



Guided Discoveries, Inc.

STANDARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DIVING MANUAL

2024

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FOREWORD

Since 1951 the scientific diving community has endeavored to promote safe, effective diving through self-imposed diver training and education programs. Over the years, manuals for diving safety have been circulated between organizations, revised, and modified for local implementation, and have resulted in an enviable safety record.

This document represents the minimal safety standards for scientific diving at the present day. As diving science progresses so must this standard, and it is the responsibility of every member of the Academy to see that it always reflects state of the art, safe diving practice.

American Academy of Underwater Sciences

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Academy thanks the numerous dedicated individual and organizational members for their contributions and editorial comments in the production of these standards.

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Volume 1

Sections 1.00 through 5.00
Required For All Organizational Members

Section 1.00 GENERAL POLICY

1.10 Scientific Diving Standards

Purpose

The purpose of these Scientific Diving Standards is to ensure scientific diving is conducted in a manner that will maximize the protection of scientific divers from accidental injury and/or illness, and to set forth standards for training and certification that will allow a working reciprocity between Organizational Members (OMs or OM). Fulfillment of these purposes shall be consistent with the furtherance of research and safety, and facilitation of collaborative opportunities between AAUS OMs.

This *Manual* sets minimum standards for the establishment of American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) recognized scientific diving programs, the organization for the conduct of these programs, and the basic regulations and procedures for safety in scientific diving operations. It also establishes a framework for reciprocity between AAUS OMs that adhere to these minimum standards.

Historical Perspective

This *Manual* was developed and written by AAUS by compiling the policies set forth in the diving manuals of several university, private, and governmental scientific diving programs. These programs share a common heritage with the scientific diving program at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). Adherence to the SIO standards has proven both feasible and effective in protecting the health and safety of scientific divers since 1954.

In 1982, OSHA exempted scientific diving from commercial diving regulations (29CFR1910, Subpart T) under certain conditions that are outlined below. The final guidelines for the exemption became effective in 1985 (Federal Register, Vol. 50, No.6, p.1046). AAUS is recognized by OSHA as the scientific diving standard setting organization.

Scientific Diving Definition

Scientific diving is defined (29CFR1910.402) as:

“Diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity by employees whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks. Scientific diving does not include performing any tasks usually associated with commercial diving such as: Placing or removing heavy objects underwater; inspection of pipelines and similar objects; construction; demolition; cutting or welding; or the use of explosives.”

Scientific Diving Exemption

The two elements that a diving program must contain as defined by OSHA in 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T 1910.401(a)(2)(iv) are:

- a) Diving safety manual includes at a minimum: Procedures covering all diving operations specific to the program; procedures for emergency care, including recompression and evacuation; and criteria for diver training and certification.
- b) Diving control (safety) board, with the majority of its members being active divers, which must at a minimum have the authority to: Approve and monitor diving projects; review and revise the diving safety manual; assure compliance with the manual; certify the depths to which a diver has been trained; take disciplinary action for unsafe practices; and, assure adherence to the buddy system (a diver is accompanied by and is in continuous contact with another diver in the water) for SCUBA diving.

OSHA has granted an exemption for scientific diving from commercial diving regulations under the following guidelines (Appendix B to 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T):

- The Diving Control Board consists of a majority of active scientific divers and has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operation.
- The purpose of the project using scientific diving is the advancement of science; therefore, information and data resulting from the project are non-proprietary.
- The tasks of a scientific diver are those of an observer and data gatherer. Construction and trouble-shooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving are not included within scientific diving.
- Scientific divers, based on the nature of their activities, must use scientific expertise in studying the underwater environment and therefore, are scientists or scientists-in-training.

Recommendations for Changes to AAUS Manual

As part of each OM's annual report, recommendations for modifications of this *Manual* must be submitted to AAUS for consideration.

1.20 Operational Control

Guided Discoveries, Inc. Auspices and Responsibilities

Guided Discoveries, Inc. (GDI) auspices include any scientific diving operation in which GDI is connected because of ownership of life support equipment used, locations selected, or relationship with the individual(s) concerned. This includes all cases involving the operations of authorized individuals of GDI or auxiliary organizations, where such individuals are acting within the scope of their authorization. As GDI employees also engage in non-scientific diving, see [Section 7.2](#) for definitions of what does and does not qualify as scientific diving.

It is GDI's responsibility to adhere to the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs. The administration of the local diving program will reside with the OM's Diving Control Board (DCB) and Dive Safety Officer (DSO).

The regulations herein must be observed at all locations where scientific diving is conducted.

Guided Discoveries' Scientific Diving Safety Manual

Meeting AAUS minimum standards is a requirement for organizational membership in the Academy. GDI must develop and maintain a diving safety manual that includes wording on how GDI defines specific policies and procedures required for the proper function of a scientific diving program. The GDI Scientific Diving Safety Manual must address environmental and working conditions unique to the program's operations. The GDI Scientific Diving Safety Manual must meet or exceed the AAUS standards.

AAUS standards must be the foundation for the development of GDI's Scientific Diving Safety Manual. The order and formatting of the GDI manual does not have to conform to the AAUS template. The information contained in Volume 1, Sections 1.00 through 5.00 and the Appendices are required for all manuals. Volume 2, Sections 6.00 through 12.00 are required only when the OM conducts the specifically referenced diving mode or activity. Deviations or significant changes to AAUS minimum standards may require justification before approval is granted by the AAUS Standards Committee.

Diving Control Board

- The Diving Control Board (DCB) must consist of a majority of active scientific divers. Voting members include the Diving Safety Officer (DSO), and other representatives of the diving program

such as qualified divers and members selected by procedures established by GDI. A chairperson and a secretary may be chosen from the membership of the board according to local procedure.

- Has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operation.
- The DCB must:
 - Establish additional standards, protocols, and operational procedures beyond the AAUS minimums to address GDI's specific needs and concerns.
 - Approve and monitor diving projects.
 - Review and revise the diving safety manual.
 - Ensure compliance with the diving safety manual.
 - Approve the depth to which a diver has been authorized to dive.
 - Take disciplinary action for unsafe practices.
 - Ensure adherence to the buddy system for scientific diving.
 - Act as the official representative of GDI in matters concerning the scientific diving program.
 - Act as a board of appeal to consider diver-related problems.
 - Recommend the issue, reissue, or the revocation of diving authorizations.
 - Recommend changes in policy and amendments to AAUS and GDI's diving safety manual as the need arises.
 - Establish and/or approve training protocols or standards through which the applicants for authorization can satisfy the requirements of GDI's Scientific Diving Safety Manual.
 - Suspend diving operations considered to be unsafe or unwise.
 - Establish criteria for equipment selection and use.
 - Recommend new equipment or techniques.
 - Establish and/or approve facilities for the inspection and maintenance of diving and associated equipment.
 - Ensure that GDI's air station(s) meet air quality standards as described in [Section 3.60](#).
 - Periodically review the DSO's performance and program.
 - Investigate diving incidents within GDI's scientific diving program or violations of GDI's Scientific Diving Safety Manual.
- The DCB may delegate operational oversight for portions of the program to the DSO; however, the DCB may not abdicate responsibility for the safe conduct of the diving program.

Diving Safety Officer

The Diving Safety Officer (DSO) serves as a voting member of the DCB and should be designated one of GDI's Representatives to AAUS. This person should have broad technical expertise and experience in research-related diving.

Qualifications:

1. Must be an active SCUBA instructor from an internationally recognized certifying agency.
2. Must be appointed by Catalina Island Marine Institute Director, in conjunction with the Guided Discoveries CEO, with the advice and counsel of the DCB.
3. Must qualify as a Full Voting Member of AAUS as defined by AAUS Bylaws:
 - a. "Holds a diving certification from a recognized national certifying agency or equivalent, and
 - b. Has engaged in sustained or successive scientific diving activities during the past two years,
or
 - c. Has completed a course in scientific diving that meets the requirements as specified by the most current edition of the "AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving."

4. Must attend an AAUS DSO Orientation within one year of accepting a position at an AAUS approved OM, unless he/she has served as a DSO for another current AAUS OM within the previous year.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Answers, through the DCB, to the Catalina Island Marine Institute Director or designee, for the conduct of the scientific diving program of Guided Discoveries, Inc.
2. If delegated by the GDI DCB, the routine operational authority for this program rests with the DSO. This oversight includes, but is not limited to: training, diver authorizations, approval of dive plans, maintenance of diving records, and ensuring compliance with this *Manual* and all relevant regulations of Guided Discoveries and GDI.
3. May permit some duties and responsibilities to be carried out by a qualified delegate, with the approval of the DCB.
4. Must be guided in the performance of the required duties by the advice of the DCB, but operational responsibility for the conduct of the scientific diving program will be retained by the DSO.
5. Must suspend diving operations determined to be unsafe or unwise.

Instructional Personnel Qualifications

All personnel involved in diving instruction under the auspices of GDI must be qualified for the type of instruction being given, shall have the knowledge and permission of the Dive Safety Officer, and be authorized by the DCB.

Lead Diver

For each dive, one individual shall be designated as the Lead Diver who shall be at the dive location during the diving operation. The Lead Diver shall be responsible for:

- Submitting dive plans at least 24 hours in advance.
- Ensuring dives are conducted in accordance with [Section 2.0](#).
- Ensuring all dive team members possess current authorization and are qualified for the type of diving operation.
- Coordination with other known activities in the vicinity that are likely to interfere with diving operations.
- Ensuring safety and emergency equipment is in working order and at the dive site.
- Suspending diving operations if in their opinion conditions are not safe.
- Reporting to the DCB, through the DSO, any physical problems or adverse physiological effects including symptoms of pressure-related injuries.

The Lead Diver will have the following qualifications.

- Rescue Diver certification from a nationally recognized training agency.
- 30 logged dives.

Reciprocity and Visiting Scientific Diver

- Two or more AAUS OMs engaged jointly in diving activities, or engaged jointly in the use of diving resources, must designate one of the participating DCBs to govern the joint dive project. However, responsibility for individual divers ultimately resides with the home OM.

- A Scientific Diver from one OM must apply for permission to dive under the auspices of another OM by submitting to the DSO of the host OM a document containing all the information listed in [Appendix 6](#), signed by the DSO or designee of the home DCB.
- A visiting Scientific Diver may be asked to demonstrate their knowledge and skills for the planned dive.
- If a host OM denies a visiting Scientific Diver permission to dive, the host DCB must notify the visiting Scientific Diver and their DCB with an explanation of all reasons for the denial.

Waiver of Requirements

The GDI DSO or Diving Control Board may grant a waiver for specific requirements of training, examinations, depth authorizations, and minimum activity to maintain authorizations. AAUS medical standards may not be waived.

1.30 Consequence of Violation of Regulations by Scientific Divers

Failure to comply with the regulations of the OM's diving safety manual may be cause for the restriction or revocation of the diver's scientific diving authorization by action of the GDI DCB.

Deviation from Diving Standards

Any diver may deviate from the requirements of this *Manual* to the extent necessary to prevent or minimize a situation that is likely to cause death, physical harm, or major environmental damage. A diver deviating from the GDI scientific diving standards or procedures shall immediately notify the lead diver and submit a written report to the Diving Safety Officer within one (1) working day of the event explaining the circumstances and justifications for the deviations.

The Diving Safety Officer shall report violations of standards to the Diving Control Board after receiving the written report concerning the violations. The Diving Safety Officer's report will include a synopsis of the events, copies of the written report and recommended action to be taken in response to the violation of standards.

