Training and competence

Phil Crombie
## HSE Diver Competence Assessment Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Diving Equipment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Professional Diving Academy (Dunoon)</td>
<td>TU, SS, SCUBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Diver Training (Fowey)</td>
<td>TU, SS, SCUBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Scotland</td>
<td>Police SS, SCUBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northumbria Police (NEW)</td>
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<td>Plymouth University</td>
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<td>TH Diving Services (Plymouth)</td>
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<td>DV Diving (N.I.)</td>
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<td>Tritonia Scientific Ltd (Dunstaffanage)</td>
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<td>Puffin (Oban)</td>
<td>SCUBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andark (Southampton)</td>
<td>SCUBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol Channel Diving Services (Cardiff)</td>
<td>SCUBA</td>
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Key:

**Offshore Surface Supplied**

**Police**

**SCUBA**
Number of certificates issued 2000 - 2020
Recent changes to diver training:

• Offshore Top-Up Pre-requisites

• New exam – on legislation and hazard identification for all candidates

• Proposal from dive schools for Surface Supplied – additional week carrying out project including risk assessment, method statement etc as a “supervisor” – along with 2 additional 90 minute dives for all candidates (as of 1st Jan 2023). Brings UK duration in line with ADAS.
Manchester Grammar pupils 'poisoned' during scuba diving lesson

The boys were taking part in a scuba diving lesson at Manchester Grammar School on Monday.
Main points:

- Compressor had been modified - filter stack and drainage points changed
- No consultation with manufacturer on modifications
- Compressor was not maintained by suitably qualified staff
- Air purity not tested after filter changed

Result

- Too much moisture in system – resulting in overheating of filter stack and fire in filter stack
- Very levels of CO along with other contaminants in “breathing gas”
The incident:

- Twelve pupils were taking part in a class in the school’s pool, but boys had started feeling ill soon after entering the pool. One was found lying unconscious face down in the water and had to be pulled out by the instructor. The school nurse gave him oxygen until an ambulance arrived.

- Another boy who became agitated was assisted from the water but then stopped breathing. Twelve pupils were taken to hospital with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning. The injuries to one, described as “life-threatening”, required him to be placed into an induced coma.

- One victim, now aged 19, stated that the last thing he remembered was being unable to breathe or see. He had continued to suffer headaches since the incident took place four years ago.
Legal outcome:

- Aqua Logistics Limited pleaded guilty to breaching section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. They were fined £9,300 and ordered to pay £11,000 costs.

- Sole director Geoffrey Shearn pleaded guilty to breaching section 37 of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was given a 12 month community order with requirement for 100 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £5,000 costs.
Other HSE news – New Shellfish Guidance published 1\textsuperscript{st} Nov

From 1 November 2022 new entrants to the industry the minimum approved diving qualification will be HSE SCUBA or equivalent.

New guidance on

- Dive team size.
- Equipment - full-face masks, dive computers, diver recovery equipment and personal location beacons.
- The maximum recommended partial pressure of will be 1.4 bar
- The availability of compression chambers.
- Electrofishing. A new section has been added on electrofishing to reflect current and future activities permitted by the relevant authorities.

Other HSE news - PPE Enforcement

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. 390

CONSUMER PROTECTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Personal Protective Equipment (Enforcement) Regulations 2018

Made - - - 20th March 2018
Laid before Parliament 21st March 2018
Coming into force - - 21st April 2018

CONTENTS

PART I
Preliminary

1. Citation, commencement and interpretation
2. Application, transitional provisions, savings and revocation
The product poses a serious asphyxiation hazard as the results from the testing indicated that the dual tank valve restricted the flow of gas to the mask and diver. The product is also not CE marked and there is no Declaration of Conformity. The product does not meet the Personal Protective Equipment (Enforcement) Regulations 2018.
Questions?