



**SCUBA SCHOOLS
INTERNATIONAL**

**Training &
Dive Center
Standards**

2012



Training & Dive Center Standards

Scuba Schools International | Training & Dive Center Standards 01/2012

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NOTICE

These standards are designed and developed to be used while functioning through Scuba Schools International USA (SSI USA) and the territories it services. Should you transfer to another Regional Center's area, either on a temporary or permanent basis, you will need to acquaint yourself with and adhere to their standards while teaching in that location.

Instructors teaching in the international market are to have and use SSI Materials in the language as applicable to the region, if and when available.

Understand that the majority of SSI Training and Dealer Standards are the same throughout the world, but due to local law there may be subtle differences and requirements.



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TRAINING STANDARDS



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80/20 DEFINED

SSI realizes that customers become divers at different paces and Dive Professionals need flexibility to insure that each customer completes all exercises successfully – “Comfort through Repetition.” 80/20 does not mean you only have to do 80% of the SSI program. It means that you do 100% of the SSI program, but you have flexibility in the order of those classroom and pool sessions. Simply stated, 80% of the order of the skills is dictated by SSI and 20% is dictated by the Dive Professional and progress of the class. This equals 100% of the program. The 80/20 Rule only allows flexibility to reorganize or add sessions or SSI skill presentations to meet the needs of the students.

80% - The 80% is the required part of the rule. It must follow 100% of diver training materials, the Classroom, Pool and Open Water sessions described in the SSI Instructor Manuals as well as the current SSI Training Standards.

20% - The 20% is left up to the Dive Professional to develop their own teaching style. This may include the order in which the classroom and pool presentations take place, the number of in-water training sessions, the amount of repetition required to create a safe and confident divers and what information to supplement on equipment and the local environment.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

As an SSI Instructor and Dive Professional, you are accountable for your decisions and actions when working with the public. SSI expects you to display appropriate and professional behavior at all times while involved in training or other related activities. Refer to the guidelines listed below:

1. Notify SSI prior to Renewal/Training, if previously convicted of a felony or a crime of moral regret (e.g. honesty, integrity, morals).
2. Be a role model at all times during training and other business related activities.
3. Conduct all SSI programs with a high degree of integrity and honesty and with the goal of providing the best possible customer experience.
4. Adhere to SSI Training Standards and attend Instructor and Dive Professional updates on a regular basis.

5. Do not negatively communicate publicly or otherwise about SSI Dive Centers, Resorts, Instructors or Dive professionals or any other member of the diving industry.
6. Notify SSI, if a Dive Center, Resort, Instructor or Dive Professional has been or is currently the subject of any ethical or standards violation, investigation, action or proceeding brought by any recognized training agency or governmental bodies.
7. Indemnify and hold harmless SSI, its officers, directors and assignee for any loss, claim or damage resulting from action of the Dive Professional or his/her agents, students or assignees.
8. Abide to quality assurance procedures like outlined in the Monitor Assessment Procedures.

Note: The Dive Professional understands that any breach of these Ethical Standards may make him or her ineligible for Active Status or Renewal.

GENERAL TRAINING STANDARDS

As an SSI Instructor and Dive Professional, you are also accountable for following the SSI Training Standards.

- 1. Recommendation vs. Standard:** Included within the Training Standards are recommendations. Recommendations are set off in italics and use words like “may” or “should.” Recommendations are not requirements. Recommendations do provide additional help whenever student needs and abilities, environmental conditions or equipment make it possible to enhance the comfort and experience of the diving activity.
- 2. SSI Material:** The SSI Training Standards, SSI Instructor Manuals/Materials and SSI Student Materials form the basis of the SSI Teaching System and are to be used for all SSI training programs. Whenever there is a discrepancy between these materials, the SSI Training Standards take precedence. *If in doubt, contact SSI Service Center for guidance or interpretation.*

As a Risk Management and Awareness issue, each student diver is to own the appropriate and current training material for every program (if training materials are available). SSI Dive Centers may not lend or reuse training materials.

- 3. Active Status:** SSI diver certifications are issued for training through active SSI Dive Centers, Resorts, Instructors, Dive Professionals and Referral Instructors in compliance with these Standards.
- 4. Ordering Certification Cards:** SSI Dive Centers, Resorts, SSI Instructors and Dive Professionals are required to issue SSI diver certifications to all successful students at all levels of training. Certification cards should be ordered through ODIN within 4 days of completion. Hand written forms must be sent to SSI within 10 days.
- 5. Processing Dive Professional Files:** SSI Instructor Trainers are required to issue SSI Instructor and Dive Professional credentials to all successful students at all levels of training. All dive professional training records must be sent to **SSI Service Center** within 4 days of the completion of the program.

- 6. Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor or SSI Dive Control Specialist is to be present and in control of all SSI training programs. Whenever possible, SSI Instructors should use SSI Certified Assistants.

- A. Direct Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor or higher must evaluate all Student knowledge and Skills, personally, before certification. He/she may not delegate the supervision to a certified assistant.
- B. Indirect Supervision:** An active SSI Instructor or higher need not observe all student knowledge and skills personally, he/she may delegate the supervision to a certified assistant, but the Instructor must be present at the location controlling all activities.

- 7. Exceeding Standards:** *SSI Instructors may exceed Standards, may provide more complete coverage of the materials, may provide additional pool/confined water and open water scuba training dives. Incorporating newer, safer and easier techniques and equipment are encouraged. All knowledge and skills changes must be approved by the SSI Service Center prior to incorporating the change.*

Certification may not be withheld if a student meets SSI standards, but not arbitrary Instructor imposed conditions.

- 8. Waivers:** Waivers or deviations to the SSI Standards are to be requested in writing in care of the Training Department. The request is to explain why the waiver is needed and what will be done to ensure the quality of SSI training. Each approved waiver will expire one year from issuance and will need to be reapplied for.
- 9. Use of Training Materials:** All students enrolled in SSI certification programs, including Online Training are to own and use the specific SSI Training Materials. The Instructor and student are both to initial/sign the training record log page when completed. This may be done after each classroom, pool/confined water and training dive or at the completion of each days training. *The SSI Total DiveLog may also be used for snorkel diving, including pool training, or for scuba diving that does not lead to certification, such as Try Scuba experiences or Try Scuba Diving underwater tours.*

10. Use of Student Training Records: Training Records are to be used for monitoring and evaluating each student's progress, knowledge and skills. Training records shall be maintained and retained for five years by SSI Dive Centers. If necessary for quality assurance or solving a Grievance Resolution SSI Dive Centers has to send the Training Records to the SSI Service Center within the given time limit.

11. Reporting Procedures: SSI's Insurance Agent, and SSI Service Center or SSI Regional Center or SSI Area Office are to be notified immediately if an SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Professional becomes aware of any act, error, omission or accident, or if a claim or suit is filed.

12. Program Duration: SSI Dive Centers and Dive Professionals are to ensure that each student have the required knowledge, skills and experience to comfortably and confidently dive at the specific level of training before certification is issued.

Each program has a recommended range of hours. Actual time will vary depending on number of students, age, ability and environmental conditions.

13. Time Period of Completion: All SSI programs are required to be completed within 6 months of their last academic/pool/confined water training. If it has been more than 6 months, the Dive Center/ Instructor will need to conduct a reevaluation to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills to continue. If it has been more than 12 months since the start of the SSI program the student must repeat a complete program.

14. Dives per Day: The maximum number of open water scuba training dives per day is listed in each specific Standards. Otherwise, the maximum number of Open Water Scuba Training Dives is 3. *SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.*

15. Student-to-Instructor Ratios: The student to Instructor ratio for training is provided in each specific standard.

*The student-to-Instructor ratio for classroom and pool/confined water activities is set by the individual Instructor, based on the ability of the Instructor to deal effectively with all student needs. Whenever possible, additional Instructors or Certified Assistants should be used during training. If open water diving conditions dictate decreasing the student-to-Instructor ratio below the maximum allowed, then active Certified Assistants may be used, or the Instructor may conduct open water training with only part of the class on each dive. **Any certified divers that are in the Instructors group are counted against his/her ratios.***

16. Physical Distance: Proximity of students to Instructor during open water scuba training dives is specified in each standard.

Instructors may retain closer control of students than the program standards require, but Instructors should not lose sight of their obligation to train divers who can take responsibility for themselves, and dive independently of an Instructor.

17. Definition Open Water: Open water sites are natural bodies of water realistic of local diving conditions.

18. Duration of a Dive: Open water scuba training dives for certification are to be a minimum of 15 minutes, an entry and exit from the water, and putting on and taking off the scuba unit. Minimum depth for a dive is listed in each specific standard.

If used, protective suits do not necessarily need to be removed between dives.

19. Environmental Conditions: Instructors have an obligation to cancel or modify open water scuba training dives when environmental conditions, a student's physical or mental condition or equipment difficulties make it advisable.

This "is a judgment" that can only be made by the Instructor at the time and place of the open water training dive. Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive, may complete those skills during a later dive that same day or at another time.



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- 20. Use of Surface Floats & Flags:** A boat or other surface float is required to be available at the site of training dives.

Floats may be anchored at one central location or towed during the diving activities.

- 21. Emergency Plan:** Each Instructor conducting open water scuba training dives is to have a written emergency plan for diving accidents for each location that training dives are conducted. Emergency equipment to be available in the vicinity of the dive site includes a first aid kit, oxygen unit and communications equipment. This equipment is to be provided by the Instructor or Dive Center.

- 22. Forcing Students:** Instructors are not to force students to do skills during open water scuba training dives. If a student verbally or by behavior indicates a desire not to do a skill, then the SSI Instructor is not to force the student.

The Instructor may come back to the incomplete skill later in the dive or on a later dive within the program. If the skill is required for certification and has not been completed by the end of the program, the student may be provided private instruction prior to certification.

- 23. Skill Level:** Instructors are not to harass students at any time. When students have reached the level of SSI training that they are ready to deal with underwater problems, then only realistic skills are to be presented. The students are then to solve these problems as they would in real world diving situations.