1.40 Consequences of Violation of Regulations by Organizational Members

Failure to comply with the regulations of this *Manual* may be cause for the restriction or revocation of the OM's recognition by AAUS.

1.50 Record Maintenance

GDI will maintain consistent records for its diving program and for each participant. These records include but are not limited to: diving safety manual; equipment inspection, testing, and maintenance records; dive plans (project and/or individual); records of dive (project and/or individual); medical approval to dive; diver training records; diver authorization(s); individual dive log; dive incident reports; reports of disciplinary actions by the DCB; and other pertinent information deemed necessary by GDI.

Availability of Records:

- Medical records must be available to an attending physician of a diver or former diver when released in writing by the diver.
- Records and documents required by this *Manual* must be retained by GDI for the following period:
 1. Diving safety manual – Current document only.
 2. Equipment inspection, testing, and maintenance records – Minimum current entry or tag.
 3. Records of Dive – minimum of 1 year, except 5 years where there has been an incident of pressure-related injury.

4. Medical approval to dive – Minimum of 1 year past the expiration of the current document except 5 years where there has been an incident of pressure-related injury.
5. Diver training records – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.
6. Diver authorization(s) – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.
7. Pressure-related injury assessment - 5 years.
8. Reports of disciplinary actions by the DCB – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.

SECTION 2.00 DIVING REGULATIONS FOR SCUBA (OPEN CIRCUIT, COMPRESSED AIR)

2.10 Introduction

No person shall engage in scientific diving operations under the auspices of GDI's scientific diving program unless they are authorized pursuant to the provisions of this *Manual*.

2.20 Pre-Dive Procedures

Dive Plans

Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of GDI, a dive plan for the proposed project or dive must be formulated and submitted for approval by the DCB or designee. Dives should be planned around the competency of the least experienced diver. The dive plan (project or individual) should include the following:

- Diving Mode(s) and Gas(es)
- Divers' authorizations
- Approximate number of proposed dives
- Location(s) of proposed dives
- Estimated depth(s) and bottom time(s) anticipated
- Decompression status and repetitive dive plans, if required
- Proposed work, equipment, and boats to be employed
- Any hazardous conditions anticipated
- Forecasted weather conditions
- Emergency Action Plan ([Appendix 7](#))
- In water details of the dive plan should include:
 - Dive Buddy assignments and tasks
 - Goals and objectives
 - Maximum depth(s) and bottom time
 - Gas management plan
 - Entry, exit, descent, and ascent procedures

Diver Responsibility and Refusal to Dive

The decision to dive is that of the diver. The ultimate responsibility for safety rests with the individual diver. It is the diver's responsibility and duty to refuse to dive, without fear of penalty, if in his/her judgment, conditions are unsafe or unfavorable, or if he/she would be violating the precepts of regulations in this *Manual*.

No dive team member will be required to be exposed to hyperbaric conditions against his/her will.

No dive team member may dive for the duration of any known condition, which is likely to adversely affect the safety and health of the diver or other dive team members.

Pre-dive Safety Checks

- Prior to commencing the dive, the team must assure that every team member is healthy, fit, and trained for the type of dive that is being attempted.
- Scientific divers must conduct a functional check of their diving equipment in the presence of the dive buddy. They must ensure the equipment is functioning properly and suitable for the type of diving operation being conducted.

- Each diver must have the capability of achieving and maintaining positive buoyancy at the surface.
- Environmental conditions at the site will be evaluated prior to entering the water.

Pre-dive Briefings

Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of GDI, the dive team members must be briefed on:

- Dive Buddy assignments and tasks
- Dive objectives.
- Maximum depth(s) and bottom time
- Turn around pressure and required surfacing pressure
- Entry, exit, descent and ascent procedures
- Perceived environmental and operational hazards and mitigations
- Emergency and diver recall procedures

2.30 Diving Procedures

Solo Diving Prohibition (“Buddy System” Required)

All diving activities must ensure adherence to the buddy system. This buddy system is based upon mutual assistance, especially in the case of an emergency. A diver shall not dive if they are not capable of rendering assistance to their dive buddy in the event of an emergency. If loss of effective communication occurs within a Dive Team, all divers shall surface as soon as it is safe to do so and re-establish contact within the Dive Team. Instructors are considered to be in compliance with this section while they conduct training and are supervising divers.

Decompression Management

- On any given dive, both divers in the buddy pair must follow the most conservative dive profile.
- A safety stop between 10 feet and 20 feet for 3 to 5 minutes performed during the ascent phase of the dive should be conducted on any dive that exceeds 30 feet.

Termination of the Dive

Any dive must be terminated while there is still sufficient cylinder pressure to permit the diver to safely reach the surface, including decompression time, or to safely reach an additional air source at the decompression station.

It is the responsibility of the diver to terminate the dive that he/she considers unsafe, without fear of reprisal, in a way that does not compromise the safety of another diver already in the water.

Emergencies and Deviations from Regulations

Any diver may deviate from the requirements of this *Manual* to the extent necessary to prevent or minimize a situation likely to cause death, serious physical harm, or major environmental damage. A written report must be submitted to the DCB explaining the circumstances and justifications.

2.40 Post-Dive Procedures

Post-Dive Safety Checks

After the completion of a dive, each diver must report any physical problems, symptoms of decompression sickness, or equipment malfunctions to the Lead Diver, DSO, and/or DCB.

2.50 Emergency Procedures

GDI has developed emergency procedures which follow the standards of care of the community and include procedures and implementation criteria for emergency care, recompression, evacuation, and incident reporting.

2.60 Flying After Diving or Ascending to Altitude (Over 1000 feet/305 meters)

- Following a Single No-Decompression Dive: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 12 hours.
- Following Multiple Dives per Day or Multiple Days of Diving: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 18 hours.
- Following Dives Requiring Decompression Stops: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 24 hours.
- Before Ascending to Altitude Above 1000 feet (305 meters) by land transport: Divers should follow the appropriate guideline for preflight surface intervals unless the decompression procedure used has accounted for the increase in elevation.

2.70 Record Keeping Requirements

Personal Diving Log

Each authorized scientific diver must log every dive made under the auspices of GDI's program and is encouraged to log all other dives. Dives logged under the auspices of GDI's program must be in the GDI Scientific Dive Log format. Logs must be submitted to the DSO, or their delegate, and remain in the divers' file. The dive log must include at least the following:

- Name of diver and buddy
- Date, time, and location
- Diving modes used
- Approximate surface and underwater conditions
- General nature of diving activities
- Maximum depth, total dive time, and surface interval time
- Diving tables or computers used
- Detailed report of any near or actual incidents

Required Incident Reporting

All diving incidents requiring recompression treatment, or resulting in moderate or serious injury, or death must be reported to GDI's Diving Control Board and AAUS in a timely manner. This includes any diver-initiated response from Emergency Medical Personnel.

GDI will record and report occupational injuries and illnesses in accordance with requirements of the appropriate Labor Code section. GDI will investigate and document any incident of pressure-related injury and prepare a report that is to be forwarded to AAUS during the annual reporting cycle.

If pressure-related injuries are suspected, or if symptoms are evident, the following additional information will be recorded and retained by GDI, with the record of the dive, for a period of 5 years:

Written descriptive report shall include:

- Name, address, phone numbers of the principal parties involved.
- Summary of experience of divers involved.
- Location, description of dive site, and description of conditions that led up to incident.

- The circumstances of the incident and the extent of any injuries or illnesses.
- Description of symptoms, including depth and time of onset.
- Description and results of treatment.
- Disposition of case.
- Recommendations to avoid repetition of incident.

In addition to requirements specific to GDI, all diving incidents will be reported to the AAUS. This report must first be reviewed and released by the GDI Diving Control Board and at a minimum contain:

- Complete AAUS Incident Report.
- Summary of experience of divers involved.
- Description of dive site, and description of conditions that led up to incident.
- The circumstances of the incident and the extent of any injuries or illnesses.
- Description of symptoms, including depth and time of onset.
- Description and results of treatment.
- Disposition of case.
- Recommendations to avoid repetition of incident.

SECTION 3.00 DIVING EQUIPMENT

3.10 General Policy

All equipment must meet standards as determined by the Diving Safety Officer and the Diving Control Board. All equipment must be regularly examined by the person using it, functionally tested prior to every dive, and serviced according to this *Manual*. Equipment that is subjected to extreme usage under adverse conditions should require more frequent testing and maintenance.

3.20 Equipment

GDI Scientific Divers are required to have the following during all scientific dive operations:

- Standard open circuit (OC) regulator configuration:
 - A first stage regulator
 - Primary 2nd stage regulator
 - A full face mask may be used in place of the primary 2nd stage regulator according to manufacturer's recommendations and only if the diver is trained in use of this equipment
 - Back up 2nd stage octopus regulator
 - Submersible Pressure Gauge (SPG)
 - Inflator hose for a Buoyancy Compensator Device
 - Inflator hose for dry suit (if applicable)
- Buoyancy Compensator Device equipped with an exhaust valve
- Dive computer (the diver must use the same computer on repetitive dives)
- Depth gauge (a dive computer qualifies as a depth gauge)
- Timing device (a dive computer qualifies as a timing device)
- Weight System
- Cutting tool
- Audible surface signaling device (whistle)
- Submersible Compass
- Mask and snorkel
- Fins
- Appropriate thermal exposure protection
- Dive light, back-up light & marker beacon (night dives only)

Regulators and Gauges

SCUBA regulators and gauges must be inspected and tested prior to each use and serviced, at a minimum, according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD)

- Each diver must have the capability of achieving and maintaining neutral buoyancy underwater and positive buoyancy at the surface.
- BCDs, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must be equipped with an exhaust valve.
- BCDs, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must be inspected and tested prior to each use, functionally inspected and tested at intervals not to exceed 12 months.
- BCDs, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must not be used as a lifting device in lieu of lift bags.

SCUBA Cylinders

- SCUBA cylinders must be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Unfired Pressure Vessel Safety Orders.
- SCUBA cylinders must be hydrostatically tested in accordance with DOT standards.
- SCUBA cylinders must have an internal and external inspection at intervals not to exceed 12 months.
- SCUBA cylinder valves must be functionally tested at intervals not to exceed 12 months.

Weight System

Weight systems shall have a quick release device permitting effective and prompt jettisoning of all weight.

Exposure Protection

- All scientific divers must have thermal exposure protection appropriate for dive conditions.
- If dry suits are utilized, they must be fully functional, fit the diver appropriately, and the diver must be trained and certified in their use.

Dive Computers

- Dive computers must be used to determine decompression status.
- A diver shall not use both a computer and dive tables to profile dives within a 24-hour period.
- Divers must use only their dive computer.
- Divers in a Dive Team must follow the dive profiling required by the most conservative (shortest bottom time, shallowest maximum depth, longest safety/ decompression stops and slowest ascent rate) computer in use.
- If a dive computer fails or malfunctions at any time during a dive, the dive must be terminated, and appropriate surfacing procedures must immediately be initiated.
- If the dive computer fails, further diving is prohibited for at least 24 hours after surfacing from the last dive.
- When using a dive computer, all non-emergency ascents should be made in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation for that unit.
- When using a dive computer, non-emergency ascents are to be at a rate specified for the make and model of dive computer being used.
- Divers shall make a stop between 10 and 20 feet for 3 minutes when the dive is deeper than 30 feet
- When possible, the deepest dives should be made first, with subsequent dives getting progressively shallower. Multiple deep dives (> 60 feet) require special planning and approval.
- All manufacturers' recommendations for dive computer usage shall be followed. If manufacturer's recommendations conflict with GDI standards, the Diving Safety officer must pre-approve any non-emergency deviations from GDI's diving standards.
- Makes and models of dive computers specifically disapproved by the Diving Safety Officer may not be used.

