

OCCUPATIONAL DIVING UPDATE

SCIENTIFIC DIVING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a Certificate of Competency (CoC) in Occupational Diving (scientific diving), all applicants must meet AS/NZS 2815.6 by the dates outlined below.

BACKGROUND

In October 2013, WorkSafe met with stakeholders to discuss training requirements for divers seeking a CoC in scientific diving. The attendees discussed using AS/NZS2815.6 as the benchmark because it provides a clear set of expectations to describe best practice. Accepting the standard would define the requirements of training, for the purposes of Regulation 32 of the Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995.

WorkSafe consulted with the scientific diving community, the feedback was discussed with representatives of the Occupational Diving Reference Group, chaired by Professor Des Gorman.

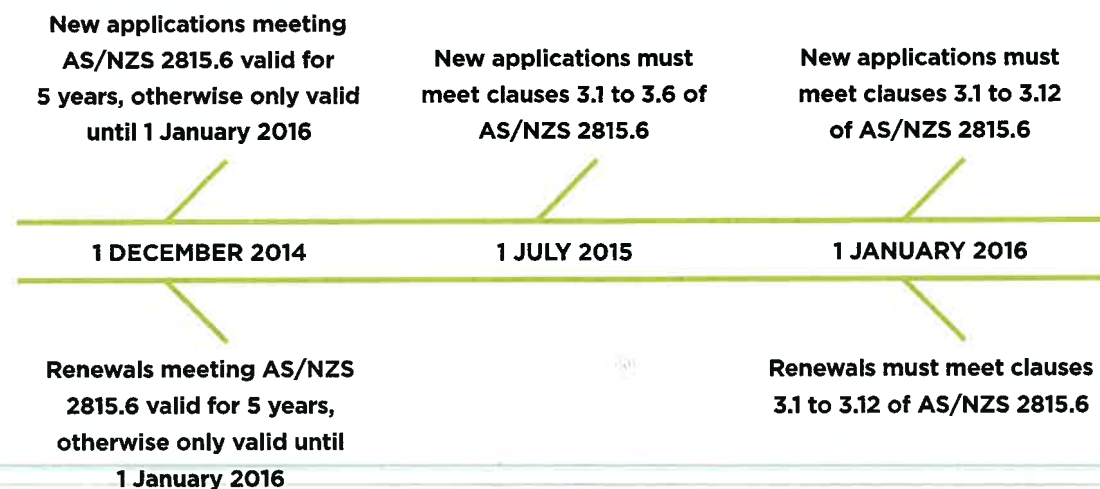
The Group considered using a tiered approach for assessing scientific diving competence criteria. They rejected this as a number of divers currently exceed the limits of their training and CoC.

As a result, WorkSafe determined AS/NZS 2815.6 will be the minimum training standard divers need to obtain a CoC in scientific diving, which will replace the requirements outlined in Section 3.6 of the Guidelines for Occupational Diving 2004.

Worksafe New Zealand sees training of the competencies to the level detailed in this standard as being a requirement of a meeting Regulation 32 (a - b) of the Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995.

WHEN WILL IT TAKE EFFECT?

The requirements will be phased in to give applicants time to meet the standard.



WorkSafe's expectations for conforming to AS/NZS 2815.6 are as follows:

- > From 1 December 2014, all new applications for a scientific diving certificate meeting the full requirements of AS/NZS 2815.6 will be valid for five years from the date of the CoC's issue. Applications only meeting Section 3.6 of the Guidelines for Occupational Diving will be valid until the 1st of January 2016.
- > From 1 December 2014, all scientific diving CoC renewals will only be valid until 1 January 2016. If the renewal application meets the full requirements of AS/NZS 2815.6, the CoC will be valid for five years. Renewals only meeting Section 3.6 of the Guidelines for Occupational Diving will be valid until the 1st of January 2016.
- > From 1 July 2015, all applicants for a new scientific diving CoC must meet clauses 3.1 to 3.6 of AS/NZS 2815.6. This is in addition to the requirements of Section 3.6 of the Guidelines for Occupational Diving 2004. New certificates issued from 1 July 2015 under these conditions will only be valid until 1 January 2016. At which time a renewal will carry no fee.
- > From 1 January 2016, all applicants for a new scientific diving CoC must meet clauses 3.1 - 3.12 of AS/NZS 2815.6.
- > From 1 January 2016, all scientific diving CoC renewals must meet clauses 3.1 to 3.12 of AS/NZS 2815.6.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Occupational Diving 2004:

www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/pdf-documents-library/diving-2004/diving-1008.pdf

AS/NZS 2815.6 Training and certification of occupational divers - Part 6: Restricted occupational SCUBA diver

<http://shop.standards.co.nz/catalog/2815.6%3A2013%28AS%7CNZS%29/view>