
- m. Experienced Diver Tests*
- n. SSI Referral Program.
- o. Assist other Instructors with more advanced training

*All courses and programs can be conducted also for Junior levels.

5. **Limitations:** Open Water Instructors may not issue certifications other than those **listed or they are not rated yet.**

Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor (DSRI) Standards

1. **General:** Instructor Candidates who have completed a Stress and Rescue Instructor course as part of the Instructor Training Course can be evaluated as a Stress and Rescue Instructor when they complete the Open Water Instructor Evaluation.

— OR —

Open Water Instructors who wish to become Stress and Rescue Instructors must have attended a Stress and Rescue Instructor course conducted by an Instructor Trainer or SSI Headquarters.

2. **Prerequisites:** Instructors must meet the same prerequisites and requirements as the Open Water Instructor to qualify as Stress and Rescue Instructors.

3. **Course Material:** In addition to the materials required for Open Water Instructors, Stress and Rescue Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials for the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Course. *Up-to-date materials may be downloaded from ODiN.*

4. **Qualification:** After certification, active Stress and Rescue Instructors may teach, supervise or issue certifications for all courses and activities that Open Water Instructors are qualified for, plus:

- a. Diver Stress & Rescue course*

*All courses can be conducted also for Junior levels.

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5. **Limitations:** Stress and Rescue Instructors may not issue certifications beyond the Open Water and Stress and Rescue diver level unless they are qualified to do so.

Enriched Air Nitrox Instructor (EANI) Standards

1. **General:** Instructor Candidates who have completed an Enriched Air Nitrox Instructor course as part of the Instructor Training Course can be evaluated as an Enriched Air Nitrox Instructor when they complete the Open Water Instructor Evaluation.

— OR —

Open Water Instructors who wish to become Enriched Air Nitrox Instructors must have attended a Enriched Air Nitrox Instructor course conducted by an Instructor Trainer or SSI Headquarters.

2. **Prerequisites:** Instructors must meet the same prerequisites and requirements as the Open Water Instructor to qualify as Enriched Air Nitrox Instructors.
 3. **Course Material:** In addition to the materials required for Open Water Instructors, Enriched Air Nitrox Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials for the Enriched Air Nitrox Specialties. *Up-to-date materials may be downloaded from ODIN.*
 4. **Qualification:** After certification, active Enriched Air Nitrox Instructors may teach, supervise or issue certifications for all courses and activities that Open Water Instructors are qualified for, plus:
 - a. Enriched Air Nitrox EAN₃₂ only – Level 1 course*
 - b. Enriched Air Nitrox up to EAN₄₀ – Level 2 course*
- *All courses can be conducted also for Junior levels.
5. **Limitations:** Nitrox Instructors may not issue certifications beyond the Open Water and Enriched Air Nitrox diver level unless they are qualified to do so.

Specialty Instructor (SPI) Standards

1. **Requirements:** Those Open Water Instructors who have met all the requirements for Open Water Instructor or Dive Control Specialist (see list) and have experience or training in a minimum of one or more specialty courses may apply for certification as Specialty Instructors.
2. **Prerequisites:** SSI Dive Control Specialists (see Dive Control Specialist Standards – number 7) or SSI Instructors can qualify for Specialty Course Instructor Ratings after they have attended a Specialty Instructor course conducted by an active Instructor Trainer.

— OR —

SSI Dive Control Specialists (see Dive Control Specialist Standards – number 7) or SSI Instructors can get Specialty Instructor rating only in Specialty Courses, they were co-taught or after they have attended a Specialty Instructor Course conducted by an active Instructor Trainer.

— OR —

Active Instructors will only be qualified for those specialties in which they have significant experience or extensive training or may be approved by an SSI Dive Centre after they have either co-taught a specialty class with an SSI Instructor who is qualified in that specialty.

The Enriched Air Nitrox and Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor ratings can only be achieved by attending a Specialty Instructor course conducted by an active Instructor Trainer.

3. **Course Material:** In addition to the materials required for Open Water Instructors, Specialty Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials for the Specialties they are certified to teach. *Up-to-date materials may be downloaded from ODIN.*
4. **Qualification:** After certification, active Specialty Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all courses and activities that Open Water Instructors are qualified for, plus:

- a. Junior Specialty Diver courses as qualified.
 - b. Specialty Diver courses as qualified.
5. **Unique Specialties:** Instructors wishing to teach specialties are to register with and be approved by SSI Headquarters for each specialty. Instructors wishing to teach Unique Specialties (specialties other than those listed under Specialty Diving course Standards) are to provide an outline of the specialty, and be approved by SSI Headquarters to teach each unique specialty.

Advanced Open Water Instructor (AOWI) Standards

1. **Requirements:** Those Open Water Instructors who have met all the requirements for Open Water Instructor and Specialty Instructor and have experience or training in four or more specialty courses which must include Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor may apply for certification as Advanced Open Water Instructors.
2. **Prerequisites:** Instructors will only be qualified for those specialties in which they have significant experience or extensive training, or may be approved by an SSI Dive Centre after they have either co-taught an advanced diver class with an SSI Instructor who is qualified to teach the advanced diver class or after they have attended an Advanced Instructor course conducted by an Instructor Trainer or SSI Headquarters.
3. **Course Material:** In addition to the materials required for Open Water Instructors, Advanced Open Water Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials for the Specialties they are certified to teach. *Up-to-date materials may be downloaded from ODIN.*
4. **Qualification:** After certification, active Advanced Open Water Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all courses and activities that Specialty Instructors are qualified for, plus:
 - a. Junior Advanced Open Water Diver courses
 - b. Advanced Open Water Diver courses
 - c. Dive Guide courses
 - d. Snorkel Instructor courses
 - e. Divemaster certification

Dive Control Specialist Instructor (DCSI) Standards

1. Prerequisites for the Dive Control Specialist Instructor course are:

- a. Be at least 18 years old.
- b. Have logged at least 24 dives in the last 12 months.
- c. Be at least an Advanced Open Water Instructor or the equivalent.
- d. Be in an active teaching status.
- e. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality.
- f. Have issued a minimum of 30 SSI certifications at various levels. For crossover instructors, certifications from other recognized agencies will apply to this requirement.