3.30 Auxiliary Equipment

Handheld Underwater Power Tools

- Power tools and equipment used underwater must be specifically approved for this purpose.
- Tools and equipment supplied with power from the surface must be de-energized before being placed into or retrieved from the water.

- Handheld power tools must not be supplied with power from the dive location until requested by the diver.

3.40 Support Equipment

First Aid Supplies

A first aid kit and emergency oxygen appropriate for the diving being conducted must be available at the dive site.

Diver's Flag

A diver's flag must be displayed prominently whenever diving is conducted under circumstances where required or where water traffic is probable.

Compressor Systems - GDI Controlled

The following are considered in design and location of compressor systems:

- Low-pressure compressors used to supply air to the diver if equipped with a volume tank must have a check valve on the inlet side, a relief valve, and a drain valve.
- Compressed air systems over 500 psig must have slow-opening shut-off valves.
- All air compressor intakes must be located away from areas containing exhaust or other contaminants.

3.50 Equipment Maintenance

Record Keeping

Each equipment modification, repair, test, calibration, or maintenance service must be logged, including the date and nature of work performed, serial number of the item (if applicable), and the name of the person performing the work for the following equipment:

- Regulators
- Gauges (SPG, Depth Gauges, Timers, and Dive Computers)
- BCDs
- Dry suits
- SCUBA cylinders and valves
- Full Face Masks
- Compressors, air filtration systems, gas control panels, and storage banks
- Surface supplied equipment
- Rebreather systems
- Additional equipment categories as determined by the DCB

Compressor Operation and Air Test Records

Gas analyses and air tests must be performed on each GDI-controlled breathing air compressor at regular intervals of no more than 100 hours of operation or 6 months, whichever occurs first. The results of these tests must be entered in a formal log and be maintained.

3.60 Air Quality Standards

Breathing Gas

Breathing gas must meet the following specifications as set forth by the Compressed Gas Association (CGA Pamphlet G-7.1; see table below).

CGA Grade E	
Component	Maximum
Oxygen	20 - 22%/v
Carbon Monoxide	10 PPM/v
Carbon Dioxide	1000 PPM/v
Condensed Hydrocarbons	5 mg/m ³
Total Hydrocarbons as Methane	25 PPM/v
Water Vapor ppm	(2)
Objectionable Odors	None

For breathing air used in conjunction with self-contained breathing apparatus in extreme cold where moisture can condense and freeze, causing the breathing apparatus to malfunction, a dew point not to exceed -50°F (63 pm v/v) or 10 degrees lower than the coldest temperature expected in the area is required.

Remote Operations

For remote site operations using gas sources not controlled by GDI, every effort should be made to verify breathing gas meets the requirements of this standard. If CGA Grade E gas is not verifiable, the DCB must develop a protocol to mitigate risk to the diver.

SECTION 4.00 SCIENTIFIC DIVER CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATIONS

This section describes the training and performance standards for AAUS Scientific Divers and represents the minimum required level of knowledge and skills presented in a generalized format. Individual diving programs are encouraged to expand upon and augment these requirements, develop, or utilize appropriate educational materials, and optimize instructional programs to suit and reflect their specific needs.

4.10 Prerequisites

Administrative

The candidate must complete all administrative and legal documentation required by GDI.

Entry Level Diver Certification

The candidate must, at minimum, show documented proof of Diver Certification or equivalent from an internationally recognized training agency. OMs who wish to train and certify entry level divers may do so under the standards of the most current version of the RSTC/WRSTC and/or ISO entry-level diver standards. Entry level diver training is a prerequisite to scientific diver training and therefore no part of entry level training may be counted in any way toward scientific diver training.

¹ “Minimum Course Content for Open Water Diver Certification”- World Recreational SCUBA Training Council (WRSTC), www.wrstc.com.

² “Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational SCUBA divers – Part 2: Level 2 – Autonomous diver”. ISO 24801-2:2014- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) - www.iso.org.

Medical Examination

The candidate must be medically qualified for diving as described in [Section 5.0](#) and [Appendices 1-4](#) of this *Manual*. AAUS medical standards may not be waived.

4.20 Training

The candidate must successfully complete prerequisites, theoretical aspects, practical training, and examinations for a minimum cumulative time of 100 hours and a minimum of 12 open water dives. Theoretical aspects must include principles and activities appropriate to the intended area of scientific study. Formats for meeting the 100-hour training requirement include a GDI developed formalized training course, or a combination of formalized and on-the-job training.

When a diver’s resume provides clear evidence of significant scientific diving experience, the diver can be given credit for meeting portions of the 100-hour course requirements. The DCB will identify specific overlap between on-the-job training, previous scientific diving training/experience and course requirements, and then determine how potential deficiencies will be resolved. Detailed information on this process can be found in [Section 8, Experienced Diver Protocols](#). However, GDI cannot “test-out” divers, regardless of experience, when they have no previous experience in scientific diving.

Any candidate who does not convince the DCB, through the DSO, that they possess the necessary judgment, under diving conditions, for the safety of the diver and his/her buddy, may be denied GDI scientific diving privileges.

Theoretical Training / Knowledge Development

Required Topics:

- **Diving Emergency Care Training**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - AED
 - Standard or Basic First Aid
 - Diving First Aid
 - Recognition of DCS and AGE
 - Accident Management
 - Field Neurological Exam
 - Oxygen Administration
- **Dive Rescue**
 - To include procedures relevant to GDI specific protocols. (See water skills below)
- **Scientific Method**
- **Data Gathering Techniques (only items specific to areas of study required)**
 - Transects and Quadrats
 - Mapping
 - Coring
 - Photography
 - Tagging
 - Collecting
 - Animal Handling
 - Archaeology
 - Common Biota
 - Organism Identification
 - Behavior
 - Ecology
 - Site Selection, Location, and Re-location
 - Specialized Data Gathering Equipment
- **Navigation**
- **HazMat Training**
 - High Pressure Cylinders
- **Decompression Management Tools**
 - Dive Tables
 - Dive Computers
 - PC Based Software
- **AAUS Scientific Diving Regulations and History**
 - Scientific Dive Planning
 - Coordination with other Agencies
 - Appropriate Governmental Regulations
- **Hazards of breath-hold diving and ascents**
- **Dive Physics (Beyond entry level SCUBA)**
- **Dive Physiology (Beyond entry level SCUBA)**
- **Dive Environments**

- **Decompression Theory and its Application**

Suggested Topics:

- **Specific Dive Modes (methods of gas delivery)**
 - Open Circuit
 - Hookah
 - Surface Supplied Diving
 - Rebreathers (closed and/or semi-closed)
- **Specialized Breathing Gas**
 - Nitrox
 - Mixed Gas
- **Small Boat Operation**
- **Specialized Environments and Conditions**
 - Blue Water Diving
 - Altitude
 - Ice and Polar Diving (Cold Water Diving)
 - Zero Visibility Diving
 - Polluted Water Diving
 - Saturation Diving
 - Decompression Diving
 - Overhead Environments
 - Aquarium Diving
 - Night Diving
 - Kelp Diving
 - Strong Current Diving
 - Potential Entanglement/Entrapment
 - Live boating
- **HazMat Training**
 - Chemical Hygiene, Laboratory Safety (Use of Chemicals)
- **Specialized Diving Equipment**
 - Full face mask
 - Dry Suit
 - Communications
 - Dive Propulsion Vehicle (DPV)
 - SMBs/Lift Bags
 - Line Reels
- **Other Topics and Techniques as Determined by the DCB**

Practical Training / Skills Development

Swimming/Watermanship Skills

By the completion of training, the candidate must demonstrate the following in the presence of the DSO or designee. All tests are to be performed without swim aids. However, where exposure protection is needed, the candidate must be appropriately weighted to provide neutral buoyancy.

- Swim underwater for a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) without surfacing.

- Swim 400 yards (366 meters) in less than 12 minutes.
- Tread water for 10 minutes, or 2 minutes without the use of hands.
- Transport a passive person of equal size a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) in the water.

Confined Water Skills

At the completion of training, the trainee must satisfy the DSO or DCB-approved designee of their ability to perform the following, as a minimum, in a pool or in sheltered water:

- Enter water fully equipped for diving
- Clear fully flooded face mask
- Demonstrate air sharing and ascent using an alternate air source, as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask
- OPTIONAL - Demonstrate stationary buddy breathing as both donor and recipient
- Demonstrate understanding of underwater signs and signals
- Demonstrate ability to remove and replace equipment while submerged
- Demonstrate acceptable watermanship skills for anticipated scientific diving conditions

Open Water Skills

The trainee must satisfy the DSO, or DCB-approved designee, of their ability to perform at least the following in open water (* Checkout dive element, ^^ Evaluated on all dives, ^ Evaluated at some point during the training cycle):

- Surface dive to a depth of 10 feet (3 meters) without SCUBA*
- Enter and exit water while wearing SCUBA gear* ^^
- Kick on the surface 400 yards (366 meters) while wearing SCUBA gear, but not breathing from the SCUBA unit*
- Demonstrate proficiency in air sharing ascent as both donor and receiver*
- Demonstrate the ability to maneuver efficiently in the environment, at and below the surface* ^^
- Complete a simulated emergency swimming ascent*
- Demonstrate clearing of mask and regulator while submerged*
- Underwater communications^^
- Demonstrate ability to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy while submerged*
- Demonstrate techniques of self-rescue and buddy rescue*
- Navigate underwater ^
- Plan and execute a dive^
- Demonstrate judgment adequate for safe scientific diving* ^^

Rescue Skills

- Rescue from depth and transport 25 yards (23 meters), as a diver, a passive simulated victim of an accident: surface diver, establish buoyancy, stabilize victim
- Demonstrate simulated in-water mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
- Removal of victim from water to shore or boat
- Stressed and panicked diver scenarios
- Recommendations For Rescue of A Submerged Unresponsive Compressed- Gas Diver –

[Appendix 9](#)

Number of Open Water Dives

Successfully complete a minimum of one checkout dive and at least eleven additional open water dives in a variety of dive sites, for a cumulative surface to surface time of 6 hours. Dives following the checkout dive(s) may be supervised by an active Scientific Diver holding the necessary depth authorization experienced in the type of diving planned, and with the knowledge and permission of the DSO.

The eleven dives (minimum) following the initial checkout dive may be conducted over a variety of depth ranges as specified by the OM DCB. Depth progression must proceed shallower to deeper after acceptable skills and judgement have been demonstrated, and are not to exceed 100 feet (30 m) during the initial 12 dive cycle.

Examinations

Equipment

The trainee will be subject to examination/review of:

- Personal diving equipment
- Task specific equipment
- Function and manipulation of decompression computer to be employed by the diver (if applicable)

Written Exams

The trainee must pass a written examination reviewed and approved by the OM DCB that demonstrates knowledge of at least the following:

- Function, care, use, and maintenance of diving equipment
- Advanced physics and physiology of diving
- Diving regulations
- Applicable diving environments
- Emergency procedures for OM-specific dive mode(s) and environments, including buoyant ascent and ascent by air sharing
- Currently accepted decompression theory and procedures
- Proper use of dive tables
- Hazards of breath-hold diving and ascents
- Planning and supervision of diving operations
- Navigation
- Diving hazards & mitigations
- Cause, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of the following: near drowning, air embolism, hypercapnia, squeezes, oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis, exhaustion and panic, respiratory fatigue, motion sickness, decompression sickness, hypothermia, and hypoxia/anoxia
- Applicable theoretical training and knowledge development from the Required and Suggested Topics (above)

4.30 Diver Certification and Authorizations

Only a person diving under the auspices of an OM that subscribes to the practices of the AAUS is eligible for a scientific diver certification.