- 24. Care Obligation:** All SSI Dive Professionals are to inform students that if they become excessively cold or tired, are under undue stress, are low on air, injured, not feeling well, or have recently been sick, they are not to dive, or are not to continue the dive, as is appropriate.

- 25. Minimum Equipment:** During all scuba training, each student is to be equipped with a complete properly fitted Total Diving System consisting of a Snorkeling System, Exposure System (where applicable), Air Delivery System, Information System, Total DiveLog System, Buoyancy Control System, and Specialty Training and Accessory System. (Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Buoyancy Compensator with Power Inflator, Weight System, Cylinder, Regulator with Submersible Pressure Gauge and Alternate Air Source, Depth Gauge and SSI DiveLog.) All students should provide their own timing device in the open water environment. Students may not share timing devices or dive computers.

During all open water training, each Instructor is to be equipped with at least all student equipment plus a dive computer, an emergency signaling device, a knife and a compass.

When training in cold water (below 10°C / 50°F) adhere to the equipment manufacturers' guidelines and the use of a manifold valve or pony cylinder with additional first stage and alternative air source. Protective suits and weight systems are recommended for both Instructors and students whenever possible. Students should be encouraged to purchase and use their own personally fitted, high quality Total Diving System. Having personal equipment becomes increasingly important during the more advanced levels of training.

- 26. Medical Questionnaire:** Each student is to complete a medical history form prior to any water activity. If the medical history form or the appearance/ behavior of the student indicate any condition contrary to participation in scuba diving activities, the student is to be required to secure medical approval by a licensed medical practitioner based on a diving medical examination prior to any water activity. The medical history forms of minors are to be reviewed and signed by a parent or guardian prior to any water activity.

Dive Professionals are to notify SSI in the event a medical condition interferes with their teaching ability. In order to be reinstated, the Dive Professional must submit a new medical history form to the Training Department.

27. Liability Release: Each student is to complete an SSI Waiver & Release of Liability Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement and a Statement of Understanding prior to any water training. The forms of minors are to be reviewed and signed by a parent or guardian.

Children under the age of 15 involved with any water activity are required to watch the SSI Risk Awareness for Children video, if the video is available in their language and if the video is appropriate for the liability regulations in the country, with their parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to any water work.

Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world. Example: In the European Union the Waiver of Release is not valid, and the student should be not forced to sign it.

28. Emergency Skills in Open Water: An SSI Instructor or Referral Instructor is to directly conduct all skills during open water scuba training dives for all certifications using scuba. Any ascent training done during open water scuba training dives that simulate any emergency condition is to be done from depths of 12 meters/40 feet or less. During emergency ascents the Instructor has to establish and keep physical contact with the student.

Examples are emergency ascents, air sharing ascents and emergency swimming ascents.

29. Confined Water/Pool like Conditions in the Open Water: Pool classes may be conducted in confined open water that simulates the safety and comfort of a pool. The maximum depth of 6 meters is not to be exceeded. Depth limit for Scuba Rangers participants is 4 meters.

30. Recommended Depth Limits: All students, after certification, should be advised to dive within depth limits taught during class.

Recommended depth limits, based on the certification levels, are as follows:

A. Scuba Diver / Junior Scuba Diver - 12 meters/40 feet
- only with a Dive Professional

B. Junior Open Water Diver - 12 meters/40 feet - for 10-14 year olds

C. Advanced Adventurer –30 meters/100 feet - *When a Deep Dive is performed in the program Junior Advanced Adventurer divers ages 12-14 are limited to - 18 meters/60 feet*

D. Deep Diving Specialty Diver – 40 meters/130 feet

31. Government Laws: Federal, State and Local Government laws, bylaws and Codes of Practice have precedence over these Standards. It is the SSI member's responsibility to conform to these rules and inform SSI Service Center of any conflict. At no time may the standard of safety provided by SSI Standards be reduced.



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SNORKELING & FREEDIVING TRAINING & CENTER STANDARDS



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SNORKELING STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Snorkel Instructor or higher may conduct the Snorkeling program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Snorkeling.
- 2. Equipment:** Snorkeling participants are required to have the snorkeling equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See General Training Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills covered during the Snorkeling Program are those provided in the SSI Snorkeling Instructor Manual and the Snorkeling student materials.
- 4. In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the snorkel diving program and is limited to 10 meters/33 feet, beyond this depth is reserved for freediving.
- 5. Sessions:** The number of classroom, pool/confined water and open water sessions are set by the individual Snorkeling Instructor.
- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended program hours for snorkeling are based on student needs and ability.
- 7. Minimum Age:** There is no minimum age for Snorkeling.
- 8. Ratio:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for Snorkeling is set by the individual Instructor, based on his/her ability and experience to effectively deal with students. The Snorkeling Instructor is to decrease the ratio whenever conditions dictate.
- 9. Supervision:** During the open water training students are to remain under the supervision of the Snorkel Instructor.

In-water training may be done in pool/confined water or open water. The Snorkeling program does not require open water training, but, whenever possible, open water dives are recommended.



SNORKEL INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Advanced Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Snorkel Instructor program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Snorkel Instructor
2. **Equipment:** Snorkel Instructor participants are required to have a professional snorkeling system that is required of Instructors in other SSI Programs. See [General Training Standards, item 25](#).
3. **Content:** The content of the Snorkeling program is listed in the Snorkeling Instructor Manual.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Snorkeling Instructor program is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to conduct the SSI Snorkeling program in a safe and enjoyable manner.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Have snorkeling equipment for the Snorkeling Instructor Level
 - C. Purchase Snorkel Instructor materials
6. **Training Requirements:**
 - A. Complete the Snorkeling Instructor Program
 - B. Professional liability insurance with SSI (Scuba Schools International) listed as additional insured (where applicable)
 - C. Provide proof of current CPR/First Aid for both children and adults
 - D. Snorkel **400 meters/437 yards** in less than 15 minutes with only the use of their Snorkeling System
 - E. Demonstrate Instructor level water and rescue skills
 - F. Maintain current SSI Snorkel Instructor materials.
7. **Program Duration:** The recommended time for Snorkel Instructor training is 8 hours.
8. **Active Status:** Active Snorkel Instructors are required to maintain current professional liability insurance (if required in the local area) and current SSI Snorkel Instructor materials.

SNORKELING CENTER STANDARDS

1. Be a retail, recreational, educational, or resort center.
2. Provide a professional image and fun Club atmosphere.
3. Have an active status Snorkeling Instructor on staff to conduct snorkel events
4. Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization
5. Conduct an operation with a commitment to high quality
6. A Monitor should oversee Snorkeling Instructors using the Monitor Assessment Procedures or a Service Center' approved alternative program
7. Use official SSI training materials when teaching Snorkeling.

GENERAL FREEDIVING STANDARDS FOR ALL SSI FREEDIVING PROGRAMS

When training in cold water (below 10°C/50°F) the depth limits should be adjusted by 20%. Therefore the following depth limits are to be used for cold water:

- 10 meters/33 feet = 8 meters/26 feet in cold water
- 20 meters/66 feet = 16 meters/52 feet in cold water
- 30 meters/100 feet = 24 meters/80 feet in cold water
- 40 meters/130 feet = 32 meters/105 feet in cold water

It is highly recommended that students wear a Freediving Safety lanyard when:

- Freediving below 25 meters/82 feet of depth.
- When Freediving in visibility of less than 3 meters/9 feet.
- In situations when the natural bottom depth is substantially deeper than the bottom plate depth.
- Freediving Students are never to be left unattended in open water.

FREEDIVING BASIC (POOL) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Level 1 Instructor or higher may conduct the Freediving Basic program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Freediving certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Freediving participants are required to have as a minimum a Snorkeling System adequate for Freediving.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills covered during the Freediving Basic Program are those provided in the SSI Level 1 Freediving Instructor Manual and the Freediving student materials except the skills requiring depths.
- 4. Intent:** The SSI Freediving Basic course is intended to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to partake in the recreational sport of Freediving (Breath-hold diving) in a safe and enjoyable manner and achieve the following performance standard:
 - A.** Dynamic swimming for 30 meters.
 - B.** SWB Rescue, LMC Surface Rescue.
 - C.** Reference to Freediving Instructor manual for additional requirements.
- 5. In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the Freediving Basic Program. In-water training requires pool/confined water training. At least two pool/confined water session (maximum of 3hrs per session) must be conducted.
- 6. Sessions:** The number of classroom, pool/confined water and open water sessions are set by the individual Freediving Instructor provided the minimums are met.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended program hours for Freediving Basic are 6:10 hours based on student needs and ability.*
- 8. Prerequisites:** To enroll in the SSI Freediving Basic course, an individual must:
 - A.** Be 18 years of age or older (14 years with parent or guardian consent)
 - B.** Be able to swim at least 200m non-stop without fins or buoyancy device.
- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for Freediving Basic is:
 - A.** Confined water - 8:1 student to Instructor, (12:2 with an certified assistant)
 - B.** 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
- 10. Supervision:** During training students are to remain under the supervision of the Freediving Instructor.



FREEDIVING LEVEL 1 STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Level 1 Instructor or higher may conduct the Freediving Level 1 program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Freediving certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Freediving participants are required to have as a minimum a Snorkeling System adequate for Freediving.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills covered during the Freediving Level 1 Program are those provided in the SSI Freediving Level 1 Instructor Manual and the Freediving student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The SSI Freediving Level 1 program is intended to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to partake in the recreational sport of Freediving (Breath-hold diving) in a safe and enjoyable manner and achieve the following performance standard:
 - A.** Dynamic Swimming for 30 meters/33 yards.
 - B.** Constant Weight Dive to 10 meters/20 feet minimum, 20 meters/66 feet maximum.
 - C.** SWB Rescue from 10 meters/20 feet minimum, LMC Surface Rescue.
 - D.** Reference to Freediving Instructor manual for additional requirements.
- 5. In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the Freediving Level 1 program. In-water training requires both pool/confined water and open water training. At least two pool/confined water session and two open water sessions (maximum of 3 hrs. per session) must be conducted. In Freediving a large dimension pool, an aquarium or any other artificial body of water which provides the necessary depth limits also counts as open water training site.
- 6. Sessions:** The number of classroom, pool/confined water and open water sessions are set by the individual Freediving Instructor provided the minimums are met.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended program hours for Freediving Level 1 are 8:12 hours based on student needs and ability.*
- 8. Prerequisites:** To enroll in the SSI Freediving Level 1 program, an individual must:
 - A.** Be 18 years of age or older (14 years with parent or guardian consent)
 - B.** Be able to swim at least 200 meters/218 yards non-stop without fins or buoyancy device.
 - C.** Have completed the SSI Medical Form
 - D.** Have completed the SSI Liability Release (where applicable)
- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for Freediving Level 1 is:
 - A.** Confined water - 8:1 student to Instructor, (12:2 with an certified assistant)
 - B.** Open water - 6:1 student to Instructor (8:2 with a certified assistant).
 - C.** 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
- 10. Supervision:** During the open water, training students are to remain under the supervision of the Freediving Instructor.

