
**Recreational diving services —
Requirements for rebreather diver
training — No-decompression diving**

*Services relatifs à la plongée de loisirs — Exigences concernant la
formation des plongeurs à l'utilisation des recycleurs — Plongée sans
décompression*

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Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	v
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
3 Terms and definitions.....	1
4 Competencies.....	3
5 Prerequisites for training.....	4
5.1 General.....	4
5.2 Minimum age.....	4
5.3 Diving experience.....	4
5.4 Health requirements.....	4
6 Introductory information.....	4
7 Theoretical knowledge.....	4
7.1 Rebreather basics.....	4
7.2 Function of rebreather components.....	5
7.3 Breathing performance using a rebreather.....	5
7.4 Rebreather assembly and checks.....	6
7.5 Gas supply duration.....	6
7.6 CO ₂ absorbent duration.....	7
7.7 Rebreather pre-entry checks.....	7
7.8 Dive conduct.....	7
7.9 No-decompression dives.....	8
7.10 Identifying and reacting to potential issues.....	8
7.10.1 General issues.....	8
7.10.2 CO ₂ -related issues.....	9
7.10.3 Actions to be taken.....	9
7.11 Hypercapnia, hypoxia, hyperoxia.....	9
7.12 Buddy system.....	9
7.13 Rebreather maintenance.....	9
7.14 Maintaining knowledge and skills.....	10
8 Practical skills.....	10
8.1 General.....	10
8.2 Pre-dive procedures.....	10
8.3 Dive conduct.....	11
8.4 Emergency situations.....	12
8.5 Post-dive procedures.....	12
9 Instructors.....	12
10 Training equipment and training materials.....	12
10.1 Training equipment.....	12
10.2 Training materials.....	13
11 Practical training parameters.....	13
11.1 Training dives or in-water sessions.....	13
11.2 Instructor responsibilities.....	13
11.3 Rebreather dive leaders.....	14
11.4 Breathing gas limits.....	14
11.5 Closed-circuit rebreather and variants.....	14
11.6 Semiclosed-circuit rebreather and variants.....	14
12 Evaluation.....	14
12.1 Knowledge.....	14

12.2	Skill evaluation — Closed-circuit rebreather	14
12.3	Skill evaluation — Semiclosed-circuit rebreather	15
12.4	Proof of qualification	15
Bibliography	16

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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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 329, *Tourism services*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Rebreathers (i.e. breathing devices that recirculate some or all of the diver's exhaled breath and replenish any consumed oxygen to maintain a breathable mixture) are becoming much more widely available and popular among divers. The market for rebreather diving has been constantly growing in recent years and is now considered to be large enough that the need for standards on minimum training requirements for training organizations is evident. Rebreathers allow divers to dive for longer and to greater depths. If rebreathers are used improperly they can be hazardous; divers have had fatal accidents due to incorrect use of these devices. It is therefore important to specify training for diving with such devices.

Training organizations offering training that conforms with this document may exceed any of the requirements in terms of the volume or complexity of training but should at least ensure the students master all the skills and knowledge defined in this document.

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Recreational diving services — Requirements for rebreather diver training — No-decompression diving

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for rebreather diver training programmes which provide the competencies required to perform dives with a rebreather to a maximum depth of 30 m that do not require mandatory decompression stops using a nitrox breathing gas.

This document specifies evaluation criteria for these competencies.

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

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 11107, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for training programmes on enriched air nitrox (EAN) diving*

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

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 diving providers*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 rebreather

apparatus that has a supply of gas carried by the diver, allowing the diver to breathe under water which enables the diver to inspire gas from a facepiece connected to a counterlung and to pass exhaled gas through a carbon dioxide absorption material before it is re-breathed from the counterlung and inspired partial pressure of the gases within the apparatus remain within acceptable physiological limits so that gas is thus recirculated within the apparatus

Note 1 to entry: A rebreather can also be called a self-contained rebreathing diving apparatus.

Note 2 to entry: A facepiece can be a mouthpiece assembly, a half mask, a full-face mask or a helmet.

[SOURCE: EN 14143:2013, 3.1, modified — Note 1 to entry modified and Note 2 to entry added. This content has been reproduced with the permission of CEN. Copyright remains with CEN.]

**3.2
rebreather type**

primary rebreather design

EXAMPLE Closed-circuit rebreather (CCR), manually controlled closed-circuit rebreather (mCCR), electronically controlled closed-circuit rebreather (eCCR), semiclosed-circuit rebreather (SCR), manually controlled SCR (mSCR), electronically controlled SCR (eSCR), hybrid closed-circuit rebreather (hCCR)

**3.3
rebreather unit**

type of *rebreather* (3.1) having consistent controls, displays and configuration over several rebreather *models* (3.4) where the operation is essentially the same from rebreather model to rebreather model

**3.4
rebreather model**

specific individual design of *rebreather* (3.1) made by a manufacturer

**3.5
breathing gas**

gas present in the *breathing loop* (3.12) inspired by the diver

**3.6
supply gas**

gas present in a cylinder which may be added to the *breathing loop* (3.12)

**3.7
bailout gas**

gas present in a cylinder that may be breathed directly by the diver

**3.8
nitrox**

breathable mixture of nitrogen and oxygen with more than 21 % oxygen content, which may contain trace gases at levels no higher than those found in normal air

[SOURCE: ISO 11107:2009, 3.5]

**3.9
PO₂**

partial pressure of oxygen in a gas mixture

Note 1 to entry: This usually refers specifically to the breathing-gas mixture inhaled by a diver.