Diver-In-Training (DIT) Authorization

This is an authorization to dive, usable only while it is current and for the purpose intended. This authorization signifies that a diver has completed and been certified as at least an entry level diver through an internationally recognized certifying agency and has the knowledge skills and experience necessary to commence and continue training as a scientific diver under supervision, as approved by the DCB. DIT status must only be used when the diver is on his/her way to becoming certified as a scientific diver. While it is recommended for DIT's to have hands-on scientific diver experience during their training, the DIT status is intended to be a temporary authorization, not a substitute for Scientific Diver Certification.

GDI Scientific Diver Certification

Signifies a diver has completed all requirements in [Section 4.20](#) and is certified by GDI to engage in scientific diving without supervision, as approved by the DCB through the DSO. Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in certification. To be certified, the applicant must demonstrate to the DCB, through the DSO, that they are sufficiently skilled and proficient, and possess the necessary judgement for their safety and/or that of the dive team. This skill will be acknowledged by the signature of the Diving Safety Officer and an additional member of the DCB. Any applicant who does not possess the necessary judgment, under diving conditions, for the safety of the diver and their partner or team, may be denied GDI scientific diving privileges. Scientific Diver Certification is only active when required authorizations are in place and current.

Scientific Diver Instructional Personnel Authorization

All GDI diving instruction or training shall be conducted by active status Diving Assistant Instructors, Divemasters, and Open Water Instructors. These divers are considered Leadership Divers and diving program instructional personnel. All personnel involved in scientific diving instruction under the auspices of GDI shall be qualified for the type of instruction being given. The Diving Control Board shall approve this authorization upon recommendation of the Diving Safety Officer. This authorization is required prior to presenting or supervising any scientific diver training related activities under GDI auspices.

Temporary Diver Authorization

Only a diver not under the auspices of an AAUS OM may be granted a Temporary Diver Authorization. The individual in question must demonstrate proficiency in diving and can contribute measurably to a planned dive. A Temporary Diver Authorization constitutes a waiver of selected requirements of Section 4.0 and is valid only for a limited time, as approved by the DCB. A Temporary Diver Authorization must be restricted to the planned diving operation and must comply with all other policies, regulations, and standards of this Manual, including medical requirements. This authorization is not to be utilized as a repeated mechanism to circumvent existing standards set forth in this Manual.

4.40 Depth Authorizations

Depth Ratings and Progression to Next Depth Level

Indicates the maximum depth in which a diver can conduct science and may supervise other divers holding a lesser depth authorization. A scientific diver requires a valid depth authorization to be considered active.

A diver may be authorized to the next depth level after successfully completing the requirements for that level. A diver may exceed his/her depth authorization when accompanied and supervised by a dive buddy holding a depth authorization greater or equal to the intended depth. Dives must be planned and executed with the permission of the DCB or designee.

In the event a diver within GDI does not hold an authorization at the desired next level, the DCB may authorize a required progression or procedure for a diver to attain a deeper authorization. If local conditions do not conform to traditional AAUS depth progressions, the DCB may devise a reasonable accommodation. However, the total number of dives to obtain a given depth authorization must follow the cumulative number of dives listed below.

Dives logged as CIMI/GDI Auspice dives prior to AAUS Scientific Diver Authorization may be applied to dives required for depth authorization at the discretion of the DSO or DCB. Other previously logged dives may also be applied to dives required for depth authorization at the discretion of the DSO or DCB. It will be the responsibility of the diver to supply non-auspice dive logs to the DSO.

- a. Authorization to 40 Foot Depth - Initial science diver depth authorization, approved upon the successful completion of training listed in [Section 4.00](#). Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 12.
- b. Authorization to 60 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 40-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 60 feet after successfully completing and logging 12 supervised dives to depths between 41 and 60 feet under supervision of a diver authorized by the DCB, for a minimum total time of 4 hours. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 24.
- c. Authorization to 100 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 60-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 100 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 61 and 100 feet under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate decompression profiling method. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 30.
- d. Authorization to 130 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 100-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 130 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 100 and 130 feet under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate decompression profiling method. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 36.
- e. Authorization to 150 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 130-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 150 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 130 and 150 feet under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 42.

4.50 Maintaining Active Status

Minimum Activity to Maintain Authorizations

During any 12-month period, each scientific diver must log a minimum of 12 scientific, scientific training, or proficiency dives. At least one dive must be logged near the maximum depth, as defined by the DCB, of the diver's authorization during each 6-month period. Divers authorized to 150 feet or deeper may satisfy these requirements with dives to 130 feet or deeper and must be completed in the gear configuration and gasses similar to those the diver utilizes to complete these dives to 150 feet or deeper. Failure to meet these requirements will result in revocation or restriction of authorization by the DSO under procedures established by the DCB.

Re-qualification of Authorization

Once the initial requirements of [Section 4.00](#) are met, divers whose depth authorization or active status has lapsed due to lack of activity may be re-qualified by procedures adopted by the DCB.

At a minimum, the diver must complete a checkout dive, as defined in [Section 4.20](#), with the Dive Safety Officer or designee. If required, to re-qualify at last highest depth rating, diver must make one

observation dive (with no assigned scientific work tasks) with another active scientific diver qualified at that depth with the knowledge and permission of the Dive Safety Officer.

Medical Examination

All scientific divers must pass a medical examination at the intervals specified in [Section 5.0](#). A medically cleared diver experiencing any Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates From Diving ([Appendix 1](#)) must receive clearance to return to diving from a physician before resuming diving activities. This medical examination requirement cannot be waived for any diver.

Minimum Insurance Requirements

All active GDI divers must maintain supplemental dive accident insurance.

Emergency Care Training

The scientific diver must hold current training in the following:

- Adult CPR and AED
- Emergency oxygen administration
- First aid for diving accidents

4.60 Revocation of Authorization

An individual's scientific diver certification can be restricted or revoked for cause by the DCB. Authorizations associated with an individual's scientific diver certification may be restricted or suspended for cause by the DSO. Restrictions or suspensions issued by the DSO may be rescinded by the DSO; these issues will be reported to and reviewed by the DCB, and the outcomes or actions resulting from this review will be documented in the diver's GDI record. Violations of regulations set forth in this *Manual* or other governmental subdivisions not in conflict with this *Manual*, or demonstration of poor judgement, may be considered cause. The DCB or designee must inform the diver in writing of the reason(s) for revocation. The diver will be given the opportunity to present their case in writing to the DCB for reconsideration. Following revocation, the diver may be reauthorized after complying with conditions the DCB may impose. All such written statements and requests, as identified in this section, are formal documents, and therefore part of the diver's file.

SECTION 5.00 MEDICAL STANDARDS

5.10 Medical Requirements

General

- All medical evaluations required by this *Manual* must be performed by, or under the direction of, a licensed physician of the applicant-diver's choice, preferably one trained in diving/undersea medicine.
- The diver should be free of any chronic disabling disease and any conditions contained in the list of conditions for which restrictions from diving are generally recommended. ([Appendix 1](#))
- GDI must verify that divers have been declared by the examining medical authority to be fit to engage in diving activities.

5.20 Frequency of Medical Evaluations

<i>Medical evaluation must be completed:</i>		
Before Age 40	After age 40 Before Age 60	After Age 60
Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 5 years	Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 3 years	Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 2 years
At 5-year intervals	At 3-year intervals	At 2-year intervals
Clearance to return to diving must be obtained from a healthcare provider following a medically cleared diver experiencing any Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates From Diving (Appendix 1), or following any major injury or illness, or any condition requiring chronic medication. If the condition is pressure related, the clearance to return to diving must come from a physician trained in diving medicine.		

5.30 Information Provided Examining Physician

GDI must provide a copy of the medical evaluation requirements of this *Manual* to the examining physician. (Appendices [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#)).

5.40 Content of Medical Evaluations

Medical examinations conducted initially and at the intervals specified in [Section 5.20](#) must consist of the following:

1. Diving physical examination ([Appendix 2](#)). Modifications or omissions of required tests are not permitted
2. Applicant agreement for release of medical information to the Diving Safety Officer and the DCB ([Appendix 2b](#))
3. Medical history ([Appendix 3](#))

5.50 Physician's Written Report

- A Medical Evaluation of Fitness For SCUBA Diving Report (or GDI equivalent) signed by the examining or supervising physician stating the individual's fitness to dive, including any recommended restrictions or limitations will be submitted to GDI for the diver's record after the examination is completed.

- The Medical Evaluation of Fitness For SCUBA Diving Report will be reviewed by the DCB or designee and the diver's record and authorizations will be updated accordingly.
- A copy of any physician's written reports will be made available to the individual.
- It is the diver's responsibility to provide to GDI a written statement from the examining medical authority listing any restrictions, limitations, or clearances to dive resulting from medical examinations obtained by the individual outside of their normal diving medical examination cycle. These statements will be reviewed by the DCB or designee and the diver's record and authorizations will be updated accordingly.

5.60 Medical Evaluation Expenses

All costs of medical examinations shall be the responsibility of the applicant for certification. In the case of an employee who is required to dive as part of their employment, the employer may pay for the initial required medical evaluation.

Volume 2

Section 6.00 – 10.00

Required Only When Conducting Described Diving Activities
and Organizational Member Specific Sections

SECTION 6.00 NITROX DIVING

This section describes the requirements for authorization and use of nitrox for Scientific Diving.

6.10 Requirements for Nitrox Authorization

Prior to authorization to use nitrox, the following minimum requirements must be met:

Prerequisites

Only a certified Scientific Diver or DIT diving under the auspices of an OM is eligible for authorization to use nitrox.

Application for authorization to use nitrox must be made to the DCB. Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in authorization to use nitrox. The applicant must convince the DCB through the DSO that they are sufficiently knowledgeable, skilled and proficient in the theory and use of nitrox for diving.

Training

In lieu of writing/promulgating AAUS specific training standards for Nitrox divers, AAUS references the standards for Nitrox diver training as defined by the WRSTC and/or ISO. AAUS programs who wish to train Nitrox divers may do so using one of the following options:

- a) Under the auspices and standards of an internationally recognized diver training agency.
- b) Under the auspices of AAUS using the minimum guidelines presented by the most current version of the RSTC/WRSTC and/or ISO Nitrox diver training standards.

References:

"Minimum Course Content for Enriched Air Nitrox Certification" - World Recreational SCUBA Training Council (WRSTC), www.wrstc.com.

"Recreational diving services- Requirements for training programs on enriched air nitrox (EAN) diving". ISO 11107:2009 - International Organization for Standardization (ISO), www.iso.org

Practical Evaluation

- Oxygen analysis of nitrox mixtures.
- Determination of MOD, oxygen partial pressure exposure, and oxygen toxicity time limits, for various nitrox mixtures at various depths.
- Determination of nitrogen-based dive limits status by EAD method using air dive tables, and/or using nitrox dive tables, as approved by the DCB.
- Nitrox dive computer use may be included, as approved by the DCB.
- A minimum of two supervised open water dives using nitrox is required for authorization.