FREEDIVING LEVEL 2 STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Level 2 Instructor or higher may conduct the Freediving Level 2 program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Freediving certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Freediving participants are required to have a Snorkeling System adequate for Freediving.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills covered during the Freediving Level 2 Program are those provided in the SSI Freediving Level 2 Instructor Manual and the Freediving Level 2 student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The SSI Freediving Level 2 program is intended to provide students the necessary skills and the knowledge to partake in the recreational sport of Freediving (Breath-hold diving) in a safe and enjoyable manner and achieve the following performance standard:
 - A.** Dynamic Swimming for 50 meters/55 yards
 - B.** Constant Weight Dive to 20 meters/66 feet minimum, 30 meters/98 feet maximum
 - C.** Static breath hold for 2:30 minutes minimum
 - D.** SWB Rescue from 15 meters/49 feet, LMC Surface Rescue.
 - E.** Reference to Freediving Instructor Manual for additional requirements
- 5. In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the Freediving Level 2 program. In Freediving a large dimension pool, an aquarium or any other artificial body of water which provides the necessary depth limits also counts as open water training site. In-water training requires both pool/confined water and open water training. At least two pool/confined water sessions and four open water sessions. (Maximum of 3hrs per session) must be conducted.
- 6. Sessions:** The number of classroom, pool/confined water and open water sessions are set by the individual Freediving Instructor provided the minimums are met.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended program hours for Freediving Level 2 are 20 to 30 hours based on student needs and ability.*
- 8. Prerequisites:** To enroll in the SSI Freediving Level 2 program, an individual must:
 - A.** Be 18 years of age or older (16 years with parent or guardian consent)
 - B.** Be able to swim at least 400 meters/437 yards non-stop without fins or buoyancy device.
 - C.** Have completed the SSI Freediving Level 1 program or equivalent and have logged a minimum of 15 Freediving Sessions in total
 - D.** Have completed the SSI Medical Form
 - E.** Have completed the SSI Liability Release (where applicable)
 - F.** Have completed a first aid course (CPR) prior to certification.
- 9. Ratio:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for Level 2 Freediving is:
 - A.** Confined water - 8:1 student to Instructor, (12:2 with an certified assistant)
 - B.** Open water - 5:1 student to Instructor (7:2 with a certified assistant).
 - C.** 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
- 10. Supervision:** During the open water training students are to remain under the supervision of the Freediving Instructor.



FREEDIVING LEVEL 3 STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Level 3 Instructor or higher may conduct the Freediving Level 3 program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Freediving certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Freediving participants are required to have the minimum Freediving equipment that is required in the SSI Freediving Instructor Training programs - As outlined in the Freediving Instructor Material.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills covered during the Freediving Level 3 Program are those provided in the SSI Freediving Level 3 Instructor Manual and the Freediving Level 3 student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The SSI Level 3 Freediving course is intended to provide students the necessary skills and the knowledge to partake in the recreational sport of Freediving (Breath-hold diving) in a safe and enjoyable manner and achieve the following performance standard:
 - A.** Dynamic swimming for 75 meters/82 yards
 - B.** Constant weight dive to 30 meters/98 feet minimum, 40 meters/131 feet maximum
 - C.** Static breath hold for 3.30 minutes minimum
 - D.** SWB Rescue from 20 meters/66 feet and Tow 25 meters/82 feet surface, LMC Surface Rescue.
 - E.** Reference to Freediving Instructor Manual for additional requirements.
- 5. In-Water Training:** In-water training is required for the Freediving Level 3 program. In Freediving a large dimension pool, an aquarium or any other artificial body of water which provides the necessary depth limits also counts as open water training site. In-water training requires both pool/confined water and open water training. At least two pool/confined water sessions and six open water sessions. (maximum of 3hrs per session) must be conducted.
- 6. Sessions:** The number of classroom, pool/confined water and open water sessions are set by the individual Freediving Instructor provided the minimums are met.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended program hours for Freediving Level 3 are 25 to 35 hours based on student needs and ability.*
- 8. Prerequisites:** To enroll in the SSI Freediving Level 3 program, an individual must:
 - A.** Be 18 years of age or older (16 years with parent or guardian consent)
 - B.** Be able to swim at least 400 meters/437 yards nonstop without fins or buoyancy device.
 - C.** Have completed the SSI Freediving Level 2 program or equivalent and have logged a minimum of 30 Freediving Sessions in total
 - D.** Have completed the SSI Medical Form
 - E.** Have completed the SSI Liability Release (where applicable)
 - F.** Have completed a first aid/CPR and an Oxygen first aid course prior to certification
- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor Ratio for Freediving Level 3 is:
 - A.** Confined water - 8:1 student to Instructor, (12:2 with an certified assistant)
 - B.** Open water - 4:1 student to Instructor (6:2 with an certified assistant)
 - C.** 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
- 10. Supervision:** During the open water training students are to remain under the supervision of the Freediving Instructor.

FREEDIVING LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Freediving Instructor Trainer may conduct the Freediving Instructor program. The Freediving Instructor Trainer is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** Freediving Instructor participants are required to have a Total Freediving System of leader type and quality as outlined in the SSI Freediving Instructor Manual.
3. **Content:** The content of the Freediving Instructor program is listed in the Freediving Instructor Manual.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Freediving Instructor program is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to conduct the SSI Freediving program in a safe and enjoyable manner.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Have a current medical exam for diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Be a current Dive Control Specialist or a higher level in scuba instruction and have satisfactorily completed the Freediving Level 2 Program

_____ **OR** _____

 - A. Have satisfactorily completed the Freediving Level 3 Program or equivalent
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid / CPR not older than 2 years.
 - B. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - C. Pass a watermanship-, skill- and rescue evaluation.
 - D. Display leadership behaviors and leadership skill level as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - E. Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - F. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - G. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - H. Work through an active SSI Freediving Center.
7. **Program Duration:** *The recommended time for Freediving Instructor is 50 hours.*
8. **Program Material:** Freediving Instructors are required to maintain their own current SSI training materials.
9. **Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor Ratio for open water training activities during the Freediving Instructor program is 8:1.

The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

 - A. 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
10. **Maximum Depth:** All open water Freediving training must be conducted at depths between 5 and 20 meters/16 and 66 feet.
11. **Qualifications:** After certification Freediving Instructors Level 1 may do the following:
 - A. Give Underwater tours to certified Freedivers Level 1
 - B. Teach and issue Snorkel Diver and Freediving Basic & Level 1 certifications
 - C. Attend an SSI Freediving Level 2 Instructor program

FREEDIVING LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Instructor Trainer may conduct the Freediving Instructor program. The Freediving Instructor Trainer is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Freediving Instructor participants are required to have a professional Freediving system as outlined in the SSI Freediving Instructor material.
- 3. Content:** The content of the Freediving Instructor Level 2 program is listed in the Freediving Instructor Manual.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Freediving Instructor Level 2 program is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to conduct the SSI Freediving program in a safe and enjoyable manner.
- 5. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 18 years old.
 - B.** Have a current medical exam for diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C.** Be a Freediving Instructor Level 1 or equivalent
 - D.** Have issued certifications for at least 25 Level 1 Freediving students.
- 6. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Maintain proof of current training in First Aid / CPR not older than 2 years.
 - B.** Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - C.** Pass a watermanship-, skill- and rescue evaluation.
 - D.** Display leadership behaviors and leadership skill level as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - E.** Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - F.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - G.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - H.** Work through an active SSI Freediving Center.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended time for Freediving Instructor is 16 hours.*
- 8. Program Material:** Freediving Instructors are required to maintain their own current SSI training materials.
- 9. Ratio:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Freediving Instructor program is 8:1.

The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

 - A.** 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** All open water Freediving training must be conducted at depths between 5 and 30 meters/16 and 98 feet.
- 11. Qualifications:** After certification Freediving Instructors Level 2 may do the following:
 - A.** Give Underwater tours to certified Freedivers Level 1 & 2
 - B.** Teach and issue up to Freediving Level 2 certifications
 - C.** Qualify as Freediving Specialty Instructors
 - D.** Attend an SSI Freediving Level 3 Instructor Program.

FREEDIVING LEVEL 3 INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Freediving Instructor Trainer may conduct the Freediving Instructor program. The Freediving Instructor Trainer is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** Freediving Instructor participants are required to have a professional Freediving system as outlined in the SSI Freediving Instructor material.
3. **Content:** The content of the Freediving Instructor Level 3 program is listed in the Freediving Instructor Manual.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Freediving Instructor program is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to conduct the SSI Freediving Level 3 program in a safe and enjoyable manner.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Have a current medical exam for diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Be a Freediving Level 2 Instructor or equivalent.
 - D. Have issued a combination of at least 50 Level 1 and Level 2 Freediving certifications.
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid / CPR not older than 2 years.
 - B. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - C. Pass a watermanship-, skill- and rescue evaluation.
 - D. Display leadership behaviors and leadership skill level as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - E. Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - F. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - G. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - H. Work through an active SSI Freediving Center.
7. **Program Duration:** *The recommended time for Freediving Instructor is 16 hours.*
8. **Program Material:** Freediving Instructors are required to maintain their own current SSI training materials.
9. **Ratio:** The student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Freediving Instructor program is 8:1.