2. Requirements for Dive Control Specialist Instructor certification are:

- a. Attend a Dive Control Specialist Instructor course through an SSI Instructor Training Centre or SSI Headquarters.
- b. Attend a complete ITC Program before certification
 - Option 1:
 - i. Attend a real Instructor Training Course
 - OR —

Option 2:

- ii. Role play an Instructor Training Course with other candidates.
 - c. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - d. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
 - e. Provide proof of current training in first aid.
 - f. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen.
3. **Course Material:** In addition to the materials required for Advanced Open Water Instructors, Dive Control Specialist Instructor candidates must be issued with the following:
- a. Dive Control Specialist Instructor Manual
 - b. Instructor Training Course Teaching Outline
4. **Qualifications:** Dive Control Specialist Instructors who are active may, after certification, teach, supervise or issue certification for all courses and activities that Advanced Open Water Instructors are qualified for, plus:
- a. Dive Control Specialist courses.
 - b. Assisting active Instructor Trainers or Certifiers under indirect supervision during an ITC.

Instructor Trainer Standards

1. Prerequisites for Instructor Trainer course include:

- a. Be at least 21 years old.
- b. Log at least 200 open water scuba dives with at least 24 in the last 12 months.
- c. Have certified at least 150 divers at several levels of certification with the following as minimums. (For Crossover Instructors, at least 75 must be SSI.)
- d. Open Water Divers — 100
- e. Advanced Open Water Divers — 20
- f. Specialty Divers — 15
- g. Diver Stress and Rescue Divers — 10
- h. Dive Control Specialists — 5
- i. Be certified as a Dive Control Specialist Instructor or equivalent for at least one year.
- j. Be an active Instructor.
- k. Have been an Instructor for at least two years.
- l. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- m. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
- n. Provide proof of current training in first aid.
- o. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen.
- p. Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in
- q. the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.

- r. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation from active Trainers or Certifiers.
- s. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality.

2. Requirements for Instructor Trainer certification include:

- a. Attend and successfully pass an Instructor Trainer Seminar.
 - b. Co-teach a complete Instructor Training Course with a current Instructor Trainer within 24 months after the Instructor Trainer Seminar using the current SSI Teaching System.
 - c. Be affiliated with an active SSI Instructor Training Centre.
 - d. Instructor Trainers and Instructor Certifiers will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates fails the Instructor Evaluation, the Instructor Trainer or Instructor Certifier can be forced to re-attend the next Instructor Trainer course or revert to the DCSI rating. Being eligible to attend is at the discretion of the SSI Headquarter in charge and subject to the IT or IC paying any associated costs.
3. **3. Qualification:** Instructor Trainers who are active may after certification, teach or supervise all courses and activities that Dive Control Specialist Instructors are qualified for, plus:
- a. Instructor Training Courses
 - b. Specialty Instructor courses in Specialties for which they are qualified
 - c. Dive Control Specialist Instructor courses.
 - d. Instructor Crossover courses
 - e. Assist Instructor Certifiers with Open Water Instructor Evaluations
4. **Instructor Trainers may not** conduct evaluations of Instructor Candidates or issue Open Water Instructor certifications.
5. **Delegation:** Instructor Trainers may not delegate minimum required Instructor-level training to anyone who is not a Dive Control Specialist Instructor or above.
6. **Active Status:** Instructor Trainers are required to teach one complete Instructor Training Course every year or complete an update of co-teaching an Instructor Training Course in order to stay active.
7. **Course Material:** Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current Instructor Training materials and must use the SSI Total Teaching System at all levels.

Instructor Certifier (IC) Standards

1. Prerequisites for the Instructor Certifier course include:

- a. Log at least 300 open water scuba dives, with at least 24 in the last 12 months.
- b. Be at least 21 years old.
- c. Have certified at least 200 divers at several levels of certification with the following as minimums. (For Crossover Instructors, at least 150 must be SSI.)
 - i. Open Water Divers — 75
 - ii. Specialty Certifications — 40
 - iii. Advanced Open Water Divers — 44
 - iv. Diver Stress & Rescue Divers — 25
 - v. Dive Control Specialists — 10
- d. In addition, after becoming an Instructor Trainer you must have taught at least 6 Instructor Candidates within the last 24 months.
- e. Be qualified as an Instructor Trainer or equivalent.

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- f. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - g. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
 - h. Provide proof of current training in first aid.
 - i. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen
 - j. Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
 - k. Be an active Instructor and have been an Instructor for at least 3 years.
 - l. Provide letters of recommendation from two current Instructors, one current Certifier, and a current SSI Dive Centre, as part of the application procedure.
- 2. Requirements for Instructor Certifier certification include:**
- a. Attend an Instructor Certifier course at SSI Headquarters.
 - b. Must be affiliated with an active SSI Instructor Training Centre.
 - c. Exemplify the SSI philosophy.
- 3. Qualification:** Instructor Certifiers who are active may, after certification, teach or supervise or conduct:
- a. All courses and activities that Instructor Trainers may do.
 - b. Open Water Instructor Evaluations – after approval of the SSI Headquarters
- 4. Limitations:** Instructor Certifiers who are active may not:
- a. Evaluate Instructor Candidates which they have trained personally during an Instructor Training Course.
- 5. Active Status:** Instructor Certifiers are required to teach one complete Instructor Training Course every year or complete an update of co-teaching an Instructor Training Course in order to stay active.
- 6. Course Materials:** Instructor Certifiers are required to maintain their own current training materials.
- 7.** Instructor Certifiers must also use the SSI Total Teaching System at all levels and issue only SSI Certifications except in the referral process, technical training or specialty training sanctioned by SSI, but for which SSI does not have course materials available when operating under the auspices of a current SSI Instructor Training Centre.
- 8. Emergency Training:** Instructor Certifiers are to offer Emergency and CPR training (or equivalent courses approved by SSI Headquarters) to all Instructor candidates.