Written Evaluation

- Function, care, use, and maintenance of equipment cleaned for nitrox use.
- Physical and physiological considerations of nitrox diving (eg.: O₂ and CO₂ toxicity)
- Diving regulations, procedures/operations, and dive planning as related to nitrox diving
- Equipment marking and maintenance requirements
- Dive table and/or dive computer usage
- Calculation of: MOD, pO₂, and other aspects of Nitrox diving as required by the DCB

6.20 Minimum Activity to Maintain Authorization

The diver should log at least one nitrox dive per year. Failure to meet the minimum activity level may be cause for restriction or revocation of nitrox authorization.

6.30 Operational Requirements

Oxygen Exposure Limits

- The inspired oxygen partial pressure experienced at depth should not exceed 1.6 ATA.
- The maximum allowable exposure limit should be reduced in cases where cold or strenuous dive conditions, or extended exposure times are expected.

Calculation of Decompression Status

- A set of DCB approved nitrox dive tables should be available at the dive site.
- Dive computers may be used to compute decompression status during nitrox dives. Manufacturers' guidelines and operation instructions should be followed.
- Dive computers capable of pO_2 limit and fO_2 adjustment should be checked by the diver prior to the start of each dive to ensure conformity with the mix being used.

Gas Mixture Requirements

- Only nitrox mixtures and mixing methods approved by the DCB may be used.
- OM personnel mixing nitrox must be qualified and approved by the DCB for the method(s) used.
- Oxygen used for mixing nitrox should meet the purity levels for "Medical Grade" (U.S.P.) or "Aviator Grade" standards.
- In addition to the AAUS Air Purity Guidelines outlined in [Section 3.60](#), any air that may come in contact with oxygen concentrations greater than 40% (i.e.. during mixing), must also have a hydrocarbon contaminant no greater than 0.1 mg/m³.
 - For remote site operations using compressors not controlled by the OM where this is not verifiable, the DCB must develop a protocol to mitigate risk to the diver.

Analysis Verification by User

- Prior to the dive, it is the responsibility of each diver to analyze the oxygen content of his/her SCUBA cylinder. And acknowledge in writing the following information for each cylinder: fO_2 , MOD, cylinder pressure, date of analysis, and user's name.
- Individual dive log reporting forms should report fO_2 of nitrox used, if different than 21%.

6.40 Nitrox Diving Equipment

Required Equipment

All of the designated equipment and stated requirements regarding SCUBA equipment required in the *AAUS Manual* apply to nitrox operations. Additional minimal equipment necessary for nitrox diving operations includes:

- Labeled SCUBA Cylinders in Accordance with Industry Standards
- Oxygen Analyzers
- Oxygen compatible equipment as applicable

Requirement for Oxygen Service

- All equipment, which during the dive or cylinder filling process is exposed to concentrations greater than 40% oxygen, should be cleaned and maintained for oxygen service.
- Any equipment used with oxygen or mixtures containing over 40% oxygen by volume must be designed and maintained for oxygen service. Oxygen systems over 125 psig must have slow-opening shut-off valves.

Compressor system

- Compressor/filtration system must produce oil-free air, or
- An oil-lubricated compressor placed in service for a nitrox system should be checked for oil and hydrocarbon contamination at least quarterly.

SECTION 7.00 GDI SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This section describes scientific diving policies specific to Guided Discoveries, Inc.

7.10 General

Guided Discoveries recognizes that most of its diving is conducted at the Catalina Island Marine Institute's (CIMI's) Toyon Bay and Fox Landing sites on Catalina Island. As such, this *Manual* contains some regulations particular to these sites. All scientific diving conducted at CIMI sites must follow the provisions outlined in this *Manual*.

7.20 Definitions

Scientific Diving - Diving done under the auspices of GDI by employees, volunteers, or participants of GDI programs. In the case of employees, this diving will be conducted during the employee's working hours and employees will be compensated for their time engaged in scientific diving activities. These dives will have specific objectives to support GDI's mission, programs, research, and training. Scientific Diving activities can be classified in the following categories:

Scientific: Dives that meet the scientific diving exemption as defined in 29 CFR 1910.402, including research, collection, and support dives.

Training: Dives performed as part of a scientific diver-training program or by scientific divers on supplemental scientific diving methods.

Proficiency: Dives performed in maintenance of a scientific diving certification/authorization.

For **current employees**, these dives must be performed in adherence to guidelines outlined in this *Manual*, including dive plan and logging procedures. Dives performed while employed as a dive leader by CIMI or Catalina Sea Camp may qualify as a proficiency dive provided the proper dive plan/log is filed.

Participants of GDI programs, former staff, and volunteers may maintain active status by submitting their dive logs to the DSO.

Non-Scientific Diving - Guided Discoveries employees, guests, and volunteers engage in diving during their free time and working time that does not qualify as scientific diving. The diving need not adhere to all guidelines outlined in this *Manual*.

7.30 Emergency Procedures

Due to the proximity of the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, diving emergency procedures differ somewhat from typical procedures on the mainland. On Catalina: Immediately contact Baywatch (911) or VHF Channel (16), Do Not break contact until told to do so. Baywatch paramedics will determine if hyperbaric treatment is required and will facilitate transport to the chamber.

7.40 Boat Diving

Boat diving will be limited to the passenger and or weight limit (whichever is met first) of the vessel. The vessel must have a marine radio on board and the ability to recall divers. Emergency oxygen and a first aid kit must also be on board, unless diving is conducted in Toyon Bay or in the Fox Landing cove (where there is emergency oxygen and first aid equipment on shore).

7.50 Standby Diver

A standby diver at the dive site or on the dive vessel will be required at the discretion of the DSO or DSO designee. The standby diver must hold their rescue diver certification from a nationally recognized

agency. The standby diver must be oriented to the dive plan, emergency procedures, pertinent scientific dive protocols, and be fully equipped and prepared to dive.

7.50 Collecting

All applicable laws, regulations or statutes shall be complied with during any collection activities. Resource conservation and minimum impact on the environment shall always be considered. Collecting is permitted if the persons collecting have valid collecting permits and the restrictions of the permit are followed or if collection is otherwise permitted by law. Divers may not collect deeper than 80 ft.

7.60 Night Diving

Divers must have two dive lights (primary and backup) and marker beacons. Night collecting will be limited to one buddy at a time.

7.70 Minimum SCUBA Tank Pressure (500 pounds per square inch)

Except for emergency reasons or to protect the safety of a diver, the minimum tank pressure at the termination of the dive shall be 500 psi. If tank pressure drops below 500 psi the Diving Safety Officer or designee must be notified.

SECTION 8.00 EXPERIENCED DIVER PROTOCOL

8.10 General

OSHA granted an exemption for scientific diving from commercial diving regulations under the following guidelines (Appendix B to 29CFR 1910 Subpart T). This exemption identified a required level of training beyond recreational diving standards to ensure that all scientific diving is conducted in a manner that will maximize protection of scientific divers from accidental injury and/or illness. This section is not to be construed as a mechanism to circumvent those guidelines or the training and certification process outlined in Section 5.0 of the GDI Dive Safety Manual or the AAUS Dive Standards.

Divers who wish to be recognized as an Experienced Diver and to be considered a viable candidate for this scientific diver certification process, must demonstrate their proficiency in all skills and knowledge required by AAUS. This section is intended to allow those divers who can demonstrate active and substantial underwater research, training, or experience a process to obtain an AAUS Scientific Diver certification in order to conduct scientific diving under the auspices of GDI. Such applicants might include staff, volunteers, researchers from countries without AAUS affiliation, and others as determined by the Dive Safety Officer (DSO) and the Diving Control Board (DCB).

All divers participating in this certification process must have the knowledge and permission of the DSO and the DCB.

8.20 Prerequisites

Administrative

The applicant/candidate must complete all administrative and legal documentation required by GDI.

Diver Certification and Experience

The applicant/ candidate must, at minimum, show documented proof of entry-level diver certification, advanced open water certification, and rescue diver certification from internationally recognized training agencies or equivalent as determined by the DCB, and proof of their most recent 30 logged dives or relevant experience.

Regulator/BCD Service Records and Required Gear

The applicant/ candidate must meet all requirements of [Section 3.0](#) of the GDI Dive Safety Manual.

Other Certifications

The applicant/ candidate must show proof of current training in CPR, AED, Diving First Aid and Oxygen Administration.

Dive Accident Insurance

Current dive accident insurance is required.

Medical Requirements

The applicant/candidate must be medically qualified for diving as described in [Section 5.0](#) of the GDI Dive Safety Manual.

8.30 Swim Evaluation

Swimming/Watermanship Evaluation

The applicant/candidate must demonstrate the following in the presence of the DSO or approved designee. All tests are to be performed without swim aids, however, where exposure protection is needed, the applicant must be appropriately weighted to provide neutral buoyancy.

- a) Swim underwater for a distance of 25 yards/meters without surfacing.
- b) Swim 400 yards/meters in less than 12 minutes.
- c) Tread water for 10 minutes, or 2 minutes without the use of hands.
- d) Transport a passive person of equal size a distance of 25 yards/meters in the water.

8.40 SCUBA Skills Evaluation

The applicant/candidate must satisfy the DSO or designee, of their ability to perform the skills detailed in [Section 4.20](#) – Training.

8.50 Academic Training

The applicant will complete the AAUS Scientific Diver eLearning Course and the AAUS Scientific Diver Exam. The eLearning course and exam covers theoretical aspects of scientific diving as detailed in [Section 4.0](#) of the GDI Dive Safety Manual.

8.60 Skills Remediation

Based on the swim check-out and the open water SCUBA check-out, the DSO will recommend to the DCB, a dive training plan for each individual diver. All divers will be required, at minimum, to participate in a dive discussion and complete four open water dives, designated as a *Scientific Diver-In-Training*. Dives, following the open water checkout, must be supervised by a certified Scientific Diver with experience in the type of diving planned, with the knowledge and permission of the DSO.

Required Dives

The required dives below are intended as a guideline for the DSO. The DSO and the DCB retain the authority to modify or change the dive tasks below as needed based on an individual's personal dive history and future dive operations.

- Swim Test, SCUBA Checkout and Rescue training or review
- Navigation and Mapping
- Fish, Algae, Invertebrate and Substrate Survey Methods
- As needed per individual, determined by the DSO.
 - Some examples would include but not limited to lift bag operations, night diving, kelp diving, animal collection, or tool use.

SECTION 9.00 GUEST DIVER

9.10 General

Guided Discoveries' Catalina Island Marine Institute sites on Catalina Island are an ideal location for underwater activities and offer convenient access to nearshore open water environments. Guided Discoveries recognizes a benefit to the facility to offer an opportunity for approved *Guest Divers* to explore the sites and surrounding underwater environments.

This protocol is not intended as a means to offer an open-door policy or access to the facility and SCUBA diving activities. This protocol is also not intended to be a Temporary Scientific Diver Permit.

9.20 Prerequisites and Authorization Procedures

All Guest Divers must be approved by the CIMI Director. The Dive Safety Officer, the CIMI Program Directors, the CIMI Facilities Director, and the Assistant Program Directors may revoke Guest Diving privileges at any time.