The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

 - A. 2:1 ratio is not allowed.
10. **Maximum Depth:** All open water Freediving training must be conducted at depths between 5 and 40 meters/16 and 131 feet.
11. **Qualifications:** After certification Freediving Instructors Level 3 may do the following:
 - A. Give Underwater tours to certified Freedivers Level 1, 2 & 3
 - B. Teach and issue up to Freediving Level 3 certifications
 - C. Qualify as Freediving Specialty Instructors
 - D. Attend an SSI Freediving Instructor Trainer Program

FREEDIVING INSTRUCTOR TRAINER (FIT) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by appointment from SSI HQ (USA, Germany). The appointed International Training Director (ITD) is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the Instructor Trainer Seminar, candidates are required to own equipment befitting the Freediving Instructor Trainer rating, plus any other special equipment needed.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Trainer Seminar are those provided in the SSI Freediving Instructor Manual and the various SSI Freediving Materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 5. Prerequisites**
 - A.** Be at least 21 years old.
 - B.** Have a current medical exam for diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C.** Be certified as an active Freediving Instructor Level 3 or equivalent.
 - D.** Have issued a combination of at least 100 Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Freediving certifications.
 - E.** Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
 - F.** Submit a written application to SSI for approval.
- 6. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - B.** Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - C.** Display leadership behaviors as well as pass all requirements as listed in the program curriculum. These requirements include:
 - D.** Attend all sessions of an Instructor Trainer Seminar conducted by the SSI Service Center.
 - E.** Complete and pass watermanship and several skill evaluations.
 - F.** Complete and pass several Academic- and In-Water Presentations.
 - G.** Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - H.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - I.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - J.** Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Instructor Trainer program are 40 to 50. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.*
- 8. Program Material:** Freediving Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current SSI training materials for all programs they are qualified for. In addition Freediving Instructor Trainers need to possess samples of all key SSI products to serve as visual aids in their Freediving Instructor programs.
- 9. Qualifications:** Active Freediving Instructor Trainers may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all Freediving programs.
- 10. Maintaining Instructor Trainer Status:** Instructor Trainers are required to:
 - A.** Exclusively use the SSI Total Teaching System at all levels and issue only SSI Freediving certifications
 - B.** Exemplify the SSI philosophy and display competence in applying the SSI Business System.



- C.** Teach one complete Freediving Instructor Training Course (FITC) program every 24 months.

- D.** Instructor Trainers will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates do not fulfill the SSI quality standard because of non-performance of the Freediving Instructor Trainer, the Freediving Instructor Trainer can be required to re attend the next Freediving Instructor Trainer Seminar (FITS) or revert to the Freediving Instructor Level 3 rating.



FREEDIVING INSTRUCTOR CROSSOVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Freediving Instructor Trainer may conduct the Freediving Instructor Crossover program. The Trainer is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Freediving Crossover program are those provided in the various SSI Freediving materials.
- 3. Intent:** The intent of the Freediving Crossover program is to provide an orientation for the Freediving Instructor candidate to SSI Philosophies & Procedures, Training Standards, SSI Educational System and the skills required in the SSI Freediving training programs.
- 4. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 18 years old.
 - B.** Be an active Freediving Instructor or equivalent with a recognized training organization and have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months.

OR

 - C.** If the candidate has not been active for less than two years with a Freediving training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-Renewal, which states that no ethics actions or standards violations have been taken or are pending.
- 5. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Have a current medical examination for diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B.** Own a Total Freediving Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C.** Complete a watermanship and skills evaluation.
 - D.** Provide proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - E.** Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen not older than 2 years. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen. Display leadership attitude and leadership level demonstration skills in training and rescue.
- F.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
- G.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
- H.** Work through an active SSI Freediving Center.
- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Freediving Instructor Crossover program are 20 to 30.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Freediving Instructor Trainer, based on the candidate's needs, candidate's ability and water conditions.
- 7. Program Material:** SSI Freediving Instructors are required to maintain current SSI Freediving training materials.
- 8. Final Exam:** Freediving Instructor Crossover candidates must complete the Final Exams for the adequate Levels to pass the Freediving Instructor Crossover program.
- 9. Qualifications:** Active SSI Freediving Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs they will receive qualification for.

FREEDIVING CENTER STANDARDS

A Freediving Center is generally defined as a diving operation which generates its main income by equipment sales and freediving tuition.

Freediving Centers must meet the following standards:

- Have a retail business location in an area zoned for business and maintain an appropriate atmosphere for business
- Post and maintain established regular retail business hours that are convenient for customers
- Have a professional image in the following required areas; retail sales, rental department and service & repair department. Maintain a neat, clean and attractive facility with adequate amount of inventory appropriately displayed.
- Have rental and instructional equipment for use by students and divers that is fully functional and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's standards.
- Have all required governmental licenses and permits and comply with all labor and tax laws
- Conduct operation with a commitment to quality
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization
- Use the minimum Freediving System, as defined in the SSI training materials
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Service Center approved alternative program by requiring SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Freediving Center
- Institute an instructional program using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications to every student who complete SSI Freediving programs
- Ensure each student has their own SSI training materials and DiveLog. Whenever possible, home study kits are offered.
- Have a representative sample of the other SSI products, programs and services

FREEDIVING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CENTER STANDARDS

Freediving Instructor Training Centers must have met or exceeded all requirements for Freediving Centers plus:

- Have an active status SSI Freediving Instructor Trainer on staff.
- Maintain SSI as primary certification agency
- Issue only SSI certifications for leadership levels.
- Have and keep current all required training materials for SSI Freediving Instructor Training Programs
- Conduct at least one SSI Freediving Instructor Training Program every 24 months



Training & Dive Center Standards

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SCUBA RANGERS TRAINING & CENTER STANDARDS



Training & Dive Center Standards

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SCUBA RANGERS PROGRAM STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Scuba Rangers Instructor may conduct the Scuba Rangers program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Scuba Rangers.
- 2. Equipment:** Scuba Ranger participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See General Training Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Scuba Rangers Development program are those provided in the Scuba Rangers Teaching System.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Scuba Rangers Development program is to provide children the opportunity to explore the underwater world by learning how to use scuba equipment.
- 5. In-Water Training:** In-water diving time is required during the Scuba Rangers Development program. Scuba Rangers scuba dives may only be done in pool/confined water under controlled conditions.
- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Scuba Rangers Development program are 14 to 20. Time beyond this is up to the individual Instructor.
- 7. Age – Student:** The age which to begin the Scuba Rangers Development program is 8. Unless a waiver has been issued by SSI HQ absolute minimum age is 7.
It is recommended that individuals over the age of 10 be encouraged to enroll in a Junior Open Water Diver program.
- 8. Supervision:** Instructors may not engage in any activities other than skill development and supervision during the Scuba Rangers Development pool/confined water sessions. If other activities such as video or photography are conducted, another individual must conduct those activities.

SCUBA RANGERS - POOL PROGRAM

- 1. Ratio:** The maximum number of Scuba Rangers participants for pool activities is 6:1 per Instructor.
- 2. Maximum Depth:** During pool scuba diving activities, Scuba Rangers participants are not to exceed **4 meters/12 feet**.
- 3. Ratio for Scuba Diving Activities:** The maximum number of Scuba Rangers participants per Instructor is 2:1.



SCUBA RANGERS CONFINED WATER PROGRAM STANDARDS

- 1. Ratio:** The maximum number of Scuba Rangers participants for confined water activities is 4:1 per Instructor.
- 2. Maximum Depth:** During confined water scuba diving activities, Scuba Rangers participants are not to exceed **4 meters/12 feet**
- 3. Ratio for Scuba Diving Activities:** The maximum number of Scuba Rangers participants **per Instructor** is 2:1, for dives deeper than 2 meters/6 feet the ratio is 1:1.

SCUBA RANGERS RECOGNITION LEVELS STANDARDS

SPECIALTY (INTERMEDIATE) SCUBA RANGER

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for Intermediate Scuba Ranger the participant must complete the following:
 - A.** The Scuba Rangers Development Program
 - B.** 2 Scuba Rangers Specialties

SPECIALTY (ADVANCED) SCUBA RANGER

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for Advanced Scuba Ranger the participant must complete the following:
 - A.** The Scuba Rangers Development Program
 - B.** 4 Scuba Rangers Specialties

SPECIALTY (MASTER) SCUBA RANGER

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for Master Scuba Ranger the participant must complete the following:
 - A.** The Scuba Rangers Development Program
 - B.** 8 Scuba Rangers Specialties of which Rescue/ Safety must be one.

SCUBA RANGERS INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

- Instructor:** An active **Instructor Trainer** may conduct the Scuba Rangers program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Scuba Rangers.
- Prerequisites:**
 - Be an active **Dive Control Specialist or equivalent**
 - Purchase Scuba Rangers Instructor materials
- Training Requirements:**
 - Complete the Home study for Scuba Rangers Instructor Training or take a seminar with an active Instructor Trainer, who is a certified Scuba Rangers Instructor
 - Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
 - Maintain certification in First Aid/CPR and O2 administration certification for both children and adults.
- Active Status:** Scuba Rangers Instructors are required to maintain current professional liability insurance (where applicable) and current SSI Scuba Rangers Instructor materials.
- Background Check:** All Scuba Rangers Instructors are required to have a background check (where applicable and local law in the country of residence requires) conducted by any organization that is accredited for such purposes prior to obtaining credentials from SSI Service Centers.

