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**Recreational diving services — Requirements for artificial ~~Open~~  
~~Water Sites~~open water sites**

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ISO/DPAS 20708  
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## Contents

Foreword .....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Terms and definitions.....	1
4 Structural requirements.....	2
4.1 Volume .....	2
4.2 Surface area and depth.....	2
4.3 Topography .....	2
4.4 Additional environmental factors.....	2
5 Training programmes.....	2
6 Student acknowledgement .....	3

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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~~document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

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

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

While there is a clear understanding of what a confined water training site should be like in the recreational diving industry, there is a great variety of open water sites available around the world. Open water traditionally includes the sea, lakes, rivers and ~~man-made~~artificial sites made by humans such as quarries. The conditions that divers encounter in these sites will vary; sometimes there may~~can~~ be waves and currents, but in others there are none; sometimes the visibility may~~can~~ be poor, but in many parts of the world it is often excellent.

In recent years, several very large bodies of water have been created, sometimes with the express purpose of providing a site for diving. Some of these are more modest but are still significantly larger than a swimming pool.

There are also a few of these extremely large sites around the world that are sufficiently large and include enough environmental variables that they are close to the definition of a ~~“body of water significantly larger than a swimming pool, offering conditions typical of a natural body of water”~~, open water; in other words, divers trained in them can be exposed to an experience that strongly resembles what they would encounter in a natural open water dive site.

It is expected that more of these sites ~~to~~will be constructed, and there are requests from diving professionals to consider this concept and see if there should be recognition of the more complex environments for the conduct of some forms of open water training. ~~Recognise~~Recognizing some of the more sophisticated sites, ~~it could~~ would provide a welcome boost to the diving industry in certain parts of the world, especially where there ~~may be~~ is limited availability to natural open water diving suitable for training. In many cases, these sites have warm water, and as a result, divers are typically spending significantly more time underwater as part of their training than they otherwise would.

The objective of this document is to define such sites. By defining such requirements, this document will prevent instructors from making ~~judgments~~judgements of their own that may~~can~~ be inappropriate.

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# Recreational diving services — Requirements for artificial ~~Open Water Sites~~ open water sites

## 1 Scope

This document specifies minimum requirements for ~~man-made~~artificial structures, such as aquariums or sites that have been built specifically for the use of recreational divers, to be considered ~~anas~~ open water diving sites suitable for the conduct of recreational scuba diving training programmes.

This document ~~applies~~ is applicable to all recreational diving training programmes in accordance with the standards ~~issued~~ prepared by ISO/TC 228.

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

ISO 24801-3:2014, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of ~~of~~ recreational scuba divers — Part 3: Level 3 — Dive ~~Leader~~ leader* standards/sist/dbebc6cb-8848-47eb-b6fb-4e5528140425/iso-dpas-20708

ISO 24802-1:2014, Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of scuba instructors — Part 2: Level 1

ISO 24802-2:2014, *Recreational diving services — Requirements for the training of scuba instructors — Part 2: Level 2*

## 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

#### **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]