- Guest divers may only dive with the Dive Safety Officer or DSO designee.
- Guest diver(s) may utilize GDI owned SCUBA equipment with the approval of the Dive Safety Officer.
- Guest Divers may only dive to a maximum depth of 40fsw.
- Guest Diver to GDI Diver ratio must be 1:1. A 2:1 ratio may be authorized by the Dive Safety Officer.
- All dive requests for locations outside Toyon Bay or Fox Landing, from a small boat will require a topside tender/boat operator in addition to the Dive Safety Officer or DSO designee.
- The Dive Safety Officer will establish, file and approve all dive plans.
- The Dive Safety Officer, or DSO designee will conduct the pre-dive briefing.
 - To be considered as a Guest Diver the applicant/candidate must provide the following:
 - Complete CIMI guest diver liability waiver(s), Dive History Form, and Safe Diving Practices acknowledgement.
 - Proof of at least entry level SCUBA diving certification from a nationally recognized certification agency.
 - Proof of dive accident insurance coverage.

SECTION 10.00 VOLUNTEER DIVER

10.10 General

Guided Discoveries has the benefit of a network of staff and participant alumni and friends eager to volunteer in advancing the mission of GDI. Those staff who can contribute as SCUBA divers may be granted a volunteer diver designation by the GDI DCB. This authorization may be revoked at the discretion of the DSO or DCB.

10.20 Prerequisites and Authorization Procedures

To participate in scientific diving, volunteer divers must be active status AAUS Scientific Divers and must follow all guidelines outlined in this *Manual*. To be eligible for GDI's AAUS Scientific Diver training, volunteers must have Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver, or equivalent, certifications from a nationally recognized SCUBA certification agency and proof of at least 30 logged dives.

If the volunteer diver is a member of a scientific dive team program, they must submit a LOR or VOT from their organization's diving safety officer.

In addition to the requirements for active status scientific divers outlined in this *Manual*, volunteer divers must complete Guided Discoveries' Volunteer Liability Release form.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Through 8 Or Equivalent Required
For All Organizational Members

APPENDIX 1

DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

This person, _____, requires a medical examination to assess their fitness for certification as a Scientific Diver for Guided Discoveries Inc. (Organizational Member). Their answers on the Diving Medical History Form (attached) may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Your evaluation is requested on the attached SCUBA Diving Fitness Medical Evaluation Report. If you have questions about diving medicine, you may wish to consult one of the references on the attached list or contact one of the physicians with expertise in diving medicine whose names and phone numbers appear on an attached list, the Undersea Hyperbaric and Medical Society, or the Divers Alert Network. Please contact the undersigned Diving Safety Officer if you have any questions or concerns about diving medicine or the Guided Discoveries Inc. standards. Thank you for your assistance.



Diving Safety Officer

Ashley Peach Bueche
Printed Name

Date

310-510-1622
Phone Number

SCUBA and other modes of compressed-gas diving can be strenuous and hazardous. A special risk is present if the middle ear, sinuses, or lung segments do not readily equalize air pressure changes. The most common cause of distress is eustachian insufficiency. Recent deaths in the scientific diving community have been attributed to cardiovascular disease. Please consult the following list of conditions that usually restrict candidates from diving.

(Adapted from Bove, 1998: bracketed numbers are pages in Bove)

CONDITIONS WHICH MAY DISQUALIFY CANDIDATES FROM DIVING

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to autoinflate the middle ears. [5, 7, 8, 9]
2. Vertigo, including Meniere's Disease. [13]
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery. [11]
4. Recent ocular surgery. [15, 18, 19]
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression. [20 - 23]
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol. [24 - 25]
7. Episodic loss of consciousness. [1, 26, 27]
8. History of seizure. [27, 28]
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit. [29, 30]
10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks. [29, 30]
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage. [31]
12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit. [29, 30]
13. Head injury with sequelae. [26, 27]
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies. [41, 42]
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease. [33 - 35]
16. Atrial septal defects. [39]
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying. [38]
18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities. [36 - 37]
19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD). [39, 40]
20. Inadequate exercise tolerance. [34]
21. Severe hypertension. [35]
22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax. [45]
23. Asthma. [42 - 44]
24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae, or cysts. [45, 46]
25. Diabetes mellitus. [46 - 47]
26. Pregnancy. [56]

SELECTED REFERENCES IN DIVING MEDICINE

Available from Best Publishing Company, P.O. Box 30100, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0100, the Divers Alert Network (DAN) or the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), Durham, NC

1. Elliott, D.H. ed. 1996. *Are Asthmatics Fit to Dive?* Kensington, MD: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.
2. Bove, A.A. 2011. The cardiovascular system and diving risk. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 261-269.
3. Thompson, P.D. 2011. The cardiovascular risks of diving. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 271-277.
4. Douglas, P.S. 2011. Cardiovascular screening in asymptomatic adults: Lessons for the diving world. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 279-287.
5. Mitchell, S.J., and A.A. Bove. 2011. Medical screening of recreational divers for cardiovascular disease: Consensus discussion at the Divers Alert Network Fatality Workshop. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 289-296.
6. Grundy, S.M., Pasternak, R., Greenland, P., Smith, S., and Fuster, V. 1999. Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk by Use of Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment Equations. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 34: 1348-1359. <http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/content/short/34/4/1348>
7. Bove, A.A. and Davis, J. 2003. *DIVING MEDICINE*, Fourth Edition. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company.
8. Edmonds, C., Lowry, C., Pennefather, J. and Walker, R. 2002. *DIVING AND SUBAQUATIC MEDICINE*, Fourth Edition. London: Hodder Arnold Publishers.
9. Bove, A.A. ed. 1998. *MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SPORT SCUBA DIVERS*, San Antonio, TX: Medical Seminars, Inc.
10. *NOAA DIVING MANUAL*, NOAA. Superintendent of Documents. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
11. *U.S. NAVY DIVING MANUAL*. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

APPENDIX 2

AAUS MEDICAL EVALUATION OF FITNESS FOR SCUBA DIVING REPORT

Name of Applicant (Print or Type)

Date of Medical Evaluation (Month/Day/Year)

To The Examining or Supervising Physician: Scientific divers require periodic SCUBA diving medical examinations to assess their fitness to engage in diving with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA). Their answers on the Diving Medical History Form may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. SCUBA diving is an activity that puts unusual stress on the individual in several ways. Your evaluation is requested on this Medical Evaluation form. Your opinion on the applicant's medical fitness is requested. SCUBA diving requires heavy exertion. The diver must be free of cardiovascular and respiratory disease (see references, following page). An absolute requirement is the ability of the lungs, middle ears and sinuses to equalize pressure. Any condition that risks the loss of consciousness should disqualify the applicant. Please proceed in accordance with the AAUS Medical Standards (Sec. 5.00). If you have questions about diving medicine, please consult with the Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society or Divers Alert Network.

NOTE: Although portions of this exam may be conducted by other medical professionals (P.A. or N.P.), final signature for diving must come from a Medical Doctor (M.D.) or Osteopath (D.O.).

TESTS: THE FOLLOWING TESTS ARE REQUIRED:

DURING ALL INITIAL AND PERIODIC RE-EXAMS (UNDER AGE 40):

- Medical History
- Complete physical exam, with emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

ADDITIONAL TESTS DURING FIRST EXAM OVER AGE 40 AND PERIODIC RE-EXAMS (OVER AGE 40):

1. Chest x-ray (Required only during first exam over age 40)
2. Resting EKG
3. Assessment of coronary artery disease using Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment¹
(age, lipid profile, blood pressure, diabetic screening, smoking)

Note: Exercise stress testing may be indicated based on Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment¹

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT:

I have evaluated the above mentioned individual according to the tests listed above. I have discussed with the patient any medical condition(s) that would not disqualify him/her from diving but which may seriously compromise subsequent health. The patient understands the nature of the hazards and the risks involved in diving with these conditions.

_____ 01 I find no medical conditions that may be disqualifying for participation in SCUBA diving.

Diver **IS** medically qualified to dive for:

_____ 2 years (over age 60)

_____ 3 years (age 40-59)

_____ 5 years (under age 40)

_____ 02 Diver **IS NOT** medically qualified to dive: _____ Permanently _____ Temporarily.

Signature MD or DO

Date

Name (Print or Type)

Address

Telephone Number

E-Mail Address

My familiarity with applicant is: _____ This exam only _____ Regular physician for _____ years

My familiarity with diving medicine is: _____

APPENDIX 2b

AAUS MEDICAL EVALUATION OF FITNESS FOR SCUBA DIVING REPORT

APPLICANT'S RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

Name of Applicant (Print or Type)

I authorize the release of this information and all medical information subsequently acquired in association with my diving to the **Guided Discoveries, Inc.** Diving Safety Officer and Diving Control Board or their designee at (place)

_____ on (date) _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

REFERENCES

Grundy, S.M., Pasternak, R., Greenland, P., Smith, S., and Fuster, V. 1999. Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk by Use of Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment Equations. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 34: 1348-1359. <http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/content/short/34/4/1348>

Name:

Date of Birth:

APPENDIX 3 DIVING MEDICAL HISTORY FORM

(To Be Completed By Applicant-Diver)

Name _____ DOB _____ Age _____ Wt. _____ Ht. _____

Sponsor _____
(Dept./Project/Program/School, etc.)

Date ____/____/____
(Mo/Day/Yr)

TO THE APPLICANT:

SCUBA diving places considerable physical and mental demands on the diver. Certain medical and physical requirements must be met before beginning a diving or training program. Your accurate answers to the questions are more important, in many instances, in determining your fitness to dive than what the physician may see, hear or feel as part of the diving medical certification procedure.

This form must be kept confidential by the examining physician. If you believe any question amounts to invasion of your privacy, you may elect to omit an answer, provided that you must subsequently discuss that matter with your own physician who must then indicate, in writing, that you have done so and that no health hazard exists.

Should your answers indicate a condition, which might make diving hazardous, you will be asked to review the matter with your physician. In such instances, their written authorization will be required in order for further consideration to be given to your application. If your physician concludes that diving would involve undue risk for you, remember that they are concerned only with your well-being and safety.

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
1			Convulsions, seizures, or epilepsy	
2			Fainting spells or dizziness	
3			Been addicted to drugs	
4			Diabetes	
5			Motion sickness or sea/air sickness	
6			Claustrophobia	
7			Mental disorder or nervous breakdown	
8			Are you pregnant?	
9			Do you suffer from menstrual problems?	
10			Anxiety spells or hyperventilation	
11			Frequent sour stomachs, nervous stomachs or vomiting spells	
12			Had a major operation	
13			Presently being treated by a physician	
14			Taking any medication regularly (even non-prescription)	
15			Been rejected or restricted from sports	
16			Headaches (frequent and severe)	
17			Wear dental plates	
18			Wear glasses or contact lenses	
19			Bleeding disorders	
20			Alcoholism	

Name:

Date of Birth:

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
21			Any problems related to diving	
22			Nervous tension or emotional problems	
23			Take tranquilizers	
24			Perforated ear drums	
25			Hay fever	
26			Frequent sinus trouble, frequent drainage from the nose, post-nasal drip, or stuffy nose	
27			Frequent earaches	
28			Drainage from the ears	
29			Difficulty with your ears in airplanes or on mountains	
30			Ear surgery	
31			Ringing in your ears	
32			Frequent dizzy spells	
33			Hearing problems	
34			Trouble equalizing pressure in your ears	
35			Asthma	
36			Wheezing attacks	
37			Cough (chronic or recurrent)	
38			Frequently raise sputum	
39			Pleurisy	
40			Collapsed lung (pneumothorax)	
41			Lung cysts	
42			Pneumonia	
43			Tuberculosis	
44			Shortness of breath	
45			Lung problem or abnormality	
46			Spit blood	
47			Breathing difficulty after eating particular foods, after exposure to particular pollens or animals	
48			Are you subject to bronchitis	
49			Subcutaneous emphysema (air under the skin)	
50			Air embolism after diving	
51			Decompression sickness	
52			Rheumatic fever	
53			Scarlet fever	
54			Heart murmur	
55			Large heart	

Name:

Date of Birth:

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
56			High blood pressure	
57			Angina (heart pains or pressure in the chest)	
58			Heart attack	
59			Low blood pressure	
60			Recurrent or persistent swelling of the legs	
61			Pounding, rapid heartbeat or palpitations	
62			Easily fatigued or short of breath	
63			Abnormal EKG	
64			Joint problems, dislocations or arthritis	
65			Back trouble or back injuries	
66			Ruptured or slipped disk	
67			Limiting physical handicaps	
68			Muscle cramps	
69			Varicose veins	
70			Amputations	
71			Head injury causing unconsciousness	
72			Paralysis	
73			Have you ever had an adverse reaction to medication?	
74			Do you smoke?	
75			Have you ever had any other medical problems not listed? If so, please list or describe below;	
76			Is there a family history of high cholesterol?	
77			Is there a family history of heart disease or stroke?	
78			Is there a family history of diabetes?	
79			Is there a family history of asthma?	
80			History of a positive COVID-19 test result or suspected COVID-19 infection.	
81			Date of last tetanus shot? Vaccination dates?	