SCUBA RANGERS CENTER STANDARDS

- Be a retail, recreational, educational, or resort center.
- Provide a professional image and fun atmosphere.
- Have access to a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air
- Have an active status Scuba Rangers Instructor on staff to conduct Scuba Rangers events
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with Scuba Rangers or any other training organization
- Conduct an operation with a commitment to high quality
- A Monitor must oversee Scuba Rangers Instructors using the Monitor Assessment Procedures or a Service Center' approved alternative program
- Use official Scuba Rangers training materials when teaching Scuba Rangers



Training & Dive Center Standards

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RECREATIONAL DIVING STANDARDS



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TRY SCUBA (POOL / CONFINED WATER) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Dive Control Specialist or higher may conduct the Try Scuba program in the pool and confined water.
- 2. Equipment:** Try Scuba participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See [General Training Standards](#), item 25.
- 3. In-Water Training:** Try Scuba is conducted in the pool to a maximum of 2 meters/6 feet and in confined water up to a maximum of 6 meters/20 feet. For junior divers (up to 14 years) the depth limit is 4 meters/13 feet and is an experience dive only. The Dive Professional should deal only with the participant's immediate concerns, such as equalizing pressure and not teach a diving certification program.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Try Scuba program is to provide non-divers with an opportunity to experience diving in an enjoyable manner.
- 5. Program Duration:** *There is no recommended time for Try Scuba.*
- 6. Minimum Age:** The minimum age is 8 years for pool and 10 years for confined water.
- 7. Ratio:** The participant to Dive Professional ratio in the pool is 4:1, if the participant is under the age of 12 the ratio is reduced to 2:1. The participant to Dive Professional ratio in confined water 2:1, if the participant is under the age of 12 the ratio is reduced to 1:1. The Dive Professional is to decrease these ratios whenever conditions require.
- 8. Physical Distance:** During confined water dives, the participants are to remain under the direct supervision of the Dive Professional so that direct contact can be made at any time.
- 9. Supervision:** The Dive Professional may not engage in any activities other than supervision during the confined water dives for Try Scuba. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate Dive Professional is to be used for the video or photography activities

Confined water is defined as pool like conditions and controllable surroundings.



TRY SCUBA DIVING STANDARDS (OPEN WATER)

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Try Scuba Diving program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Try Scuba Diving.
- 2. Equipment:** Try Scuba Diving participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See General Training Standards, item 25.
- 3. In-Water Training:** Try Scuba Diving is conducted in pool/confined water and the open water environment. The Instructor should only deal with the knowledge and skills outlined in the Try Scuba Instructor Manual and Flip Chart.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Try Scuba Diving program is to provide non-divers with a few of the required skills needed to experience an enjoyable open water dive.
- 5. Program Duration:** *There is no recommended time for Try Scuba Diving.*
- 6. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for Try Scuba Diving is 10 years of age.
- 7. Ratio:** The participant to Instructor ratio for open water dives is 4:1. If the group is composed of one or more juniors under the age of 12, then the ratio is decreased to 2:1. Assistants may be used however, ratio must remain the same. The Instructor is to decrease these ratios whenever conditions require.
- 8. Maximum Depth:** The maximum depth of the dives for participants over the age of 12 is 12 meters/40 feet. The maximum depth of the dives for participants 10 and 11 years of age is 6 meters/20 feet.
- 9. Dives:** A minimum of one open water dive is required for the Try Scuba Diving program.
- 10. Physical Distance:** During open water dives, the participants are to remain under the direct supervision of the Instructor so that direct contact can be made at any time.
- 11. Supervision:** The Instructor may not engage in any activities other than supervision during the open water dives for Try Scuba Diving. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate Dive Professional is to be used for the video or photography activities.
- 12. Credits:** Enroll in a Scuba Diver or Open Water Diver program and have the Try Scuba Diving open water dive count toward certification. Credit only applies when done within 6 months of completing the Try Scuba Diving program.

INDOOR DIVER / JUNIOR INDOOR DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Indoor Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Indoor Diver.

The only exception is in Indoor Dive number 4, when navigation training is being conducted. The Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision.

- 2. Equipment:** Indoor Diver participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See [General Training Standards, item 25](#).
- 3. Content:** The content of the Indoor Diver program is exactly the same as the Open Water Diver program. The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Indoor Diver program, including the Junior Indoor Diver, are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor Manual and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The Indoor Diver Program was founded for Dive Centers with large indoor deep pools, aquariums or other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions. Indoor Diver/Junior Indoor Diver is to allow divers taught in these conditions to continue to dive under similar conditions after certification.
- 5. Training Sites:** Training in these pools, aquariums or other artificial bodies of water must contain a shallow training area in order to teach the pool sessions as described in the Open Water Instructor Manual. Additionally, there must be a Deep Water area deeper than 5 meter in order to perform the exercises for the simulated open water sessions as described in the Open Water Instructor Manual (adequate depth). To qualify, the minimum water surface must be 100 square meters.
- 6. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Indoor Diver program is 15 years old. The minimum age for participation in Junior Indoor Diver program is 10 years old.

It is recommended that individuals under 15 years of age take the program with an adult family member.

- 7. Prerequisites:** Students in the Indoor Diver program are to demonstrate effective watermanship skills that include a 180 meter / 195-yard swim or a 275 meter / 300-yard swim using a Snorkeling System and a 10-minute survival float without the use of any aids.

- 8. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Indoor Diver program are 16 to 32.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

- 9. Risk Awareness:** Each Indoor Diver student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness video part 1 prior to any water training and the SSI Risk Awareness video part 2, prior to any deep water training (if allowed by local regulations and if available in a language the student understands).

- 10. Number of Dives:** The Indoor Diver program requires a minimum of 4 scuba training dives deeper than **5 meters/15 feet**. No more than 3 training dives may be conducted per day for Indoor Diver certification, the total accumulated dive time, for the 4 training dives, must be a minimum of 80 minutes.

Snorkel skills are required but may be combined with training dives. Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive may complete those skills on a subsequent dive. Additional dives are encouraged.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per dive.

- 11. Maximum Depth:** The first two training dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 12 meters/15 and 40 feet**. The remaining training dives may be conducted at depths as great as 18 meters/60 feet.

Junior indoor Diver - 12 meters/40 feet - for 10-12 year olds

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 12-14) do not exceed more than 12 meters/40 feet depth. If dives to maximum 18 meters/60feet are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.



12. Training Conditions: All training dives must be conducted under natural or artificial light and allow direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in artificial wrecks, caverns, caves or any other obstacles.

13. Ratio: The maximum number of students for training is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with 2 Certified Assistants. The Instructor is to decrease these ratios whenever conditions require. **If one or more Junior Divers up to 12 years of age take part in the program, the ratio is to be decrease to 2:1.** Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor.

The only exception is in training dive number 4, when navigation is being conducted. The Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision.

14. Use of Certified Assistants: Following satisfactory performance of skills evaluation during the second or subsequent training dives, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor.

The maximum number of students per Certified Assistant can escort is 2.

15. Certification: Following satisfactory completion of the 4 required training dives, including the combined snorkeling skills, the students must receive their Indoor Diver certification. Indoor Diver certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy in pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water within the following limitations:

Junior Indoor Divers at the age of 10 and 11 years old, are allowed to dive up to depths of 12 meters/40 feet with a certified parent (Ratio 1:1) or Dive Professional (Ratio 2:1).

Junior Indoor Divers, at the age from 12 to 14 years old, are allowed to dive up to depths of 18 meters/60 feet with a certified adult (Ratio 2:1) or Dive Professional (Ratio 2:1)

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. *If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.*

16. Validity: Students are required to complete their Indoor Diver Program within 6 months.

17. Final Exam: Each student receiving an Indoor Diver certification must pass the Open Water Diver Final Exam with a minimum score of 80%.

18. Specialty Training: Indoor Divers may enroll in the following Specialty Training in pools, aquariums or any other artificial bodies of water with pool like conditions.

All Specialty C-Cards will be marked with "Indoor Diver" on the backside:

- A. Perfect Buoyancy
- B. Equipment & Techniques
- C. Digital Underwater Photography
- D. Shark Diver (in Aquariums)

Indoor Divers can have specialty training count towards Continuing Education certification requirements provided that the open water dives have been completed and the Indoor Diver has upgraded to full Open Water Diver status.

19. Upgrade: When upgrading to Open Water Diver:

- A. Provide proof of Indoor Diver certification

AND

- B. Complete all skills and training dives required for Open Water Diver certification with an active Open Water Instructor or higher. All skill evaluations can be performed in one or more of the required dives.

It is recommended that Junior Indoor Divers take the upgrade with an adult family member.

SCUBA DIVER / JUNIOR SCUBA DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Scuba Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Scuba Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** Scuba Diver participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See General Training Standards, item 24.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Scuba Diver Program are those provided by the SSI Open Water Instructor Manual (Academic 1-3, Pool 1-3 & Open Water dives 1-2 plus Snorkeling Skills) and the SSI Open Water Diver student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Scuba Diver Program is to provide non-divers with the training necessary to dive under the direct supervision of an active SSI Open Water Instructor or higher.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Scuba Diver program is 15 years old. The minimum age for participation in the Junior Scuba Diver program is 10 years old.

It is recommended that individuals under 15 years of age take the program with an adult family member.
- 6. Prerequisites:** Students in the Scuba Diver program are to demonstrate effective watermanship skills that include a **180 meter / 195 yard swim or a 275 meter / 300 yard snorkel swim** using a Total Snorkeling System and a 10-minute survival float without the use of any aids.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Scuba Diver program are 8:16.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Risk Awareness:** Each student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness DVD part 1 prior to any in-water training and the SSI Risk Awareness DVD part 2 prior to any open water training (if applicable by law in the country of residence).
- 9. Training Requirements:** The Scuba Diver Program requires a minimum of 2 open water scuba training dives and snorkeling skills.

Snorkel skills are required, but may be combined with open water scuba training dives. Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills on a subsequent dive. Additional open water dives are encouraged.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** Both open water scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 12 meters/15 and 40 feet**.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of students for open-water training dives is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants. **If one junior diver is participating then the ratio is reduced to 4:1, if two Junior Divers are participating, the ratio is further decrease to 2:1.**

Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor. The SSI Instructor is to decrease these ratios whenever conditions require.
- 13. Supervision:** During any open water scuba training dives, Instructors shall not engage in any activities other than supervision. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate certified Assistant is to be used for those activities. The additional Dive Professional may not be counted toward the participant-to-Instructor ratios.



