



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
NOAA DIVING PROGRAM
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

MEMORANDUM FOR: RADM David A. Score, Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

FROM: Raymond Boland, Chair, NOAA Diving Control and Safety Board

SUBJECT: Decision memorandum on changes to NOAA Diving Standards and Safety Manual subsequent to 05 April 2017

The NOAA Diving Control and Safety Board requests concurrence and approval of the following changes to the NOAA Diving Standards and Safety Manual.

Sec 4.2.11 Pre-Dive Procedures, Diver Recall Capability

Addition of part B: "Shore-based OSHA-exempt dives for which the topside support requirement has been waived by the UDS are exempt from this requirement."

Rationale: Diving from shore does not offer a feasible method of deploying a topside-based diver recall device. Additionally existing policy allows for shore-based, OSHA-exempt dives to have the topside support requirement waived at the discretion of the UDS. In these situations there would be no personnel present to operate a topside recall device.

Sec 8.3.1 'Tech Lite' – Decompression Operations, General Requirements

Change part B. to allow maximum depth of 150 fsw.

Change part C. to allow maximum decompression obligation of 15 minutes.

Rationale: 'Tech Lite' is an evolving protocol in the NDP, these changes are in response to feedback from divers in the field and the NDCSB has unanimously concurred. The changes in maximum depth and decompression obligation are well within the training parameters of divers utilizing the 'Tech Lite' protocols for open circuit SCUBA diving.

Sec 8.3.6 'Tech Lite' – Decompression Operations, Manning Requirements

Change part B.1 to "A minimum of one (1) on-bottom safety diver and two (2) standby / support divers, capable of reaching 130 feet the deepest decompression stop of the bottom divers and functioning as a buddy team OR two (2) standby / support divers, capable of reaching the maximum depth of the bottom divers and functioning as a buddy team, will be on site for all decompression diving operations."





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Addition of new part B.2: “On-bottom safety diver(s) must have no responsibilities other than to monitor and assist all other bottom divers in an emergency.”

Rationale: Adds flexibility to ‘Tech Lite’ manning requirements and brings this procedure in line with requirements in place for advanced decompression operations.

Sec 10.3.1 ‘Tech Lite’ – Rebreather Operations, General Requirements

Change part B. to allow maximum depth of 150 fsw.
 Change part C. to allow maximum decompression obligation of 15 minutes.

Rationale: Identical to changes requested above for open circuit ‘Tech Lite’ procedures.

Sec 10.3.6 ‘Tech Lite’ – Rebreather Operations, Manning Requirements

Change part B.1 to “A minimum of one (1) on-bottom safety diver and two (2) standby / support divers, capable of reaching 130 feet the deepest decompression stop of the bottom divers and functioning as a buddy team OR two (2) standby / support divers, capable of reaching the maximum depth of the bottom divers and functioning as a buddy team, will be on site for all decompression diving operations.”

Addition of new part B.2: “On-bottom safety diver(s) must have no responsibilities other than to monitor and assist all other bottom divers in an emergency.”

Rationale: Identical to changes requested above for open circuit ‘Tech Lite’ procedures.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

RADM David A. Score
 Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