Please explain any "yes" answers to the above questions (attach separate sheet if necessary).

I certify that the above answers and information represent an accurate and complete description of my medical history.

Signature

Date

APPENDIX 4

RECOMMENDED PHYSICIANS WITH EXPERTISE IN DIVING MEDICINE

A List of Medical Doctors that have training and expertise in diving or undersea medicine can be found through the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society or Divers Alert Network. See links below

Name: Divers Alert Network (DAN)

Website: <https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/medical/physicians.asp>

Telephone: (919) 684-2948 [Non-emergency medical information line]

Name: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS)

Website: <https://www.uhms.org/education/credentialing/uhms-physician-diver-assessment-listing.html#medical-examiner-of-divers>

E-mail: uhms@uhms.org

APPENDIX 5

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Air sharing- Sharing of an air supply between divers.

ATA(s) - “Atmospheres Absolute”, Total pressure exerted on an object, by a gas or mixture of gases, at a specific depth or elevation, including normal atmospheric pressure.

Alternate Gas Supply- Fully redundant system capable of providing a gas source to the diver should their primary gas supply fail.

Authorization-The DCB authorizes divers to dive using specialized modes of diving, and the depth they may dive to.

Breath-hold Diving- A diving mode in which the diver uses no self-contained or surface-supplied air or oxygen supply.

Bubble Check- Visual examination by the dive team of their diving systems, looking for O-ring leaks or other air leaks conducted in the water prior to entering a cave. Usually included in the "S" Drill.

Buddy Breathing- Sharing of a single air source between divers.

Buddy System-Two comparably equipped SCUBA divers in the water in constant communication.

Buoyant Ascent- An ascent made using some form of positive buoyancy.

Cave Dive- A dive, which takes place partially or wholly underground, in which one or more of the environmental parameters defining a cavern dive are exceeded.

Cavern Dive- A dive which takes place partially or wholly underground, in which natural sunlight is continuously visible from the entrance.

Certified Diver- A diver who holds a recognized valid certification from an AAUS OM or internationally recognized certifying agency.

(Scientific Diver) Certification- A diver who holds a recognized valid certification from an AAUS OM

Controlled Ascent- Any one of several kinds of ascents including normal, swimming, and air sharing ascents where the diver(s) maintain control so a pause or stop can be made during the ascent.

Cylinder- A pressure vessel for the storage of gases.

Decompression Sickness- A condition with a variety of symptoms, which may result from gas, and bubbles in the tissues of divers after pressure reduction.

Designated Person-In-Charge - Supervision requirement for Surface Supplied diving mode. An individual designated by the OM DCB or designee with the experience or training necessary to direct and oversee surface supplied diving operations.

Dive- A descent into the water, an underwater diving activity utilizing compressed gas, an ascent, and return to the surface.

Dive Computer- A microprocessor-based device which computes a diver’s theoretical decompression status, in real time, by using pressure (depth) and time as input to a decompression model, or set of decompression tables, programmed into the device.

Dive Location- A surface or vessel from which a diving operation is conducted.

Dive Site- Physical location of a diver during a dive.

Dive Table - A profile or set of profiles of depth-time relationships for ascent rates and breathing mixtures to be followed after a specific depth-time exposure or exposures.

Diver - A person who stays underwater for long periods by having compressed gas supplied from the surface or by carrying a supply of compressed gas.

Diver-In-Training - An individual gaining experience and training in additional diving activities under the supervision of a dive team member experienced in those activities.

Diving Mode - A type of diving required specific equipment, procedures, and techniques, for example, snorkel, SCUBA, surface-supplied air, or mixed gas.

Diving Control Board (DCB) - Group of individuals who act as the official representative of the membership organization in matters concerning the scientific diving program ([See Diving Control Board under Section 1.0](#)).

Diving Safety Officer (DSO) - Individual responsible for the safe conduct of the scientific diving program of the membership organization ([See Diving Safety Officer under Section 1.0](#)).

DPIC - See Designated Person-In-Charge.

EAD - Equivalent Air Depth (see below).

Emergency Swimming Ascent - An ascent made under emergency conditions where the diver may exceed the normal ascent rate.

Enriched Air (EANx) - A name for a breathing mixture of air and oxygen when the percent of oxygen exceeds 21%. This term is considered synonymous with the term "nitrox" ([Section 6.00](#)).

Equivalent Air Depth (EAD) - Depth at which air will have the same nitrogen partial pressure as the nitrox mixture being used. This number, expressed in units of feet seawater or saltwater, will always be less than the actual depth for any enriched air mixture.

Flooded Mine Diving - Diving in the flooded portions of a manmade mine. Necessitates use of techniques detailed for cave diving.

fO_2 - Fraction of oxygen in a gas mixture, expressed as either a decimal or percentage, by volume.

FSW - Feet of seawater.

Gas Management - Gas planning rule which is used in cave diving environments in which the diver reserves a portion of their available breathing gas for anticipated emergencies (See Rule of Thirds, Sixths).

Gas Matching - The technique of calculating breathing gas reserves and turn pressures for divers using different volume cylinders. Divers outfitted with the same volume cylinders may employ the Rule of Thirds for gas management purposes. Divers outfitted with different volume cylinders will not observe the same gauge readings when their cylinders contain the same gas volume, therefore the Rule of Thirds will not guarantee adequate reserve if both divers must breathe from a single gas volume at a Rule of Thirds turn pressure. Gas Matching is based on individual consumption rates in volume consumed per minute. It allows divers to calculate turn pressures based on combined consumption rates and to convert the required reserve to a gauge based turn pressure specific to each diver's cylinder configuration.

Guideline - Continuous line used as a navigational reference during a dive leading from the team position to a point where a direct vertical ascent may be made to the surface.

Hookah - While similar to Surface Supplied in that the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized hose, the supply hose does not require a strength member, pneumofathometer

hose, or communication line. Hookah equipment may be as simple as a long hose attached to a standard SCUBA cylinder supplying a standard SCUBA second stage. The diver is responsible for the monitoring his/her own depth, time, and diving profile.

Hyperbaric Chamber- See Recompression chamber.

Hyperbaric Conditions- Pressure conditions in excess of normal atmospheric pressure at the dive location.

Independent Reserve Breathing Gas- A diver-carried independent supply of air or mixed gas (as appropriate) sufficient under standard operating conditions to allow the diver to reach the surface, or another source of breathing gas, or to be reached by another diver.

Jump/Gap Reel- Spool or reel used to connect one guide-line to another thus ensuring a continuous line to the exit.

Life Support Equipment - Underwater equipment necessary to sustain life.

Lead Diver- Certified scientific diver with experience and training to conduct the diving operation.

Organizational Member (OM)- An organization which is a current member of the AAUS, and which has a program, which adheres to the standards of the AAUS as, set forth in the *AAUS Manual*.

Manifold with Isolator Valve- A manifold joining two diving cylinders, that allows the use of two completely independent regulators. If either regulator fails, it may be shut off, allowing the remaining regulator access to the gas in both of the diving cylinders.

Mixed Gas- Breathing gas containing proportions of inert gas other than nitrogen greater than 1% by volume.

Mixed Gas Diving- A diving mode in which the diver is supplied in the water with a breathing gas other than air.

MOD- Maximum Operating Depth, usually determined as the depth at which the pO₂ for a given gas mixture reaches a predetermined maximum.

Nitrox- Any gas mixture comprised predominately of nitrogen and oxygen, most frequently containing between 22% and 40% oxygen. Also be referred to as Enriched Air Nitrox, abbreviated EAN.

Normal Ascent- An ascent made with an adequate air supply at a rate of 30 feet per minute or less.

OTU- Oxygen Toxicity Unit

Oxygen Compatible- A gas delivery system that has components (O-rings, valve seats, diaphragms, etc.) that are compatible with oxygen at a stated pressure and temperature.

Oxygen Service- A gas delivery system that is both oxygen clean and oxygen compatible.

Oxygen Toxicity- Any adverse reaction of the central nervous system (“acute” or “CNS” oxygen toxicity) or lungs (“chronic”, “whole-body”, or “pulmonary” oxygen toxicity) brought on by exposure to an increased (above atmospheric levels) partial pressure of oxygen.

Penetration Distance- Linear distance from the entrance intended or reached by a dive team during a dive at a dive site.

Pressure-Related Injury- An injury resulting from pressure disequilibrium within the body as the result of hyperbaric exposure. Examples include: decompression sickness, pneumothorax, mediastinal emphysema, air embolism, subcutaneous emphysema, or ruptured eardrum.

Pressure Vessel- See cylinder.

pO₂ - Inspired partial pressure of oxygen, usually expressed in units of atmospheres absolute.

Primary Reel - Initial guideline used by the dive team from open water to maximum penetration or a permanently installed guideline.

Psi - Unit of pressure, "pounds per square inch.

Psig - Unit of pressure, "pounds per square inch gauge.

Recompression Chamber - A pressure vessel for human occupancy. Also called a hyperbaric chamber or decompression chamber.

Restriction - Any passage through which two divers cannot easily pass side by side while sharing air.

Rule of Thirds - Gas planning rule which is used in cave diving environments in which the diver reserves 2/3's of their breathing gas supply for exiting the cave or cavern.

Rule of Sixths - Air planning rule which is used in cave or other confined diving environments in which the diver reserves 5/6's of their breathing gas supply (for DPV use, siphon diving, etc.) for exiting the cave or cavern.

Safety Drill - ("S" Drill) - Short gas sharing, equipment evaluation, dive plan, and communication exercise carried out prior to entering a cave or cavern dive by the dive team.

Safety Reel - Secondary reel used as a backup to the primary reel, usually containing 150 feet of guideline that is used in an emergency.

Safety Stop - A stop made between 15-20 feet (5-6 meters) for 3-5 minutes during the final ascent phase of a dive.

Scientific Diving - Scientific diving is defined (29CFR1910.402) as diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity by employees whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks.

SCUBA Diving - A diving mode independent of surface supply in which the diver uses open circuit self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.

Side Mount - A diving mode utilizing two independent SCUBA systems carried along the sides of the diver's body; either of which always has sufficient air to allow the diver to reach the surface unassisted.

Siphon - Cave into which water flows with a generally continuous incurrent.