Master Instructor (MI) Standards

1. **Application:** To qualify for Master Instructor the Instructor must submit a written application and meet one of the following options.

Option 1

- a. Be currently certified as an Advanced Open Water Instructor
- b. Have at least 4 years of SSI Teaching experience
- c. Have conducted at least 100 SSI classes at any level
- d. Have logged at least 400 dives

—OR—

Option 2

- e. Be currently certified as an Advanced Open Water Instructor
- f. Have at least 3 years of SSI Teaching experience
- g. Have certified at least 300 SSI divers at any level
- h. Have logged at least 300 dives

—OR—

Option 3

- i. Be currently certified as a Dive Control Specialist Instructor
- j. Have at least 2 years of SSI Teaching experience
- k. Have certified at least 200 SSI divers at any level
- l. Have logged at least 200 dives

2. **Age Limit:** The minimum Age for Master Instructor is 20.

Century Instructor Standards

1. **Requirements:** To qualify for CENTURY Instructor, the SSI Instructor is to provide proof of 100 Experience Points, as outlined in the SSI Instructor DiveLog.
2. **Application:** No additional training beyond the Dive Control Specialist level is needed for a person to apply for or get issued the CENTURY Instructor rating.

Gold⁵⁰⁰ Instructor Standards

1. **Requirements:** To qualify for GOLD⁵⁰⁰ Instructor, the SSI Instructor is to provide proof of 500 Experience Points, as outlined in the SSI Instructor DiveLog.
2. No additional training beyond the Dive Control Specialist level is needed for a person to apply for or be issued the GOLD⁵⁰⁰ Instructor rating.

Platinum¹⁰⁰⁰ Instructor Standards

1. **Requirements:** To qualify for PLATINUM¹⁰⁰⁰ Instructor, the SSI Instructor is to provide proof of 1000 Experience Points, as outlined in the SSI Instructor DiveLog.
2. **Application:** No additional training beyond the Dive Control Specialist level is needed for a person to apply for or get issued the PLATINUM¹⁰⁰⁰ Instructor rating.

Platinum Pro⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructor Standards

1. **Requirements:** To qualify for PLATINUM PRO⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructor, the SSI Instructor is to:
 - a. Provide proof of 5000 Experience Points, as outlined in the SSI Instructor DiveLog.
 - b. Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing PLATINUM PRO⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructors.
- OR—
 - c. Provide Proof of 2500 Experience Points.
 - d. Have 10 or more years of professional experience in the scuba diving field.
 - e. Have made a significant contribution to the diving industry.
 - f. Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing PLATINUM PRO⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructors.
2. **Application:** No additional training beyond the Dive Control Specialist level is needed for a person to apply for or get issued the PLATINUM PRO⁵⁰⁰⁰ Instructor rating.

Dive Control Specialist Upgrade Course Standards

1. **Course Intent:** The Divemaster & Dive Control Specialist Crossover Standards provide an effective way for trained diving leaders to qualify as SSI Divemaster or Dive Control Specialists.
2. **Course Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the course are provided in the Dive Guide, Science of Diving and Dive Control Specialist Instructor Manuals and Dive Guide, Science of Diving and Dive Control Specialist materials.
3. **Dive Leader Level:** Only Dive Control Specialist Instructors or above may conduct the Dive Control Specialist upgrade course.
4. **Prerequisites for the Dive Control Specialist Upgrade course are:**
 - a. Be an active diving leader with a scuba training organization and have had no ethics action taken or currently pending with any other scuba training organization.
 - OR –
 - b. If the candidate has not been active with a scuba training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-renewal, which states that no ethics actions have been taken or are pending.

In addition, the candidate is to:

 - c. Have a current medical examination for scuba diving signed by a licensed Physician.
 - d. Maintain professional scuba equipment of leadership quality and own their own mask snorkel and fins
 - e. Complete a Watermanship evaluation.
 - f. Have logged at least 60 open water scuba dives.
 - g. Be certified at leadership level equivalent to Divemaster or above.
 - h. Have logged experience in Navigation, Night Diving and Deep Diving.
 - i. Have completed a Stress and Rescue Diver course or the equivalent.
5. **Requirements for an SSI Dive Control Specialist certification via upgrade are:**
 - a. Provide proof of current certification in CPR.
 - b. Provide proof of current certification in first aid.
 - c. Be affiliated with a current SSI Dive Centre.
6. **Course Materials:** Each Crossover Candidate is required to maintain his own current SSI training materials.
7. **Training:** All General Training Standards apply to the Divemaster and Dive Control Specialist Crossover course. These Standards should be reviewed before conducting the course to verify all requirements are met.
8. **Course Duration:** *The recommended course hours for the Dive Control Specialist Crossover course are 10 to 15.*
9. **Final Exam:** Dive Control Specialist Crossover candidates must complete the Dive Control Specialist Study Guide questions and take the final exam with a passing score of 90%.

Instructor Crossover Course Standards

1. **Course Intent:** The intent of the Instructor Crossover course is to provide an orientation for the Crossover candidate to SSI philosophies, policies, Training Standards, educational systems and the scuba skills required in the SSI Diver Training programmes.
2. **Prerequisites for the Instructor Crossover course are:**

- a. Be an active Open Water Instructor or higher with a scuba training organization and have had no ethics action taken or currently pending with any other scuba training organization.
- OR –
- b. If the candidate has not been active with a scuba training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-renewal, which states that no ethics actions have been taken or are pending.