**3.10
set-point
PO₂ setpoint**

PO₂ value that is used by a control system to determine when a solenoid valve injects oxygen into the *breathing loop* (3.12)

**3.11
respiratory minute volume
RMV**

product of the tidal volume and breathing frequency measured in litres per minute

[SOURCE: EN 14143:2013, 3.10. This content has been reproduced with the permission of CEN. Copyright remains with CEN.]

**3.12
breathing loop**

portion of a rebreather through which gas circulates, usually consisting of a mouthpiece, breathing hose(s), counterlung(s), non-return valves and a CO₂ absorbent canister

3.13**scrubber**

canister in the *breathing loop* (3.12) containing CO₂ absorbent

3.14**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

[SOURCE: ISO 24801-2:2014, 3.5]

3.15**open water**

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

[SOURCE: ISO 24801-2:2014, 3.6]

3.16**service provider**

entity (individual or organization), including any individual acting on behalf of such an entity, which offers one or more of the following services:

- introductory diving activities;
- snorkelling excursions;
- provision of training and education;
- organized and guided diving for qualified divers;
- rental of diving equipment.

[SOURCE: ISO 24803:2017, 3.1]

3.17**safety stop**

non-mandatory decompression stop near the surface prior to surfacing

3.18**no-decompression diving**

diving without requiring mandatory decompression stops

4 Competencies

The training programme shall ensure that students are qualified to independently plan and conduct dives which do not require mandatory decompression stops using the specific rebreather unit for which the student has received training.

Students qualified in accordance with this document are competent to dive with a suitably qualified buddy to 30 m using a rebreather that supplies a nitrox breathing mixture.

In order to be deemed qualified to dive with a specific rebreather unit other than the one that the diver has received initial training for, a diver requires further unit-specific training.

The training programme shall ensure that the student has a full understanding of any theoretical concepts or skills applicable to the type, unit and rebreather model of rebreather they will use. Students shall be provided with an overview of any information that is not specific to their rebreather, but this only needs to be informative in nature so that they are aware of the general possible configurations that other divers may use.

5 Prerequisites for training

5.1 General

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

5.2 Minimum age

The minimum age to participate in a training programme in accordance with this document shall be 18 years.

5.3 Diving experience

In order to participate in a training programme in accordance with this document, students shall:

- be qualified in accordance with ISO 24801-2;
- be qualified in accordance with ISO 11107;
- have logged 20 open-water dives with at least 15 hours underwater using open-circuit scuba.

5.4 Health requirements

Documented evidence shall be obtained that the student has been medically screened as suitable for recreational diving by means of an appropriate questionnaire or medical examination.

NOTE See Reference [3] for an example of a medical questionnaire and accompanying guidance to physicians.

In case of doubt, the training service provider shall refer students to proper medical resources. If the student is not examined by a physician, the student shall be obliged to confirm by signature that he or she has understood written information given by the instructor on diseases and physical conditions which can pose diving-related risks.

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

6 Introductory information

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

In particular, the students shall be informed that they will be trained to dive a specific rebreather unit to a maximum depth of 30 m for no-decompression diving only.

7 Theoretical knowledge

7.1 Rebreather basics

The training programme shall ensure that students have knowledge concerning the following:

- the definition of a rebreather;
- the difference between a rebreather and open-circuit scuba;
- advantages and limitations of different rebreather types;
- the concept of rebreather unit-specific requirements;
- maintaining PO₂ within physiological limits.

7.2 Function of rebreather components

The training programme shall ensure that students have knowledge concerning the function of the following components of a rebreather, with emphasis on the specific features of the unit they will use during their training:

- breathing loop, definition of “minimum/optimum breathing loop” and breathing loop volume;
- counter lungs;
- inhalation and exhalation hoses;
- non-return (mushroom) valves;
- scrubber (CO₂ absorbent);
- oxygen sensor(s);
- gas supplies (to include, where applicable, oxygen, diluent or other supply gases);
- gas addition valves [to include, where applicable, manual, automatic diluent valve (ADV) or other automatic gas addition valves];
- overpressure valve (OPV);
- mouthpiece, dive surface valve (DSV);
- bailout valve (BOV);
- displays [including, where applicable, handsets, head up display (HUD) or other];
- control modules;
- alarm and warning systems;
- firmware, software, including updates and downloads of dive profiles;
- gas cylinder(s);
- regulator(s), including the first stage pressure relief valve (if applicable);
- cylinder valve(s);
- cylinder pressure indicators;
- CO₂ and CO₂ absorbent monitoring systems.

7.3 Breathing performance using a rebreather

The training programme shall ensure that students have knowledge concerning the following factors affecting breathing performance using a rebreather:

- choice of gases, effect of gas density and maximum depth;
- ventilation rate and ventilation volume of the diver;
- rebreather design (e.g. rebreather type, unit, rebreather model);
- diver attitude and trim;
- size, fit and placement of counter lungs;
- impact of overall equipment configuration on counter lungs and the importance of not restricting counter lung inflation and deflation;