Standby Diver - A diver at the dive location capable of rendering assistance to a diver in the water.

Surface Supplied Diving - Surface Supplied: Dives where the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized umbilical hose. The umbilical generally consists of a gas supply hose, strength member, pneumofathometer hose, and communication line. The umbilical supplies a helmet or full-face mask. The diver may rely on the tender at the surface to keep up with the divers' depth, time and diving profile.

Swimming Ascent - An ascent, which can be done under normal, or emergency conditions accomplished by simply swimming to the surface.

Tender - Used in Surface supplied and tethered diving. The tender comprises the topsides buddy for the in-water diver on the other end of the tether. The tender must have the experience or training to perform the assigned tasks in a safe and healthful manner.

Turn Pressure - The gauge reading of a diver's open circuit SCUBA system designating the gas limit for terminating the dive and beginning the exit from the water.

Umbilical - Composite hose bundle between a dive location and a diver or bell, or between a diver and a bell, which supplies a diver or bell with breathing gas, communications, power, or heat, as appropriate to the diving mode or conditions, and includes a safety line between the diver and the dive location.

APPENDIX 6

AAUS REQUEST FOR DIVING RECIPROCITY FORM, VERIFICATION OF DIVER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Diver: _____

Date: _____

This letter serves to verify that the above listed person has met the training and pre-requisites as indicated below, and has completed all requirements necessary to be certified as a *(Scientific Diver / Diver in Training)* as established by the Guided Discoveries Diving Safety Manual, and has demonstrated competency in the indicated areas. Guided Discoveries is an AAUS OM and meets or exceeds all AAUS training requirements.

The following is a brief summary of this diver's personnel file regarding dive status at

_____ (Date)
_____ Original diving authorization
_____ Written scientific diving examination
_____ Last diving medical examination Medical examination expiration date _____
_____ Most recent checkout dive
_____ SCUBA regulator/equipment service/test
_____ CPR training (Agency) _____ CPR Exp. _____
_____ Oxygen administration (Agency) _____ O2 Exp. _____
_____ First aid for diving _____ F.A. Exp. _____
_____ Date of last dive _____ Depth _____
Number of dives completed within previous 12 months? _____ Depth Authorization _____ feet
Total number of career dives? _____
Any restrictions or Waivers of Requirements? (Y/N) _____ if yes, explain:

Please indicate any pertinent authorizations or training:

Emergency Information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Telephone: _____ (work) _____ (home)
Address: _____

This is to verify that the above information is complete and correct

Diving Safety Officer:

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print)

APPENDIX 7

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Introduction

A diving accident victim could be any person who has been breathing compressed gas underwater regardless of depth. It is essential that emergency procedures are pre-planned and that medical treatment is initiated as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of each AAUS OM to develop procedures for diving emergencies including evacuation and medical treatment for each dive location.

General Procedures

Depending on and according to the nature of the diving accident:

1. Make appropriate contact with victim or rescue as required.
2. Establish buoyancy for victim and rescuer.
3. Activate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by calling/signaling for help, initiating call to 911 or to Coast Guard on VHF channel 16.
4. Stabilize the victim and extract to location where effective medical care can be provided.
5. Establish (A)irway (B)reathing (C)irculation as required.
6. Administer 100% oxygen, if appropriate (in cases of Decompression Illness, or Near Drowning).
7. Help coordinate transport to the nearest medical treatment facility or the USC Hyperbaric Chamber. Explain the circumstances of the dive incident to the evacuation teams, medics and physicians. Do not assume that they understand why 100% oxygen may be required for the diving accident victim or that recompression treatment may be necessary.
8. Call appropriate Diving Accident Coordinator for contact with diving physician and recompression chamber, etc.
9. Contact emergency line for victim's dive accident insurance provider.
10. Notify the DSO or designee according to the Emergency Action Plan of the OM.
11. Complete and submit Incident Report Form (www.aaus.org) to the DCB of the organization and the AAUS ([Section 2.70 Required Incident Reporting](#)).

Emergency Contact Numbers

Agency/Contact	Telephone	VHF Radio	CIMI Blackbox Radio
EMS	911	16	14
Baywatch Avalon	310-510-0856	16	14
Baywatch Isthmus	310-510-0341	16	14
U.S. Coast Guard	800-221-8724	16	14
Avalon Sheriff	310-510-1074	16	14
Isthmus Sheriff	310-510-0872	16	14
Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber	310-510-1053		
LA County Medical Alert Center	866-940-4401 ex. 1		
GDI Diving Safety Officer	978-771-2391		1
CIMI Director	310-908-1559		1 or 2
CIMI Toyon Bay	310-510-1622		1
CIMI Fox Landing	310-510-1890		4
DAN Emergency Hotline	919-684-9111		
DAN Medical Information Line	919-684-2948 ex. 4		

Available Procedures

- Emergency care
- Recompression
- Evacuation

Emergency Plan Content

- Name, telephone number, and relationship of person to be contacted for each diver in the event of an emergency.
- Nearest operational recompression chamber.
- Nearest accessible hospital.
- Available means of transport.

APPENDIX 8

AAUS STATISTICS COLLECTION CRITERIA AND DEFINITIONS

COLLECTION CRITERIA:

The "Dive Time in Minutes", The "Number of Dives Logged", and the "Number of Divers Logging Dives" will be collected for the following categories.

- Dive Classification
- Breathing Gas
- Diving Mode
- Decompression Planning and Calculation Method
- Depth Ranges
- Specialized Environments
- Incident Types

Dive Time in Minutes is defined as the surface-to-surface time including any safety or required decompression stops.

A Dive is defined as a descent underwater utilizing compressed gas and subsequent ascent/return to the surface with a minimum surface interval of 10 minutes.

Dives will not be differentiated as open water or confined water dives. But open water and confined water dives will be logged and submitted for AAUS statistics classified as either scientific or training/proficiency.

A "Diver Logging a Dive" is defined as a person who is diving under the auspices of your scientific diving organization. Dives logged by divers from another AAUS Organization will be reported with the diver's home organization. Only a diver who has actually logged a dive during the reporting period is counted under this category.

Incident(s) that occur during the collection cycle: Only incidents that occurred during, or resulting from, a dive where the diver is breathing a compressed gas will be submitted to AAUS.

DEFINITIONS:

Dive Classification:

1. Scientific Dives: Dives that meet the scientific diving exemption as defined in 29 CFR 1910.402. Diving tasks traditionally associated with a specific scientific discipline are considered a scientific dive. Construction and trouble-shooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving are not considered a scientific dive.
2. Training and Proficiency Dives: Dives performed as part of a scientific diver-training program, or dives performed in maintenance of a scientific diving certification/authorization.

Breathing Gas:

- Air: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is air.
- Nitrox: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is a combination of nitrogen and oxygen percentages different from those of air.
- Mixed Gas: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is a combination of oxygen, nitrogen, and helium (or other inert gas), or any other breathing gas combination not classified as air or nitrox.

Diving Mode:

- Open Circuit SCUBA: Dives where the breathing gas is inhaled from a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus and all of the exhaled gas leaves the breathing loop.
- Surface Supplied: Dives where the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized umbilical hose. The umbilical generally consists of a gas supply hose, strength member, pneumofathometer hose, and communication line. The umbilical supplies a helmet or full-face mask. The diver may rely on the tender at the surface to monitor the divers' depth, time and diving profile.
- Hookah: While similar to Surface Supplied in that the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized hose, the supply hose does not require a strength member, pneumofathometer hose, or communication line. Hookah equipment may be as simple as a long hose attached to a standard SCUBA cylinder supplying a standard SCUBA second stage. The diver is responsible for monitoring his/her own depth, time, and diving profile.
- Rebreathers: Dives where the breathing gas is repeatedly recycled in a breathing loop. The breathing loop may be fully closed or semi-closed. Note: A rebreather dive ending in an open circuit bailout is still logged as a rebreather dive.

Decompression Planning and Calculation Method:

- Dive Tables
- Dive Computer
- PC Based Decompression Software

Depth Ranges:

Depth ranges for sorting logged dives are: 0-30, 31-60, 61-100, 101-130, 131-150, 151-190, 191-250, 251-300, and 301->. Depths are in feet seawater (when measured in meters: 0-10, >10-30, >30-40, >40-45, >45-58, >58-76, >76-92, and >92->). A dive is logged to the maximum depth reached during the dive. Note: Only "The Number of Dives Logged" and "The Number of Divers Logging Dives" will be collected for this category.

Specialized Environments:

- Required Decompression: Any dive where the diver exceeds the no-decompression limit of the decompression planning method being employed.
- Overhead Environments: Any dive where the diver does not have direct access to the surface due to a physical obstruction.
- Blue Water Diving: Open water diving where the bottom is generally greater than 200 feet deep and requires the use of multiple-tethers diving techniques.
- Ice and Polar Diving: Any dive conducted under ice or in polar conditions. Note: An Ice Dive would also be classified as an Overhead Environment dive.
- Saturation Diving: Excursion dives conducted as part of a saturation mission are to be logged by "classification", "mode", "gas", etc. The "surface" for these excursions is defined as leaving and surfacing within the Habitat. Time spent within the Habitat or chamber must not be logged by AAUS.
- Aquarium: An aquarium is a shallow, confined body of water, which is operated by or under the control of an institution and is used for the purposes of specimen exhibit, education, husbandry, or research (Not a swimming pool).

Incident Types:

- Hyperbaric: Decompression Sickness, AGE, or other barotrauma requiring recompression therapy.
- Barotrauma: Barotrauma requiring medical attention from a physician or medical facility, but not requiring recompression therapy.
- Injury: Any non-barotrauma injury occurring during a dive that requires medical attention from a physician or medical facility.
- Illness: Any illness requiring medical attention that can be attributed to diving.
- Near Drowning/ Hypoxia: An incident where a person asphyxiates to the minimum point of unconsciousness during a dive involving a compressed gas. But the person recovers.
- Hyperoxic/Oxygen Toxicity: An incident that can be attributed to the diver being exposed to too high a partial pressure of oxygen.
- Hypercapnea: An incident that can be attributed to the diver being exposed to an excess of carbon dioxide.
- Fatality: Any death accruing during a dive or resulting from the diving exposure.
- Other: An incident that does not fit one of the listed incident types

Incident Classification Rating Scale:

- Minor: Injuries that the OM considers being minor in nature. Examples of this classification of incident would include, but not be limited to:
 - Mask squeeze that produced discoloration of the eyes.
 - Lacerations requiring medical attention but not involving moderate or severe bleeding.
 - Other injuries that would not be expected to produce long term adverse effects on the diver's health or diving status.
- Moderate: Injuries that the OM considers being moderate in nature. Examples of this classification would include, but not be limited to:
 - DCS symptoms that resolved with the administration of oxygen, hyperbaric treatment given as a precaution.
 - DCS symptoms resolved with the first hyperbaric treatment.
 - Broken bones.
 - Torn ligaments or cartilage.
 - Concussion.
 - Ear barotrauma requiring surgical repair.
- Serious: Injuries that the OM considers being serious in nature. Examples of this classification would include, but not be limited to:
 - Arterial Gas Embolism.
 - DCS symptoms requiring multiple hyperbaric treatment.
 - Near drowning.
 - Oxygen Toxicity.
 - Hypercapnea.

- Spinal injuries.
- Heart attack.
- Fatality.

APPENDIX 9

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESCUE OF A SUBMERGED UNRESPONSIVE COMPRESSED-GAS DIVER

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