In addition, the Instructor Crossover candidate is to:

- a. Be at least 18 years of age.
- b. Have logged at least 100 dives with at least 24 dives in the last 12 months.
- c. Have completed a SSI Diver Stress and Rescue course or the equivalent.
- c. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- d. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality.

3. Requirements for an Instructor certification via crossover are:

- a. Complete a Crossover course.
- b. Provide proof of current training in CPR.
- c. Provide proof of current training in first aid.

4. **Course Content:** *It is recommended that an Instructor doing a Crossover complete a review of all Instructor Training Course materials. At the discretion of the Instructor Trainer and/or SSI Headquarters, the Crossover candidate may be required to attend a complete an Instructor Training Course.*

5. **Course Material:** Each Instructor Candidate is required to maintain his own current SSI training materials and must be issued with an Instructor Training Course kit containing*:

- a. Instructor Binder or CD_ROM containing at least:
 - i. Open Water Instructor Manual
 - ii. Advanced Adventurer Instructor Manual
 - iii. Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Instructor Manual
 - iv. The History of SSI Booklet
 - v. Teaching Continuing Education Study Guide
 - vi. Learning and Instructor Methodology
- b. Instructor Crossover Course Home Preparation Guide
- c. Instructor Training Record
- d. Open Water Diver Instructor Q-Cards (Pool and Open Water)
- e. Diver Stress and Rescue Instructor Q-Cards (Pool and Open Water)
- f. Open Water Diver Student Manual
- g. Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Student Manual
- h. Accident Management Slate
- i. **RISK Awareness** DVD
- j. **RISK Awareness** Booklet
- k. SSI kit bag
- l. Stickers, t-shirt voucher, promotional items

**Contents of this kit may change without notice.*

6. **Advanced Open Water Instructor Crossovers:** If the Crossover candidate has completed the requirements for SSI Open Water Instructor, has the teaching experience and qualifications, and is

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recommended by the store owner or manager to be an SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor, the candidate may attend an Advanced Open Water Instructor Upgrade course held in conjunction with the Crossover. Upon successful completion of the AOWI course, the Crossover candidate will be certified as an AOWI (see AOWI and Specialty Instructor/AOWI Crossover Standards). See Specialty Instructor and/or Advanced Open Water Instructor Crossover Course Standards below.

7. **Dive Control Specialist Instructor Crossovers:** If the Crossover candidate has completed the requirements for an SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor, has the teaching experience and qualifications, and is recommended by the store owner or manager to be an SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor, the candidate may attend a Dive Control Specialist Instructor Upgrade course held in conjunction with the Crossover. Upon successful completion of the DCSI course, the Crossover candidate will be certified as a DCSI (see DCSI and DCSI Crossover Standards). See Dive Control Specialist Instructor Crossover Standards below.

Specialty Instructor and/or Advanced Open Water Instructor Crossover Course Standards

1. Prerequisites for Specialty Instructor and/or Advanced Open Water instructor Crossover are:

- a. Be at least 18 years old.
- b. Have logged at least 24 dives in the last 12 months.
- c. Be at least an Open Water Instructor or the equivalent.
- d. Have certified at least 15 divers at several levels with the following as suggested minimums:
 - i. *Open Water Diver or equivalent - 5*
 - ii. *Advanced Adventurer or equivalent - 5*
 - iii. *Specialty Course or equivalent - 5*
- e. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- f. Provide own scuba diving equipment of Instructor type and quality.
- g. Provide proof of significant experience or extensive training in each Specialty area for which they are applying.

– OR –

- a. Be approved by an SSI Dive Centre after they have either co-taught a specialty class with an SSI Instructor who is qualified in that specialty or after they have attended a Specialty Instructor course through an SSI Instructor Training Dive Centre or SSI HQ
2. **Active Status:** Periodically, Specialty Instructor and AOWI applicants and crossover candidates will be randomly selected to provide proof of their experience in the specialty areas for which they are applying, for example by submitting relevant pages from their log book and by answering review questions and/or taking exams for the SSI Specialty Instructor ratings for which they are applying.

Dive Control Specialist Instructor Crossover Standards

1. Prerequisite for the Dive Control Specialist Instructor Crossover course are:

- a. Be at least 18 years old.
- b. Have logged at least 24 dives in the last 12 months.
- c. Complete a Diver Stress and Rescue course or the equivalent.
- d. Have been a certified scuba Instructor for at least 6 months.
- e. Have certified at least 30 divers at several levels, and 3 at leadership levels, with the following as suggested minimums:

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Instructor Trainer Crossover candidates are still required to:

- a. Have the same teaching experience at several levels as required by the Instructor Trainer Prerequisites with another agency.
- b. Have teaching experience at several levels of SSI certification.
- c. Team teach an entire Instructor Training Course with an active Instructor Trainer. Upon completion of this teaching requirement, the Instructor Trainer certification will be issued.

SSI Dive Centre and Dive Resort Standards

The intent of the SSI Dive Centre Standards is to provide an overview of the requirements for SSI Memberships.

The following Authorized Memberships are available for Dive Centres:

- Dive Centre
- Instructor Training Centre
- Diamond Dive Centre
- Diamond Instructor Training Centre
- Diving School

Dive Centre

A Dive Centre is generally defined as a diving operation which generates its main income by equipment sales and diving tuition.

