
**Recreational diving services —
Requirements for the conduct of
snorkelling excursions**

*Services relatifs à la plongée de loisirs — Exigences pour la conduite
d'excursions de plongée avec tuba*

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Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 13289 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services*.

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Introduction

This International Standard provides minimum service requirements for the conduct of snorkel excursions. These requirements do not constitute in any way a standard for the training and qualification of snorkellers, but instead are intended to introduce a participant to recreational snorkelling via a supervised, controlled experience, and to encourage the participant to seek further training.

In view of the fact that the snorkel excursion does not result in qualification, but is experiential in nature, in-depth knowledge of snorkelling skills is not necessary. Participants are taught only what is necessary for them to experience snorkelling under direct supervision.

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Recreational diving services — Requirements for the conduct of snorkelling excursions

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies minimum requirements for service providers offering supervised recreational snorkelling excursions.

This International Standard applies to activities that will include participants being taken into an open water environment. It does not apply to activities that are exclusively conducted in a confined water environment, e.g. pools.

This International Standard also specifies particular conditions under which the service is provided, in addition to the general requirements for recreational diving service provision specified in ISO 24803.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 13289:2011
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/b357a89b-6aa4-48b4-9bf6-c7149c76cc7b/iso-13289-2011>
ISO 13970, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of recreational snorkelling guides*

ISO 24801-3, *Recreational diving services — Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers — Part 3: Level 3 — Dive leader*

ISO 24802-1, *Recreational diving services — Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba instructors — Part 1: Level 1*

ISO 24802-2, *Recreational diving services — Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba instructors — Part 2: Level 2*

ISO 24803, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for recreational scuba diving service providers*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 snorkelling

activity of swimming while typically using a mask, a snorkel and fins, where participants remain at the surface or make occasional breath hold dives, and where buoyancy devices can be used to provide surface support, depending on the environmental conditions and participants' abilities

3.2 service provider

entity, including any individual acting on behalf of such an entity, which offers snorkelling excursions

NOTE The entity can be an individual or an organization.

3.3 snorkelling guide

individual qualified in accordance with ISO 13970, ISO 24801-3, ISO 24802-1 or ISO 24802-2

3.4 participant

individual who takes part in a snorkelling excursion in open water

3.5 base station

position where support and/or emergency equipment is located

EXAMPLE A vehicle on shore; a boat; a floating platform.

3.6 confined water

swimming pool with a depth appropriate to the activity or body of water, offering similar conditions with regard to visibility, depth, water movement and access

3.7 open water

body of water significantly larger than a swimming pool, offering conditions typical of a natural body of water

3.8 direct supervision

supervision of a group of snorkellers by a snorkelling guide who is in a position that allows rapid intervention on behalf of the snorkellers

3.9 snorkelling equipment

equipment consisting of fins, a mask, a snorkel, a personal flotation device (if appropriate), a quick release weight system (if appropriate) and an exposure suit (if appropriate)

NOTE An example of a personal flotation device is a snorkelling vest.

4 Prerequisites for participation

4.1 Minors

The service provider shall ensure that documented parental or legal guardian consent is obtained when the participant is a minor.

4.2 Health and fitness requirements

The service providers shall inform the participants of the health and fitness considerations associated with snorkelling activities. In particular, they shall be advised about risk factors, including those associated with cardiac diseases, pulmonary diseases and conditions that may lead to a rapid loss of consciousness.

Attention shall be drawn to the risks associated with increased age or decreased fitness levels during physical activity.

Advice given to the participants about controlling these risks shall include the importance of the following:

- a) informing the service provider of any adverse medical conditions;
- b) using flotation devices;

- c) snorkelling with a fit buddy;
- d) remaining within the immediate vicinity of the snorkelling guide;
- e) ending or limiting the activity before becoming tired, cold or unduly stressed.

NOTE 1 It is advisable to include this advice in a documented format to participants, and in their own language. An example document is provided in Annex A.

In any case of doubt, or at the service provider's discretion, the service provider shall refer participants to proper medical resources.

NOTE 2 An example form for medical screening is provided in Annex B.

5 Introductory information

The service provider shall make available to the participants relevant information in accordance with ISO 24803, prior to the conduct of the snorkelling excursion.

