

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Advice regarding assessing the medical fitness of entry level certificate divers

The *Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010*, provides advice to persons conducting entry level recreational diver training about how to ensure the medical fitness of divers (Section 2.3.1.2 'Medical fitness of entry level certificate divers').

The advice is based upon a medical assessment of each diver being conducted in accordance with Appendices A and B of *Australian Standard 4005.1-2000 Training and Certification of Recreational Divers - Part 1: Minimum entry level SCUBA diving*. This assessment document was originally written by the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) in 1992 and was subsequently incorporated into the Australian Standard.

In September 2010, SPUMS published the updated assessment document 'Guidelines of medical risk assessment for recreational diving'.¹

Section 26 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* states how workplace health and safety obligations can be discharged if regulations, ministerial notices and codes of practice are made.

Where a code of practice states a way of managing exposure to a risk, a person may discharge their obligation only by:

- adopting and following a stated way (the code of practice) that manages exposure to the risk; OR
- doing all of the following:
 - adopting and following another way that gives the same level of protection against the risk
 - taking proper precautions
 - exercising proper diligence.

The updated SPUMS 'Guidelines of medical risk assessment for recreational diving' 2010 may be considered as another way to give the same level of protection against the risk (ensuring the medical fitness of entry level certificate divers) as the method stated in *The Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010*, section 2.3.1.2 'Medical fitness of entry level certificate divers'.

Further information can be found at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or by calling Infoline on 1300 369 915.

¹ Bennett MH, editor. *Guidelines of medical risk assessment for recreational diving*. Melbourne: South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society; 2010. www.spums.org.au

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