SSI Dive Centres must meet the following standards:

- Have a retail business location in an area zoned for business and maintain an appropriate atmosphere for business.
- Post and maintain established regular retail business hours that are convenient for customers.
- Have a professional image in the following required areas; retail sales, rental department and service & repair department. Maintain a neat, clean and attractive facility with adequate amount of inventory appropriately displayed.
- Have a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air.
- Have all required governmental licenses and permits and comply with all labour and tax laws.
- Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Headquarters approved alternative program by requiring SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Dive Centre.
- Institute an instructional program using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications to every student who complete SSI training courses.
- Each student uses their own SSI training materials during course and is issued with their own log book. Whenever possible, home study kits are offered.
- Use the SSI Open Water Diver Program as the primary Open Water Diver training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI products, programs and services.
- Purchase the minimum amount of SSI product on a yearly basis as defined in the annual SSI Dive Centre Agreement.
- Provide five (5) or more levels of SSI diver certification.

Instructor Training Centre

Instructor Training Centres must have met or exceeded all requirements for Dive Centres and Dive Resorts plus additional:

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- Have an active status SSI Instructor Trainer on staff (full or part-time).
- Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency.
- Train and issue only SSI certifications for leadership levels. Except Dive Leader programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Leader entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Leader products, programs and services.
- Have and keep current all required training materials for SSI Instructor Training Course programs.
- Conduct at least one SSI Instructor Training Course per year.

Diamond Dive Centre

The SSI Diamond Dive Centre Status recognizes SSI Dive Centres that make a commitment to excellence and leadership in the categories of BUSINESS PRACTICES & ETHICS – QUALITY ASSURANCE – EDUCATION COMMITMENT – CUSTOMER SERVICE – DIVING PASSION. Only Dive Centres recognized as the leaders in their marketplace can be considered for the SSI Diamond Dive Centre rating.

The SSI Diamond Dive Centre rating is a privilege. All accounts are reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to meet or exceed the standards. SSI reserves the right to revoke the SSI Diamond rating, if the account, in SSI's judgment, does not meet the standards.

SSI Diamond Dive Centres must meet all standards for Dive Centre plus the following additional standards:

- Have no other non-scuba businesses in the retail location.
- Have well-lighted, clean retail sales area, employing contemporary visual merchandising techniques, including manikins; all merchandise must be clean and priced.
- Have a clean, well-organized equipment repair and service area and private areas in the retail space dedicated as dressing rooms.
- Have a classroom with multimedia equipment
- Store personnel have a professional, well-groomed appearance and wear a store-approved uniform
- *Instructional staff wears the same brand of Total Diving System sold by sold by the Dive Centre.*
- Have an SSI Educational Centre/SSI Material Display on the sales floor or in the public area with representative samples of the SSI products, programs and services
- Use a high quality Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards for student divers
- Institute SSI instructional programs exclusivity as much as possible, using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials. Exceptions only allowed in programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/ Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Leader entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Leader products, programs and services.
- Provide all levels of SSI instructional programs applicable for the area
- Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must possess to their own personal SSI Training Material. Whenever possible complete Home Study Kits are to be offered.
- Issue SSI certification cards to all students who complete SSI training courses.
- Uses an adequate amount of SSI Marketing Materials like posters, flyers, flags, clothing in order to promote the business in conjunction with SSI.
- Visit at least one SSI Member Meeting and/or International Dealer Conference and/or Business Support Program and/or Business Training annually

- Have a web site that promotes the Dive Centre and an email address
- Use the SSI Online Divers Network for C-Card orders and keep the Event Calendar current with all courses and activities offered
- Publish a professional newsletter or Blog on a regular basis including a dive travel schedule and offer travel services and trip options including a schedule of local diving activities and social activities to customers, preferably through a store dive club.

Diamond Instructor Training Centre

Diamond Instructor Training Centres must be an Active Diamond Dive Centre or Dive Resort and meet all standards for Instructor Training Centre.

Diving School

A limited Dive Centre, the Diving School cannot engage in any type of retail scuba business activities. To be a Diving School, the following additional requirements are to be met:

- Be a tuition location, accredited college, university, vocational school or municipality.
- Have a professional image in your training location.
- Have or have access to a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air.
- Have all required licenses and permits and comply with all labour and tax laws.
- Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Headquarters approved alternative program. Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Diving School.
- Institute an instructional program using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications.
- Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct SSI training.
- Use the SSI Open Water Diver Program as the primary Open Water Diver training program and have a representative sample of the other offered SSI products, programs and services.
- Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student should have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual and Dive-Log and view the SSI Training Video or DVD during training. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- Provide two (2) or more levels of SSI diver certification and use SSI as the primary certification agency.
- May not sell equipment or repair for the general public.

All SSI Diving School accounts are reviewed annually and at SSI's sole discretion renewal may or may not be awarded, as defined in the Authorized Dive Centre Agreement. If a professional Dive Centre establishes within an adequate distance from the Diving School then the status of the Diving School may be asked to be affiliated to the Dive Centre as an Alternate Location or upgraded by appropriate measurements to Dive Centre.

SSI Dive Resort Standards

The intent of the SSI Dive Resort Standards is to provide an overview of the requirements for SSI Memberships.

The following Authorized Memberships are available for dive operators in resort areas:

- Dive Resort
- Instructor Training Centre
- Diamond Dive Resort
- Diamond Instructor Training Centre
- Dive Boat

Dive Resort

A Dive Resort is generally defined as a diving operation in a resort area which generates its main income by selling diving services like diving trips, guided dives and diving tuition.

