
**Recreational diving services —
Requirements for the training of
recreational scuba divers —**

**Part 3:
Level 3 — Dive leader**

*Services relatifs à la plongée de loisirs — Exigences concernant la
formation des plongeurs pratiquant la plongée de loisirs —*

Partie 3: Niveau 3 — Guide de palanquée

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services*.

This second edition of ISO 24801-3 cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 24801-3:2007), which has been technically revised.

ISO 24801 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers*:

- *Part 1: Level 1 — Supervised diver*
- *Part 2: Level 2 — Autonomous diver*
- *Part 3: Level 3 — Dive leader*

Introduction

This part of ISO 24801 is one of a series of International Standards relating to recreational diving services, which have been prepared with the aim of establishing a set of specifications for safety practices and the provision of services.

These International Standards specify:

- necessary levels of experience and competency of scuba divers and scuba instructors;
- safety practices and requirements for recreational scuba diving service providers appropriate to the different diving levels.

The requirements specified are minimal; they do not preclude the provision of additional training or the evaluation of additional competencies by a service provider. These International Standards represent a tool for comparison of existing (or future) qualifications of scuba divers. They do not represent a course programme, nor do they imply that course programmes and scuba diver qualifications issued by different nations or training organizations are required to correspond to these levels.

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Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers —

Part 3: Level 3 — Dive leader

1 Scope

This part of ISO 24801 specifies the competencies required of a scuba diver in order to obtain a scuba diver qualification from a training organization attesting that he/she has met or exceeded scuba diver level 3 (“Dive leader”), and specifies evaluation criteria for these competencies.

It also specifies the conditions under which training is provided, in addition to the general requirements for recreational diving service provision in accordance with ISO 24803.

This part of ISO 24801 applies to training and evaluation in recreational scuba diving.

2 Normative references

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

ISO 24801-2, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers — Part 2: Level 2 — Autonomous diver*

ISO 24802-1, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of scuba instructors — Part 1: Level 1*

ISO 24802-2, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of scuba instructors — Part 2: Level 2*

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

EN 250:2000, *Respiratory equipment — Open-circuit self-contained compressed air diving apparatus — Requirements, testing, marking*

EN 12628:1999, *Diving accessories — Combined buoyancy and rescue devices — Functional and safety requirements, test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 250:2000 and EN 12628:1999 and the following apply.

3.1 training organization

entity providing training systems and issuing qualifications for recreational diving, and which is responsible for the implementation and quality management of training

Note 1 to entry: Entity can include scuba diving federations and scuba diver training agencies.

3.2

scuba instructor

individual qualified in accordance with ISO 24802-1 or ISO 24802-2

3.3

breathing gas

mixture of oxygen and nitrogen with no less than 20 % oxygen

3.4

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

3.5

open water

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

3.6

diving equipment

equipment consisting of fins, mask, snorkel, regulator, alternative breathing gas system, cylinder, cylinder-support-system, buoyancy compensator, a quick release weight system (if appropriate), submersible pressure gauge (breathing gas pressure monitor), means to measure depth and time and to safely limit exposure to inert gas, diving suit (if appropriate)

Note 1 to entry: An alternative breathing gas system could range from a simple octopus system to a duplicate breathing system with a separate breathing gas supply.

Note 2 to entry: Specific environments can require additional equipment (e.g. an underwater navigational aid, knife/cutting device, delayed surface marker buoy).

3.7

dive management

actions and measures necessary to ensure safe conduct of recreational scuba diving activities, including briefing, planning, conduct and control, emergency procedures and de-briefing

4 Competencies of a recreational scuba diver at level 3 (“Dive leader”)

Scuba divers at level 3 shall be trained such that when assessed in accordance with [Clause 11](#) they are deemed to have sufficient knowledge, skill and experience to plan, organize and conduct their dives and lead other recreational scuba divers in open water.

Scuba divers at level 3 are qualified to:

- a) conduct any specialized recreational scuba diving activities for which they have received appropriate training;
- b) plan and execute emergency procedures appropriate for the diving environment and activities.

Scuba divers at level 3 may help to control students and improve safety but may not assess or teach any skills or knowledge to students.

In order to be qualified to lead scuba divers who have previously satisfactorily completed an introductory scuba experience in accordance with ISO 11121 on excursions to a maximum of 12 m, scuba divers at level 3 shall receive additional training in accordance with [Annex A](#).

If diving and environmental conditions are significantly different from those previously experienced, a scuba diver at level 3 requires an appropriate orientation with regard to local environmental conditions.

In order to lead scuba divers on dives which have more demanding operational parameters a scuba diver at level 3 shall have appropriate specialized training and experience. Examples of such dives include:

- night dives;
- limited visibility dives;
- dives in underwater currents (e.g. drift dives);
- deep dives;
- wreck dives;
- dry suit dives.

Where further scuba diving instruction is required, in order to meet the above mentioned competencies, this can only be provided by a suitably qualified scuba instructor.

5 Prerequisites for training

5.1 General

The service provider shall ensure that the client fulfils the following prerequisites to take part in the training course envisaged.

5.2 Minors

Documented parental or legal guardian consent shall be obtained when the applicant is a minor.

5.3 Health requirements

Documented evidence shall be obtained that the student has been medically screened as suitable for recreational diving.

NOTE In some countries and training organizations a medical examination is mandatory.

Students shall be advised of the importance of appropriate regular scuba diving medical examinations.

5.4 Minimum diving experience

Students shall have met all requirements for a level 2 scuba diver in accordance with ISO 24801-2.

Students shall have experience of night/limited visibility diving, deep diving (taking into account local environmental conditions), and navigation (as documented in bearer's log).

6 Introductory information

Information in accordance with ISO 24803 shall be made available to the students prior to, or during the first class meeting.

7 Required theoretical knowledge

Students shall have sufficient understanding and knowledge of the following topics to plan and execute their dives in all typical conditions encountered in the local environment and to plan for and respond to possible emergencies during such dives:

- equipment;

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- physics of diving;
- medical issues related to diving;
- use of diving tables and dive computers;
- diving environment;
- dive planning and dive management;
- communications, both underwater and on the surface;
- recommended safe diving practices;
- boat diving procedures;
- night diving procedures;
- limited visibility diving procedures;
- deep diving procedures;
- tides and currents;
- limitations of diving with no direct access to the surface;
- navigation;
- accident management;
- lost diver procedures;
- competencies scuba divers at level 1 and level 2;
- awareness and understanding of diving related legislation and legal requirements.

8 Personal scuba skills

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8.1 Scuba skills

The competence of students in all scuba skills shall be suitable to cope with the most demanding operational factors of their region. Influencing factors can include the following:

- a) depth range exceeding that of level 2 scuba diver;
- b) underwater visibility;
- c) size and experience of the group;
- d) equipment in use;
- e) current;
- f) surface conditions;
- g) water temperature.

Students shall competently conduct the following skills in a manner showing highest level mastery and competence:

- use of mask, fins and snorkel;
- diving equipment assembly and disassembly (at water's edge);