Training & Dive Center Standards

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- 14. Use of Certified Assistants:** Following satisfactory performance of the skills evaluation during the second open water scuba training dive, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor. The maximum number of students a Certified Assistant can escort is 2.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Scuba Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Certification:** Certified Scuba Divers may dive in open water under the direct supervision of an active Dive Guide or higher at a maximum ratio of 4:1 to a maximum depth of 12 meters/40 feet. **Junior Divers have the following limitations:**
 - A. Junior Scuba Divers (ages 10-14) are limited to dive depths of 12 meters/40 feet with a Dive Professional at a ratio of 2:1.**

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.
- 17. Credits:** Enroll in an Open Water Diver program and have all Scuba Diver training count toward certification.

OPEN WATER DIVER / JUNIOR OPEN WATER DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Open Water Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Open Water Diver.

The only exception is in open water scuba dive number 4, when navigation training is being conducted. The Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision.

- 2. Equipment:** Open Water Diver participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs. See [General Training Standards, item 25](#).
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Open Water Diver program are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor Manual and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Open Water Diver program is to provide non-divers with the training necessary to dive autonomously with an equally qualified buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Open Water Diver program is 15 years old. The minimum age for participation in the Junior Open Water Diver program is 10 years old.

It is recommended that individuals under 15 years of age take the program with an adult family member.

- 6. Prerequisites:** Students in the Open Water Diver program are to demonstrate effective watermanship skills that include a 180 meter / 195 yard swim or a 275 meter / 300 yard snorkel swim using a Total Snorkeling System and a 10 minute survival float without the use of any aids.
- 7. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Open Water Diver program are 16 to 32. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.*

- 8. Risk Awareness:** Each student is to view the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 1 prior to any in-water training and the SSI Risk Awareness Video part 2 prior to any open water training (if applicable by law in the country of residence).

- 9. Training Requirements:** The Open Water Diver program requires a minimum of 4 open water scuba training dives and snorkeling skills. No more than 3 open water scuba training dives may be conducted in a day. The total accumulated dive time of the 4 open water **scuba training** dives, prior to certification, must be a minimum of 80 minutes.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.

- 10. Sequence:** Open water scuba training dives 1 and 2 may only be conducted after all academic and pool requirements for Sections 1 through 3 have been met or exceeded.

Open water scuba training dives 3 and 4 may only be conducted after all academic and pool requirements for Sections 4 through 6 have been met or exceeded.

Snorkel skills are required but may be combined with open water scuba training dives. If a student does not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills on a subsequent dive. Additional open water dives are encouraged.

- 11. Maximum Depth:** The first two **open water** dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 12 meters/15 and 40 feet**. The remaining training dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 18 meters/15 and 60 feet**. The maximum depth for 10 – 11 year olds during training dives is **12 meters/40 feet**.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 12-14) do not exceed more than 12 meters/40 feet depth. If dives are conducted to 18 meters/60feet then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.



12. Training Conditions: All open water dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice.

13. Ratio: The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants.

If one junior diver is participating then the ratio is reduced to 4:1, if two Junior Divers are participating, the ratio is further decrease to 2:1.

Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

14. Use of Certified Assistants: Following satisfactory performance of the skills evaluation for the second or subsequent open water scuba training dives, an active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during underwater tours, with indirect supervision by the Instructor. The maximum number of students a Certified Assistant can escort is 2.

15. Training without Pool: If the entire Open Water Diver program is conducted in confined water, the pool sessions may not be counted as open water scuba training dives and may not be combined for certification.

16. Final Exam: Each student receiving an Open Water Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.

17. Certification: Open Water Diver entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy.

Junior Divers have the following limitations:

A. Junior Open Water Divers under the age of 12 years old are allowed to dive up to depths of 12 meters/40 feet with a certified parent at a ratio of 1:1 or with a Dive Professional at a ratio of 2:1.

B. Junior Open Water Divers from the age of 12 years old are allowed to dive up to depths of 18 meters/60 feet with a certified adult at a ratio of 1:1 or with a Dive Professional at a ratio 2:1.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.

18. Upgrade: At the age of 15 Junior Open Water Divers are eligible to upgrade their rating to Open Water Diver if it is done within 12 months of completing a Junior Open Water Diver program, a skills evaluation is not required to upgrade. If the last program was done more than 12 months ago, then a scuba skills update is required.

At any time, the Instructor has to make sure that the student is mastering all necessary skills and knowledge.

19. Credits: If an additional open water training dive(s) is performed, the dive(s) may be credited towards Specialty training, provided all academic and pool/confined water requirements, for the specific Specialty program, are completed. Open water dive credit only applies if done within 6 months of completing the Open Water Diver program.

OPEN WATER DIVER/ JUNIOR OPEN WATER DIVER WITH DISABILITIES STANDARDS (RESTRICTED 01)

The Training Standards for the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 01) program are the same as the Open Water Diver program. A Restricted Diver 01 would be someone with both legs amputated or an arm and a leg or a paraplegic.

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with the Adaptive Diver Instructor Certification may conduct the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 01) program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Open Water Diver with Disabilities Restricted 01.
- 2. Equipment:** Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 01) participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs (where applicable). See General Training Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 01) program are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor and Adaptive Diver Instructor Manuals and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 01) program is to provide physically impaired non-divers (e.g., amputees) with the training necessary to dive with 2 physically unimpaired qualified buddies that are not restricted in any way. The Restricted 01 diver is capable of functioning independently as a diver, but this diver is not capable of rescuing others.
- 5. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water Divers with Disabilities (Restricted 01) for open water training is 1:1. The ratio may increase to 2 to 2 with a Certified Assistant or 3 to 3 with two Certified Assistants. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
- 6. Medical Form:** All Open Water Divers with disabilities must maintain a current medical history for diving.

OPEN WATER DIVER/ JUNIOR OPEN WATER DIVER WITH DISABILITIES STANDARDS (RESTRICTED 02)

The Training Standards for the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02) program are the same as the Open Water Diver program. A Restricted Diver 02 is a quadriplegic or a person with a neurological disorder.

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with the Adaptive Diver Instructor Certification may conduct the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02) program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02).
- 2. Equipment:** Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02) participants are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI Programs (where applicable). See General Training Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02) program are those provided in the SSI Open Water Instructor and Adaptive Diver Instructor Manuals and the SSI Open Water Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Open Water Diver with Disabilities (Restricted 02) program is to provide a more physically impaired non-divers with the training necessary to dive with the dependence of an Adaptive Instructor and 2 additional Adaptive Trained dive buddies or 3 Adaptive trained dive buddies with Diver Stress & Rescue Certification.
- 5. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water Divers with Disabilities (Restricted 02) for open water training is 1:1.
- 6. Medical Form:** All Open Water Divers with disabilities must maintain a current medical history for diving.

SSI OPEN WATER DIVER REFERRAL STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the SSI Open Water Diver Referral. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Open Water Diver.

The only exception during open water scuba dive number four, when navigation training is being conducted. The Instructor may choose to conduct these skills under indirect supervision

2. **Equipment:** During all open water dives, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in a Student Diver Referral are those provided in the Open Water Diver Instructor Manual and Open Water Diver student materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of this Standard is to provide an effective and enjoyable way for students in an SSI Open Water program to complete their open water scuba training dives with a Referral Instructor other than the SSI Instructor providing the initial academic and pool training.
5. **Referring:** The Initiating SSI Instructor is to complete, and then review with the student, the student's SSI DiveLog and the Sign-Off Page of the SSI Diver Training Record. All academic and pool sign-offs are to be done with the appropriate Instructor and student initials and signatures. If part of the Open Water training has been completed, this is to be recorded in a like manner.
6. **Time period:** The student is eligible for referral training for 6 months from the date of completion of the academics and pool. A Referral Form may be issued at anytime during the period of eligibility.

If it has been more than 6 months, the Dive Center/Instructor will need to conduct a Scuba Skills Update to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills required to proceed with the Open water scuba training dives, or if a complete program of retraining is required.

If it has been more than 12 months after the students completed their academic/pool/confined water training, they must repeat a complete program.

7. **Requirements:** Each student being referred to a Referral Location for completion of the open water training dives is to be provided the following paperwork:
 - A. Referral Form with the appropriate parts completed by the Initiating Instructor who conducted parts or the entire academics and pool training.
 - B. Copy of the completed current medical history questionnaire and a copy of a medical signed by a physician, if required.
 - C. If appropriate, completed academic and pool log pages in student's DiveLog.
8. **Risk Agreement:** The Referral Instructor is to complete a Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement for each student.
9. **Attention:** Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world. Example: In the European Union the Waiver of Release is not valid, and the student should be not forced to sign it.
10. **After Open Water Training:** Upon completion of the open water scuba training dives, the Referral Instructor is to complete and sign the SSI Referral Form and complete the Open Water Training page in the student's DiveLog.
11. **Certification:** The student is to take the original Referral Form back to the Initiating Dive Center to have the certification card issued. As an exception the certification may be issued by the Referral Dive Center, if this has been prearranged between participating Dive Centers/Dive Resorts.
12. **Referral Form:** A copy of the Referral Form is to be retained by the Dive Center/Dive Resort conducting the open water scuba training dives.
13. **ODiN Referral:** If using the online referral program found within the ODiN system, then all documents will be processed electronically.

SCUBA SKILLS UPDATE STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Dive Control Specialist or higher may conduct the Scuba Skills Update. The Dive Professional is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for the Scuba Skills Update.
2. **Equipment:** During the Scuba Skills Update, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs. See [General Standards, item 25](#).
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Scuba Skills Update program, including the Junior Scuba Skills Update program, are those provided in the SSI Scuba Skills Update Instructor Manual and the SSI Scuba Skills Update diver materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Scuba Skills Update program is to provide the following:
 - A. Certified divers with a safe and enjoyable way to update their skills.
 - B. A refresher for inactive divers (see Point 10)
 - C. Resorts with an easy way to update divers
 - D. Non-certified divers with a way to get ready for their open water scuba training dives if their last academic/pool session was more than 6 months ago but less than 12 months.
5. **Prerequisites:** Any certified diver irrespective of agency is eligible for the Scuba Skills Update program.
6. **Training Requirements:** Water work is required, but this may be done in pool/confined water or open water.
7. **Ratio:** The participant to Dive Professional ratio for open water diving activities is 8:1. For Junior Open Water Divers the ratio is 4:1.
8. **Academic Session:** A review of diving knowledge is required prior to in-water work. Diving knowledge review may be done with the use of PEGs, DVDs, lecture/discussion, written tests or any combination thereof.
9. **Non-certified Divers:** When non-certified divers do the Scuba Skills Update Program, it must be conducted by an active Open Water Instructor or higher.
10. **Lost Certification Card:** Individuals may be counted as inactive divers if they have not been diving for 5 years or longer. Inactive divers have to enroll in a Scuba Skills Update program in order to be eligible for replacing a lost certification card.

