

# International Diver Training

The need for a globally recognised  
passport for divers

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**THE**  
**UNDERWATER CENTRE**



# Introduction

- What do supervisors/contractors say about new divers
  - Some good some bad. Hard to tell before they start work
  - Safe enough to put in the water but can not do much work
  - Poor work attitude



# What can schools do about it?

- When students leave they are untested in real work tasks
- It is just like any other university or technical college
- But generally no company training programmes to join
- Is there an alternative?



# What happened in the past?

- Schools focussed on safety even with work tasks
- New divers worked at lesser paid jobs to build up experience before moving offshore
- In effect a vetting system by the inshore industry
- Poor workers did not get work so did move offshore



# Today

- New divers moving more quickly into offshore industries without the vetting process
- More older divers retiring means this will get worse as time goes on



# Diver Training

- Three types of regulator of diver training schemes
  - Government – IDRFB – HSE – ADAS – DCBC
  - IDSA and some national schools
  - IMCA (industry body)
- Safety needs to be regulated by an independent body



# Training and Assessment

- Divers are trained and assessed in one of two ways
  - Competence (ability to do tasks)
  - Experience (number of minutes spent doing something)
- Competency has become accepted as the best way to go



# Training

- Two sides to training
  - Safety
  - Work
- In 1997 HSE moved to competence in safety
- Government regulated standard still relevant and a good standard to work to
- All main schools are excellent at teaching safety
- All schools teach diving work



# Work competence at schools

- Schemes ranging from VQ to in-house standards to standards set by external bodies
- Some experience based i.e. time spent on a tool
- Some competency based (completing a task or attaining a standard)
- No real consistency



# A possible way ahead

- Clear career path for divers
- A mix of surface and underwater courses to build up a portfolio of competence
- The record of competency is the divers 'Passport' to specific tasks



# Industry/school collaboration

- Passport to work should start in diving schools
- Internationally accepted
- Industry needs to play its part
- Industry guidance on competencies which are needed



# We believe this would...

- Allow contractors, clients and supervisors to have a clear indication that divers are suitable to do the job they are being sent in to do
- Divers can prove their competence and progress in their career



# But who oversees this?

- Needs to have industry acceptance
- Interests of contractors, divers and schools needs to be balanced
- An acceptable level of standard needs to be maintained
- Existing organisation/new organisation/management group ?



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