SSI Dive Resorts must meet the following standards:

- Post and maintain established regular business hours that are convenient for customers.
- Have a professional image in the following areas; dive trips and tuition, rental department, compressor and dive boats. Maintain a neat, clean and attractive facility with adequate amount of inventory appropriately displayed
- Have or have access to a compressor system that delivers quality-breathing air or enriched air.
- Have all required governmental licenses and permits and comply with all labour and tax laws.
- Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- Offer properly maintained and documented, up-to-date equipment for rental and other instruction than SSI.
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Headquarters approved alternative program.
- Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Dive Resort.
- When SSI training is requested use SSI Instructors, SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications using an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct the SSI training.
- Have a representative sample of the all SSI products, programs and services for all SSI programs offered.
- Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual during training, be issued their own personal DiveLog and view the SSI Training Video or DVD. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- When working with referral students, conduct the Universal Referral Program as outlined in the Universal Referral Program manual.
- Provide five (5) or more levels of SSI diver certification and at least diving experiences from two (2) out of the following different specialty areas of diving:
- Boat Diving / Wreck Diving / Deep Diving / Waves, Tides & Currents / Shark Diver / Scooter Diving / Digital Underwater Photography / Night Diving / Enriched Air Nitrox

Instructor Training Centre

Instructor Training Centres must have met or exceeded all requirements for Dive Centres and Dive Resorts plus additionally:

- Have an active status SSI Instructor Trainer on staff (full or part-time).
- Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency.
- Train and issue only SSI certifications for leadership levels. Except Dive Leader programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Leader entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Leader products, programs and services.
- Have and keep current all required training materials for SSI Instructor Training Course programs.
- Conduct at least one SSI Instructor Training Course per year.

Diamond Dive Resort

The SSI Diamond Dive Resort Status recognizes SSI Dive Resorts that make a commitment to excellence and leadership in the categories of BUSINESS PRACTICES & ETHICS – QUALITY ASSURANCE – EDUCATION COMMITMENT – CUSTOMER SERVICE – DIVING PASSION. Only Dive Resorts recognized as the leaders in their marketplace can be considered for the SSI Diamond Dive Resort rating.

The SSI Diamond Dive Resort rating is a privilege. All accounts are reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to meet or exceed the standards. SSI reserves the right to revoke the SSI Diamond rating, if the account, in SSI's judgment, does not meet the standards.

Any Dive Resort can be awarded with this rating by meeting or exceeding all requirements for SSI Dive Resorts plus additionally:

- Have dive equipment repair service available at the facility
- Have a compressed air system delivering Enriched Air
- Have or have access to a dive boat.
- Have a classroom with adequate multimedia equipment
- Store personnel have a professional, well-groomed appearance and wear a store-approved uniform
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for rental.
- Use the SSI Equipment Service Program throughout the Facility on Training-, Rental-, Instructor and Retail Equipment and have an equipment policy in place
- Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency.
- Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Leader entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Leader products, programs and services.
- Issue SSI c-cards for all SSI programs taught within the Dive Resort.
- Have established an SSI Educational Centre/SSI Material Display on the sales floor or in the public area with representative samples of the SSI products, programs and services for all programs offered
- Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must possess to their own personal SSI Training Material. Whenever possible complete kits are to be offered.
- Provide all levels of SSI diver certification being applicable for the area.

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- Uses an adequate amount of SSI Marketing Materials like posters, flyers, flags, clothing in order to promote the business in conjunction with SSI.
- Visit at least one SSI Member Meeting and/or International Dealer Conference and/or Business Support Program and/or Business Training annually
- Have a web site that promotes the Dive Centre and an email address
- Use the SSI Online Diver Network (ODiN) for C-Card orders and keep the Event Calendar current with all courses and activities offered
- Publish a professional newsletter or Blog on a regular basis for customer retention.

Diamond Instructor Training Centre

Diamond Instructor Training Centres must be an Active Diamond Dive Centre or Dive Resort and meet all standards for Instructor Training Centre.

Dive Boat

A limited facility, the SSI Dive Boat cannot engage in a full type of retail scuba business activities. The Dive Boat is restricted to the instruction out of the harbour away from other SSI Dive Centres and may be supported by other SSI Dive Centres.

To be a Dive Boat, the following additional requirements are to be met:

- Have a professional, orderly and seaworthy dive vessel.
- Use trained crews.
- Meet all US Coast Guard and other government agency requirements, if they apply.
- Have a regular boat inspection and preventative maintenance program.
- Have or have access to a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air or enriched air.
- Have all required licenses and permits and comply with all labour and tax laws.
- Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- Offer properly maintained and documented, up-to-date equipment for rental and other instruction than SSI.
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Headquarters approved alternative program.
- Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Dive Boat.
- When SSI training is requested use SSI Instructors, SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications using an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct the SSI training.
- Have a representative sample of the all SSI products, programs and services for all SSI programs offered.
- Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual and view the SSI Training Video or DVD during training and be issued with their own DiveLog. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- When working with referral students, conduct the Universal Referral Program as outlined in the Universal Referral Program manual.

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- Provide two (2) or more levels of SSI diver certification and use SSI as the primary certification agency.

For Charter Boats

- The Dive Boat is restricted to the instruction of open water referrals, supervision of diving, and related support of SSI Dive Centres and Resorts.
- Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct Universal Referral Program.

For Liveboards

- The Dive Boat is restricted to the instruction of open water referrals, open water diver training, specialty diver training, supervision of diving and related support of SSI Dive Centres.
- Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct all SSI referral, Open Water Diver and Specialty training programs.
- May conduct training only while out to sea.

ECOLOGical Standards

ECOLOGical is a new environmentally friendly rating for Dive Centres, Dive Leaders and Divers rating being introduced by SSI.

The *ECOLOGical* brand can only be used once a Dive Centre has shown commitment to SSI *ECOLOGical* standards.

There will be several components:

- *ECOLOGical* General Standards and Guidelines.
- *ECOLOGical* Dive Centre rating
- *ECOLOGical* Code of Practice for dive platforms.
- *ECOLOGical* Instructor rating.
- *ECOLOGical* Diver rating.