EXPERIENCED DIVER TESTING STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Experienced Diver Testing. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for the Experience Diver Testing.
2. **Equipment:** During the Experienced Diver Testing students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs. See General Standards item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in an Experienced Diver program are those provided in the Open Water Diver Instructor Manual and Open Water Diver student materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Experienced Diver Testing Standards is to provide an effective and enjoyable way for knowledgeable divers to become qualified as SSI Open Water Divers.

Experienced divers may have any of the following:

- A. Certificates from other diver training organizations.
 - B. Training in military, commercial or scientific diving.
 - C. Been diving for years with little or no training and no certification.
5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Experienced Open Water Diver program is 15 years old.
 6. **Training Requirements:** Divers certified by another training organization and requesting an equivalent SSI rating must provide proof of certification.

7. **Prerequisites:** To be eligible for the Experienced Diver Test divers are to:

- A. Provide a signed statement listing all training and experience in snorkel and scuba diving.
- B. If not certified by another recreational training agency, Experienced Divers must provide proof they have a total of prior experience and training of at least 50 hours.
- C. If no written statements are available, the diver must meet all Open Water Diver Skills in confined water. The skill demonstration can be made by the Instructor.

If this requirement has not been met, divers should take a complete Open Water Diver program.

8. **Standards:** All Open Water Diver Training Standards apply to the Experienced Diver Test. These Standards are to be reviewed before conducting the Experienced Diver Test to be sure that all requirements are met.
9. **Testing:** The Experienced Diver Test consists of the following:
 - A. Passing the Open Water Diver Final Exam.
 - B. Completing a minimum of one pool/confined water session including satisfactory performance of all open water skills required for Open Water Diver Certification.
 - C. Completing a minimum of two open water scuba training dives including satisfactory performance of all open water skills with the combination of snorkel skills.
10. **Certification:** When Testing Standards have been met, Open Water Diver certification may be issued.

Experienced Diver Test may be done separately or integrated into an ongoing program.

11. **Lost Certification Card:** Individuals who have lost their certification cards, but cannot be verified by the SSI database, must enroll in an Experienced Diver Test program in order to be eligible for replacing the lost certification card.

ADVANCED ADVENTURER / JUNIOR ADVANCED ADVENTURER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor with experience in the following areas: Navigation, Night/LV, Deep Diving, Boat Diving and Wreck Diving or higher may conduct the Advanced Adventurer program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for the Advanced Adventurer program. Equipment: During the Advanced Adventurer program, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for Specialty diving. *See General Standards, item 25.*
2. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Advanced Adventurer Program are those provided by the SSI Advanced Adventurer Instructor Manual and/or the appropriate SSI Specialty Program student materials.
3. **Intent:** The intent of the Advanced Adventurer program (not to be confused with the Advanced Open Water Diver rating) is to provide Open Water Divers an introduction into 5 different SSI Specialty Programs under the direct supervision of an active SSI Instructor. Program Duration: This program is designed to be completely focused on practical diving skills. The total number of hours is set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
4. **Minimum Age:** Minimum age for participation in the Advanced Adventurer program is 15 years old. The minimum age for participation in the Junior Advanced Adventurer program is 12 years old. Junior divers may not participate in dives deeper than **18 meters/60 feet**, and neither the adult or junior diver may participate in dives with overhead environments.

It is recommended that Junior Advanced Adventurers take the program with an adult family member.
5. **Ratio:** The maximum number of students for open water training is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor.
6. **Training Requirements:** Receiving the Advanced Adventurer card requires 5 open water specialty dives. The number of specialty dives above 5 is left to the Instructor's discretion based on the student needs, ability and water conditions.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 10-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.
7. **Maximum Depth:** All open water specialty dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 30 meters/15 and 100 feet**.

When a Deep Dive is performed in the program Junior Advanced Adventurer, divers ages 12-14 are limited to - 18 meters/60 feet
8. **Dives:** Each of the 5 dives requires a dive briefing and a dive from the specific Specialty program. Students should be encouraged to complete each Specialty program.
9. **Credits:** Students can get credit for the dives completed in their Advanced Adventurer program towards their Specialty programs, provided the Instructor signed each logged dive.
10. **Supervision:** During any open water scuba training dives, Instructors shall not engage in any activities other than supervision. If other activities, such as video or photography are conducted, then a separate certified Assistant is to be used for those activities. The additional Dive Professional may not be counted toward the participant-to-Instructor ratios.
11. **Use of Certified Assistants:** An active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during the dives except Deep Dives. The Instructor has the responsibility of indirect supervision during the program. The maximum number of students a Certified Assistant can escort is 2.
12. **Upgrade:** When Junior Advanced Adventurers become 15 years old, he/she is eligible to upgrade to Advanced Adventurer certification. At the Dive Centers / Instructor's discretion, a skills evaluation may be required.

ENRICHED AIR NITROX DIVER / JUNIOR ENRICHED AIR NITROX DIVER SPECIALTY STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor qualification may conduct the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During Enriched Air Nitrox training, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for Specialty diving. See General Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty program are those provided in the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty Instructor Manual and Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty student materials. **For certification as Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Level 1 (EAN32 only) Session 1-3 of the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Program must be conducted.**
- 4. Intent:** The Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty program is designed to introduce and familiarize students with the benefits and diving procedures to use Nitrox as a breathing gas.
- 5. Minimum Age:** Minimum age for participation in an Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program is 15 years old.

The minimum age for participation in the Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program is 12 years old.

Divers ages 10 and 11 are not eligible for Enriched Air Nitrox specialty training.
- 6. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty Programs, including Dives, are 3 to 6.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

7. Prerequisites:

- A. Option 1:** In order to enroll in the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty program the diver must have an Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency.
- B. Option 2:** The Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Specialty program may be taught in combination with a current Open Water Diver program.

- 8. Training Conditions:** For Specialty training the number of Specialty training dives is left to the Instructor's discretion based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills on a subsequent dive.

- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving programs is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants.

The maximum number of students for open water training when Junior Enriched Air Diver students are participating is 6 students to 1 Instructor, or 8:2 when using a Certified Assistant.

Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

- 10. Maximum Depth:** All open water specialty dives must be conducted at actual depths between **5 and 30 meters/15 and 100 feet.**

Junior EAN divers ages 12-14 are limited to - 18 meters/60 feet

A maximum PO₂ of 1.4 ATA/bar (1.4) must not be exceeded.



11. Specialty / Recognition Ratings: Enriched Air Nitrox Diver may be taught as a non-diving specialty. The Enriched Air Nitrox Program can be counted for Specialty Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver or Master Diver ratings and is eligible for the FREE system generated cards even without the dives conducted.

12. Final Exam: Each student receiving an Enriched Air Nitrox certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.

13. Qualification (1): The program may be taught in 2 parts – EAN 32% (sections 1-3 of student manual) or the complete program of EAN 40%.

Certified Enriched Air Nitrox Divers 32% may:

A. Dive in open water up to EAN 32% based on AIR dive planning or computer settings not to exceed 30 meters/100 feet dive depth and 60 minutes total dive time.

14. Qualification (2): Certified Enriched Air Nitrox Divers 40% may:

A. Dive in open water with up to EAN 40%. Based on the specific EAN mix, dive planning or EAN computer settings are not to exceed the breathing gas MOD (maximum operating depth) and CNS exposure time (PO2 bottom time.)

DIVER STRESS & RESCUE SPECIALTY STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Open Water Instructor or higher with Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor qualification may conduct the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for Specialty diving. See **General Standards, item 25**.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty programs are those provided in the SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty Instructor Manual and Diver Stress & Rescue student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty program is designed to recognize, handle and prevent stress issues.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in a Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty program is 15 years old.
- 6. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty program are 10 to 15.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 7. Prerequisites:** In order to enroll in the Diver Stress & Rescue Specialty program, the diver must have an Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency.
- 8. Training Requirements:** The number of required open water scuba training dives for Diver Stress & Rescue is 3. The number of training dives over 3 is left at the Instructor's discretion, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills on a subsequent dive.
- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving programs is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants.

The Instructor is to decrease the student to Instructor ratio whenever conditions require.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** All open water specialty dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 30 meters/15 and 100 feet.
- 11. Final Exam:** Each student receiving Diver Stress & Rescue certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.

Each student receiving Diver Stress & Rescue certification must have current training in First Aid/CPR and Oxygen Provider.

SPECIALTY PROGRAM / JUNIOR SPECIALTY PROGRAM STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** Active Training Specialists or higher may conduct Specialty training they are certified to teach. The Training Specialist or higher is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** During Specialty Programs, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for Specialty diving. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Specialty Diving programs are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty student materials.
4. **Intent:** The Specialty programs are designed to introduce and familiarize students with the various diving activities and provide limited experience in those areas. The Specialty programs that are available and supported by Specialty Instructor and student materials include the following:
 - A. Boat Diving
 - B. Deep Diving
 - C. Dry Suit Diving
 - D. Equipment Techniques*
 - E. Night/Limited Visibility Diving
 - F. Navigation
 - G. Search & Recovery
 - H. Digital Underwater Photography**
 - I. Wreck Diving
 - J. Science of Diving*

The Specialty programs that are available and supported by Specialty Instructor Manuals and PEGs only include:

- A. Altitude Diving
- B. Ice Diving
- C. Waves, Tides & Currents
- D. Perfect Buoyancy**
- E. Shark Diving
- F. Recreational Side mount Diving
- G. River Diving
- H. Computer Diving

*Non-Diving Specialty Programs

**Pool Only Specialty Programs

The Specialty programs of **Science of Diving**, Deep Diving, Cavern Diving, Ice Diving and Wreck Diving are NOT available to Junior Divers.