In addition, participants shall be informed that the completion of a snorkelling excursion in accordance with this International Standard does not qualify the participants to snorkel unsupervised.

6 Briefing of participants

6.1 General

The service provider shall provide information on equipment, excursion conduct and safety considerations to participants, as specified in 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4.

6.2 Equipment

The service provider shall ensure that participants have appropriate introductory knowledge of the selection (e.g. correct fit), use and, where relevant, sanitization of the following equipment items:

- a) fins;
- b) mask;
- c) snorkel;
- d) personal flotation device (if appropriate);
- e) quick release weight system (if appropriate);
- f) exposure suit (if appropriate).

6.3 Excursion conduct

The service provider shall ensure that participants have appropriate introductory knowledge on snorkelling and the snorkelling environment, as follows:

- snorkelling techniques (e.g. equalization of ears and mask, clearing of snorkel);
- emergency and routine hand signals and communications (including emergency recall signal);

- snorkelling buddy system;
- points of interest and environmental considerations;
- behaviour and techniques to avoid disturbing marine life.

6.4 Safety considerations

The service provider shall advise participants how to minimize the risk of harm from any of the following hazards that are relevant:

- sunburn;
- heat exhaustion/heat stroke;
- hypothermia;
- dangers associated with surface traffic (e.g. collision, propellers);
- harmful aquatic life;
- getting separated from the snorkelling guide or base station;
- boarding the wrong boat after the excursion;
- exhaustion;
- breath holding hazards (e.g. shallow water blackout, hyperventilation);
- currents;
- wave action.

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7 Requirements for in-water activities

7.1 During the actual conduct of the excursion, the safe supervision of participants is the responsibility of the snorkelling guide.

7.2 The service provider shall limit the number of participants per snorkelling guide where environmental conditions are less than ideal, e.g. where there is significant water movement.

The service provider may also use additional aids to improve safety, such as current lines, surface support stations and/or area boundary indicators.

7.3 The service provider shall ensure that during open water excursions, participants are equipped and properly fitted with snorkelling equipment in accordance with 3.9.

7.4 During any open water excursion, snorkelling guides may not engage in any activities other than direct supervision of the participants.

7.5 At least one snorkelling guide shall be present at a snorkelling excursion. Where more than one is present, one of them shall be designated the leading snorkelling guide for that session and shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of this International Standard are met.

8 Supervision procedures

8.1 Group assignments

The service providers shall take into consideration the following factors when assigning participants to snorkelling guides:

- size, type and location of the snorkelling site;
- number of participants;
- communication and language considerations;
- participants' snorkelling experience and snorkelling skill level;
- participants' fitness and capabilities;
- skill and availability of support staff;
- available equipment (e.g. radios, tenders, rescue equipment);
- effectiveness of observation, e.g. underwater visibility, or observers' height of eye on a base station;

The service provider shall assign participants into buddy pairs for the conduct of the excursion.

The snorkelling guide should advise participants to remain in assigned buddy pairs in the water, and that one of each pair should watch from the surface if the other makes a sub-surface dive.

8.2 Supervision from a base station ISO 13289:2011

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Where supervision is carried out from a base station, the snorkelling guide shall ensure that all participants can be monitored at all times and can be reached rapidly if required. The snorkelling guide shall be in a position to enter the water immediately and to respond to needs of participants in an emergency.

The maximum number of participants that may be supervised by one snorkelling guide from a base station is 20. The total number of participants may be increased if additional snorkelling guides are available to enter the water immediately, so long as a ratio of 1 to 20 participants is not exceeded. This ratio only applies to ideal conditions. If conditions are anything less than ideal, the ratio shall be reduced.

8.3 In-water supervision

Where supervision is carried out in water, the snorkelling guide shall ensure that he/she can be easily identified by participants and shall remain close enough to be able to intervene rapidly in the case of an emergency. The maximum number of participants that may be accompanied by one snorkelling guide in the water is 12. This ratio only applies to ideal conditions. If conditions are anything less than ideal, the ratio shall be reduced.

8.4 Check in/check out procedure

The snorkelling guide shall account for all participants before and after the snorkelling excursion and shall document the fact that they have returned to the base station.