ECOLOGical General Standards

The following list contains the SSI *ECOLOGical* General Standards and Guidelines:

- Instruct all boat and shop employees as to proper safety and environmental care techniques (Display *ECOLOGical* Code of Practice)
- Conduct and advertise beach and dive site clean-ups (*ECOLOGical* vinyl banners are available for loan free of charge for promoting *ECOLOGical* activities).
- Ensure all briefings to snorkelers and divers contain advice on environmentally sound diving practices.
- Provide recycling points at throughout the dive school premises and vessels (*ECOLOGical* Reduce, Reuse, Recycle stickers are available to mark recycle points).
- No fishing, spear fishing, or collection of any organisms.
- Provide clearly marked receptacles for waste on boats including cigarette butts, and dispose of receptacles appropriately (*ECOLOGical* "Keep our dive sites clean" stickers are available to mark receptacles).
- Use purposed placed moorings where possible
- Avoid taking resort divers and open water students who have not yet demonstrated proficiency in buoyancy directly over corals or other fragile marine environments or habitats.
- Participate in local environmental projects.
- Report all whaleshark/turtle sightings to local recognized data collection points.
- No fish feeding.

Other recommended actions:

- Switch from traditional torches to those which use power-saving LEDs.
- Discourage customers from applying sunscreen before diving/snorkelling
- Provide re-useable receptacles for food and drinks, etc., replacing foam packaging.
- Run environmental awareness programs for local schoolchildren and communities.

ECOLOGical Dive Centre.

To apply for the Specialty Instructor Dive Centre rating, SSI must confirm the following:

- The dive centre conducts regular reef checks or surveys. Via SSI *ECOLOGical* Monitoring Programme (EMP), Greenfins, or Reef Check International methods.

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- Provide a copy of dive briefings, highlighting environmental points and awareness for certified divers.
- Posted schedule of beach and dive site clean-ups.
- Proof of recycling points throughout dive centre/resort.
- ECOlogical Code of Practice is strictly adhered to.
- ECOlogical Code of Practice is prominently posted on vessels and taught to new divers.
- Retain at least one SSI ECOlogical Instructor on staff and nominate an ECOlogical representative for the Dive Centre.
- Offer ECOlogical Diver training to customers.
- Train a minimum of 4 ECOlogical Divers per year.

ECOlogical Instructor

To apply to be a SSI ECOlogical Instructor the following requirements must be met.

1. • Sign and agree to follow ECOlogical General Standards and Code of Practice.
2. • Must be an Active and renewed SSI member.
3. • Minimum of Dive control specialist rating.
4. • Hold Perfect Buoyancy Specialty Instructor rating.
5. • Hold one of the following SSI Specialty Instructor ratings: Naturalist; Fish ID; Shark Diver; Reef Ecology.
6. • Hold an SSI ECOlogical Monitoring Programme (EMP), or Greenfins Instructor rating.
7. • Train and certify at least two ECOlogical Divers per year to retain rating.

ECOlogical Diver

In addition to SSI's General Training Standards, to qualify for the ECOlogical Diver rating, the following standards apply:

An ECOlogical Diver must complete the following:

1. Perfect Buoyancy Specialty, Perfect Buoyancy Specialty Dive 1, or Perfect Buoyancy Specialty Dive as outlined in the SSI Advanced Adventurer Instructor Outline.
Student must display proficiency in hovering and understand the importance of streamlining dive equipment.
Emphasis should also be placed on finning technique and the importance of not disturbing bottom compositions such as sand and silt.
2. Minimum of one clean-up dive
Student must be fully briefed before assisting on a clean up dive by an SSI Dive Leader.
Emphasis will be placed on:
 - a. Diver safety.
 - b. What constitutes a risk to the environment and what should/could stay.
 - c. The importance of recording what has been collected.
 - d. Disposing of collected debris and litter responsibly.

The student will then choose between the following to take the total number of dives to 4 they can of course take both options:

1. Be certified in one of the following SSI Specialties: Fish ID, Naturalist, Shark Diver, Reef Ecology; (minimum 2 dives) or

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2. ECOlogical Monitoring Programme (EMP), or Greenfins Specialty. (minimum 2 dives). (The Instructor will need to be trained in these courses and hold the relevant ratings as confirmed by SSI).

Appendix

Section 2, RSTC Standards*

Certification

A Certification Card ("C-Card") documenting that a student has completed all requirements of an entry level diving certification course. This verification is issued by a training organization upon receipt of an instructor's written confirmation of satisfactory completion of all course requirements by the student, as documented in the student's log/training record.

Certified Assistant

An individual currently certified by a training organization to assist an instructor. By the intent of this standard, all activities of a certified assistant in entry level courses shall be under the supervision of an instructor. Completion of formal training in planning, management and control of diving activities, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and diver rescue techniques is required before a certified assistant may assume responsibility for any student or students during open-water training, as defined in this document. The certified assistant shall also have passed a written examination demonstrating certified assistant-level knowledge, as required by the training organization. (See the RSTC Recreational Dive Supervisor and the RSTC Assistant Scuba Instructor certification standards for details).

Dive Supervisor.

An individual who is currently qualified and sanctioned by a training organization to assist an instructor in teaching recreational scuba divers, and to conduct supervised diving activities as outlined by his/her respective training organization. Completion of formal training in planning, management and control of diving activities, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and diver-rescue techniques is required. The dive supervisor shall also have passed a written examination demonstrating dive supervisor-level knowledge, as required by the training organization. To be sanctioned, the dive supervisor must meet the annual renewal requirements of the training organization.

Confined Water

Any body of water that simulates pool like conditions regarding clarity, calmness and a maximum depth of 6 metres (20 feet).

Excursion Dive

A dive without formal performance requirements made prior to completion of all open water training dives.

