

**OCCUPATIONAL DIVING UPDATE**

# SCIENTIFIC DIVING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a Certificate of Competence (CoC) in Occupational Diving (Scientific Diving).

## Background

In January 2014 WorkSafe New Zealand, in consultation with Scientific Diving Stakeholders and the Occupational Diving Reference Group, established the minimum requirement for divers undertaking Scientific Diving as being the training set out in clauses 3.1-3.12 of AS/NZS 2815.6:2013 *Training and certification of occupational divers - Part 6: Restricted occupational SCUBA diver*.

In subsequent years it has become more common for the diving work undertaken by many Scientific Divers to require only limited competencies from 2815.6, and the training has become an obstacle for many to complete. This has been further compounded by the lack of progress in updating AS/NZS 2815.6 and AS/NZS 2299.2:2002 *Occupational diving operations - Scientific diving* within the constraints of the SF-017 Joint Standards (Australia & New Zealand) Committee on Occupational Diving.

In 2021, Science Diving New Zealand (SDNZ) was established as the sector's representative body and to set new training programmes and procedures for Scientific Diving. Following discussion with SDNZ and the Diving Industry Advisory Group (DIAG) WorkSafe agreed to review the 2815.6 requirement and the suitability of SDNZ divers to undertake Scientific Diving in New Zealand.

## What changes will take effect?

WorkSafe has agreed to accept a range of SDNZ Scientific Diver Qualifications as suitable competencies to meet the requirements for suitable training while also continuing a transition phase for divers undertaking 2815.6 competency training.

### Divers completing SDNZ Qualifications:

Divers who complete and hold SDNZ Scientific Diver Qualifications will be able to use those qualifications as meeting the training requirements for a CoC as a Scientific Diver. Though the SDNZ qualifications can vary in depth and competencies, the divers will hold a CoC as a Scientific Diver and will be able to dive *within the limitations of their SDNZ Qualification*.

### Transitional phase for divers completing 2815.6 Competencies:

New divers who continue to receive their Scientific Training using 2815.6 competencies will continue to be able to apply for a CoC as Scientific Diver and to dive within the limits of their training and 2299.2. These arrangements will remain in place during the transition to the national adoption of the SDNZ Model, expected to be in mid 2023.

Existing divers who have attained a Scientific Diving CoC using 2815.6 competencies will continue to be able to renew their certificate using their existing 2815.6 training.

The above changes are effective immediately. Any questions please contact the WorkSafe Occupational Diving Team at [Occdiving@worksafe.govt.nz](mailto:Occdiving@worksafe.govt.nz)