
Regulating the international diving industry - a view from a national regulator



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Programme



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- The role of a national regulator (home)
 - The international diving industry
 - The role of a national regulator (away)
 - Common objectives & potential conflicts
 - Key players
 - The way forward
 - Questions

The Role of a National Regulator (at home)



- Prevent death, injury and ill health to those at work
- Enforcement of regulations
- Inspection & investigation
- Provision of information & advice
- Liaison with other government departments, agencies, trade associations, etc
- Encouraging continual improvement in standards

The International Diving Industry



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- In the UK diving at work covers a wide range of activities
 - All sectors have an international element
 - Construction and marine engineering increasingly international in nature
 - European Union
 - Offshore oil & gas - a truly international industry

The Role of a National Regulator (abroad)



- Prevent death, injury and ill health to those at work
- Enforcement of regulations
- Inspection & investigation
- Provision of information & advice
- Liaison with other governments, agencies, trade associations, etc
- Encouraging continual improvement in standards
- Representing national interests

Common Objectives and Potential Conflicts



- Improving standards
- Reducing accidents & ill health
- Sharing information and lessons
- Harmonising standards
- Reducing barriers to free movement
- Environmental issues
- Protecting national interests
- Cultural/legal differences

Key Players



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- Clients & contractors
 - Governments & agencies
 - Trade associations
 - Other stakeholder organisations (EDTC, IDRf, etc)
 - Unions
 - Training schools
 - Standards committees
 - Classification societies
 - Individuals

The Way Forward



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- Continue current arrangements
 - Develop new channels for information sharing
 - Establish and adopt industry best practice
 - Develop international standards for training and certification of personnel
 - Improve standards through commercial contracts
 - Increased Self regulation?

Summary



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- National regulators have an international role, but may be constrained by jurisdiction, resources and other issues
 - Statistics and lessons learnt from incidents should be shared internationally
 - Need for “joined up” approach from all stakeholders (clients, contractors, trade associations, unions, regulators, etc)
 - Clients have a key role to play in improving standards
 - Divers (and other personnel) must take some responsibility for their safety



Questions or Comments?