Instructor

An individual who is currently certified and sanctioned by a training organization to teach entry level scuba diving and to authorise the issuance of entry level certification. In order to be sanctioned, the Instructor must meet the annual renewal requirements of the sanctioning organization. An instructor shall have completed formal training in lesson preparation, planning and delivery of lecture, pool/confined water skills and open water skills teaching presentations, in addition to completing the training requirements of a certified assistant (see definition). The instructor shall also have passed a written examination demonstrating instructor-level knowledge, as required by the training organization. (See the RSTC Recreational Scuba Instructor certification standard for details).

Minimum Instructional Diving System

The equipment required to be worn by the students while performing the skills listed in Section 4.9 of the RSTC Open Water Diver Certification Standards. This equipment includes, as a minimum: fins, mask, snorkel, cylinder and valve, buoyancy control device with low pressure inflator, regulator,

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alternate air source (active scuba/air delivery system), submersible pressure gauge, weight ballast system and exposure suit (if appropriate). Additional desirable (but not required) equipment includes timing device, depth gauge and compass/direction monitor.

Open Water Course

A course of scuba training, leading to diver certification issued by a training organization. Successful completion of a course that meets the requirements of this standard qualifies an individual to procure air, equipment, and other diving services, and to engage in recreational open water diving without supervision, except as noted in Section 3(1).

Open Water Scuba Training Dive

Supervised open water scuba training experiences to fulfil certification requirements. Training dives shall consist of exercises as outlined in Section 4.9 of the RSTC Open Water Diver Certification Standards and as required by the training organization. Each dive shall include, as minimum:

- A briefing
- Preparation to dive
- An entry
- At least 15 minutes at depths between 5 and 18 metres (15-60 feet)
- An exit
- A debriefing
- Logging of the dive in diver's personal log book.

Out-of-Air Emergency Alternatives

A Procedure to allow a diver to ascend to the surface in the event of an out-of-air situation.

Dependent Procedures Include:

- Alternate air source breathing
- Buddy breathing
- Redundant air supply (provided by buddy).

Independent Procedures Include:

- Emergency ascent
- Redundant air supply

Direct Supervision

Visual observation and evaluation of student skill performance and student diving activities by a instructor or certified assistant. Direct supervision requires personal observation and evaluation of the performance of the skills required for certification. During underwater skill performance and evaluation, direct supervision requires the student to be accompanied underwater

Indirect Supervision

The overall control, general observation, evaluation and the direction of the student skill performance and student diving activities. The instructor must be personally present at the training site and be prepared to come to the aid of a student.

* From the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC) 2000 Instructional Standards Minimum Course Content for Recreational Open Water Diver Certification as approved by: International Diving Educators Association (IDEA), Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Professional Diving Instructors Corporation (PDIC), Scuba Schools International (SSI), and YMCA Scuba Programme.

Note: A complete copy of the RSTC 2000 Open Water Diver Certification Standards is available from SSI Headquarters.

SSI Grievance Resolution

The intent of the Grievance Resolution Committee is to research complaints about SSI Authorised Dive Centres, Instructors and Dive Cons.

There are two types of complaints: verbal and written. It is the policy of the Grievance Resolution Committee, which is comprised of members of the SSI Headquarters staff, to take all complaints seriously, but to research only written complaints.

Verbal

Verbal complaints must be followed up by a written and signed complaint.

Written

When a written, signed complaint or an action request form is received, the Grievance Resolution Committee conducts the following procedures:

Resolution Procedure

1. The Committee reviews the complaint.
2. The complainant is notified that the complaint was received.
3. A copy of the complaint is sent to the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon by certified mail.
4. The Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to respond in writing.
 - a. If no written response is received by the deadline, the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon becomes inactive until the matter is resolved. Inactive status is defined as not being allowed to perform all duties outlined in the SSI Training Standards.
 - b. If an incomplete written response is received, the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon becomes inactive until the remaining documentation is received.
 - c. If a complete written response is received, the Committee will review both complaint and response to determine if SSI Training Standards have been violated.
5. An initial determination is made whether Standards may have been violated.
 - a. If it appears reasonable that Standards were not violated, the Committee sends a notice to the complainant and the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon that the Committee has found no violations and will take no further action.
 - b. If Standards may have been violated, the Committee will research the complaint.
6. The Committee uses several research methods, depending on the nature of the complaint.
 - a. The Committee may request contact information from the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon for students trained in the past twelve months by the Instructor in question. The students' names will be selected at random from store certification files at SSI Headquarters. A survey is sent to each student to gather information.
 - b. The Committee may contact (via phone) all students who did not respond to the survey or answer all the questions.
 - c. The Committee may request copies of key documents from the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon.
 - d. The Committee may hire a professional investigator to gather information.
 - e. The Committee may request all Dive Centre information on the Instructor or DiveCon.
 - f. The Committee may use such other research methods as it deems appropriate.
7. The Committee determines from the research whether a Standards violation occurred.

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- a. If research does not indicate a Standards violation, the Committee informs complainant and Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon that no violations have been found and that the case is closed pending further documentation to the contrary.
- b. If research does indicate a Standards violation, the Committee determines appropriate action.
8. The Committee confers with legal representatives before taking action.
9. The Committee may require several types of action of the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon, which is at the sole discretion of SSI Headquarters, depending on the violation.
 - a. If retraining is necessary, the Committee will determine the extent of retraining and the time frame for the completion of the retraining.
 - b. If suspension is necessary, the Committee will determine the length of suspension, the extent of retraining and method of follow-up, and the conditions under which the Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon will be reinstated.
 - c. If termination is necessary, the Authorised Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon membership is revoked. Future reinstatement is at the sole discretion of SSI.
10. The Committee will notify the SSI Dive Centre, Instructor or DiveCon in writing of the resolution of the complaint.