5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in a Specialty program is 15 years old.

The minimum age for participation in a Junior Specialty program is 12 years old.

It is recommended that children of age take the Junior Specialty program with an adult family member.

Divers ages 10 and 11 are not eligible for any specialty training.

6. **Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for each Specialty program will vary.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

7. **Prerequisites:** In order to enroll in a Specialty program, the diver must have an Open Water Diver or Junior Open Water Diver certification or the equivalent from another certification agency.

- 8. Training Requirements:** For Specialty training, the number of Specialty training dives are left to the Instructor's discretion, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

SSI strongly recommends that Junior Divers (ages 12-14) do not exceed more than 2 dives per day. If 3 dives are conducted then the time for each dive must not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes per open water dive.

Students who do not successfully complete all skills during a dive they may complete those skills on a subsequent dive.

- 9. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Specialty Diving programs except Deep Diving is 8:1. The ratio may increase to 10:2 with a Certified Assistant or 12:3 with two Certified Assistants. The maximum number of students for open water training when Junior Students are participating is 6 students to 1 Instructor, or 8:2 when using a Certified Assistant.

- 10. Ratio Deep Diving:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for Deep Diving open water training activities is 4:1. The ratio may increase to 6 to 2 with a Certified Assistant. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added to the responsibility of the individual certified Instructor. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.

- 11. Training Depth:** All open water specialty dives must be conducted at depths between **5 and 40 meters/15 and 130 feet**. Junior specialty divers ages 12-14 are limited to - 18 meters/60 feet.

- 12. Depth Ranges Deep Diving:** Suggested Depth Ranges for all Deep Dives are listed in the Deep Diving Instructor Materials. All deep specialty dives must be conducted at depths between **18 and 40 meters/60 and 130 feet**.

- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** An active Instructor has the option to delegate responsibility for direct supervision to a Certified Assistant for the purpose of escorting students during all the dives except Deep Dives. The Instructor has the responsibility of indirect supervision during the program. The maximum number of students a Certified Assistant can escort is 2.

- 14. Credits:** Each Specialty program, in order to qualify towards Specialty, Advanced Open Water or Master Diver Ratings, is to include at least two open water specialty training dives. Non-diving Specialty may not count towards Specialty, Advanced Open Water or Master Diver ratings, if no dives were conducted for certification.

- 15. Experience Credit:** A certified diver may participate in Specialty dives. If specialty dives are logged, verified and signed by a Dive Professional of any recognized agency, the diver may receive credit towards Specialty programs, provided that all academic and pool/confined water requirements for the specific Specialty program are completed.

All Specialty programs except the ones listed below apply to this standard.

- A. Deep Diving
- B. Dry Suit Diving
- C. Search & Recovery
- D. Ice Diving

- 16. Combination of Specialty Programs:** The following Specialty programs can be combined provided that all academic and pool/confined water requirements for the specific Specialty programs are completed.

- A. Altitude Diving
- B. Boat Diving
- C. Dry Suit Diving
- D. Enriched Air Nitrox
- E. Equipment Techniques
- F. Navigation
- G. Night/Limited Visibility Diving
- H. Perfect Buoyancy
- I. Shark Diving
- J. Recreational Side mount Diving
- K. River Diving
- L. Ice Diving
- M. Deep Diving



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Open water specialty training dives may be combined so that the total minimum numbers of required dives are as follows:

Number of Specialties Combined	Total Number of Dives Required
2	3
3	5
4	6

- 17. Final Exam:** Each student receiving Specialty certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 18. Qualification:** Junior Open Water Divers, 12 to 14 years old are allowed to dive up to 18 meters/60 feet with a certified adult or Dive Professional.
- 19. Unique Specialties:** Other Specialty programs, than those provided by SSI, can be applied for by sending an Instructor Manual to SSI. After approval of the Unique Program, it will be matched up to existing specialties or it will be considered a recognition program, qualification is issued to the Dive Center/Instructor as an official SSI Unique Program. The intellectual property of this Unique Program will become the sole property of SSI and may be redistributed.

SPECIALTY DIVER / JUNIOR SPECIALTY DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered for the Specialty Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty student materials.
- 2. Requirements:** In order to receive a Specialty Diver rating or Junior Specialty Diver rating students are to successfully complete any 2 Specialty programs and log a total of at least 12 open water dives for certification. Only 1 Unique Specialty program may be applied towards the Specialty Diver rating.
- 3. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for receiving a Specialty Diver rating is 15 years old.
- 4. Standards:** All Training Standards for Specialty programs, including provisions for Junior Specialty programs and Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program, including provisions for the Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program, apply to the SSI Specialty Diver Rating and Junior Specialty Diver rating.
- 5. Upgrade:** When Junior Specialty Divers become 15 years old, he/she is eligible to upgrade to the Specialty Diver rating. At the Dive Centers/Instructors discretion, a skill evaluation may be required.

The minimum age for receiving a Junior Specialty Diver rating is 12 years old.

ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER / JUNIOR ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered for the Advanced Open Water Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty student materials.
- 2. Requirements:** In order to receive an Advanced Open Water Diver rating or Junior Advanced Open Water Diver rating, students are to successfully complete any 4 Specialty programs and log a total of at least 24 open water dives for certification.

Only 1 Unique Specialty program may be applied towards the Advanced Open Water Diver rating.
- 3. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for receiving an Advanced Open Water Diver certification is 15 years old.
- 4. Standards:** All Training Standards for Specialty programs—including provisions for Junior Specialty programs—and Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program—including provisions for the Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program—apply to the SSI Advanced Open Water Diver rating and Junior Advanced Open Water Diver rating.
- 5. Upgrade:** When Junior Advanced Open Water Divers become 15 years old, he/she is eligible to upgrade to Advanced Open Water Diver rating. At the Dive Centers/Instructors discretion, a skill evaluation may be required.

The minimum age for issuing a Junior Advanced Open Water Diver rating is 12 years old.



MASTER DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. General:** The knowledge and skills to be covered for the Master Diver rating are those provided in the SSI Specialty Instructor Manuals and Specialty student materials.
- 2. Prerequisites:** In order to receive a Master Diver rating, students are to successfully complete any 4 Specialty programs and a Diver Stress & Rescue program and log a total of at least 50 open water dives prior to certification. Only 1 Unique Specialty program may be applied towards the Master Diver rating.
- 3. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for receiving a Master Diver rating is 15 years old.
- 4. Standards:** All Training Standards for Specialty programs—including provisions for Junior Specialty programs—the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program—provisions for the Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program and the Diver Stress & Rescue program apply to the SSI Master Diver rating.

CENTURY DIVER (RECOGNITION)* STANDARDS

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for CENTURY DIVER, the diver is to provide proof of Open Water Diver* certification and 100 logged dives.

No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Century Diver certification.

SILVER 300 DIVER (RECOGNITION)* STANDARDS

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for Silver 300 DIVER, the diver is to provide proof of Open Water Diver* certification and 300 logged dives.
- 2. Application:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the SILVER 300 Diver certification.

GOLD 500 DIVER (RECOGNITION)* STANDARDS

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for GOLD 500 DIVER, the diver is to provide proof of Open Water Diver* certification and 500 logged dives.
- 2. Application:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Gold 500 Diver certification.

PLATINUM 1000 DIVER (RECOGNITION) STANDARDS

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for PLATINUM 1000 DIVER, the diver is to provide proof of Open Water Diver* certification and 1,000 logged dives.
- 2. Application:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Platinum 1,000 Diver certification.

*Recognition Levels are also available for Junior Divers

PLATINUM PRO 5000 DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Prerequisites:** To qualify for PLATINUM PRO 5000 DIVER, the diver is to:
 - A.** Provide proof of 5,000 logged dives.
 - B.** Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing Platinum Pro Divers.
 - C.** Have minimum 10 years diving experience.

OR

 - D.** Provide Proof of logging 2,500 dives.
 - E.** Have 10 or more years of professional experience in the scuba diving field.
 - F.** Have made a significant contribution to the diving industry.
 - G.** Provide a letter of recommendation from two existing Platinum Pro Divers.
- 2. Application:** No additional training beyond the entry level is needed for a person to apply for the Platinum Pro 5000 Diver rating.



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DIVE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



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DIVE GUIDE (DG) STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Advanced Open Water Instructor or higher may conduct the Dive Guide program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** During the Dive Guide program, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for being a Dive Professional. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Dive Guide program are provided in the SSI Dive Guide Instructor Manual, and the SSI Dive Guide student materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C. Hold an Advanced Open Water Diver certification or equivalent. Logged no less than 40 open water dives totaling 25 hours or more.
 - D. Have completed the following Specialty Courses: Navigation, Night/Limited Visibility Diving, Deep Diving and Search and Recovery.
 - E. Have completed the Diver Stress and Rescue program or equivalent

OR

 - A. Provide proof of experience with a minimum of 5 logged dives in each of the above Specialty areas. The validated of the experience can be signed off by an active SSI Instructor.

OR

 - A. Proof of Specialty certification via other agencies.
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B. Have completed the Equipment Techniques Specialty Course. Enriched Air Nitrox Diver is recommended, but optional
 - C. Logged no less than 50 open water dives totaling 32 hours or more. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - D. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - E. Display leadership behaviors as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - F. Pass a watermanship evaluation.
 - G. Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - H. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - I. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - J. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
7. **Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Dive Guide program is 40.*
The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Program Material:** Each Dive Guide Candidate is required to maintain current training materials.
9. **Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for open water training activities during the Dive Guide program is 8:1.

The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.



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- 10. Maximum Depth:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between 5 and 40 meters.
- 11. Qualifications:** After certification Dive Guides may do the following:
- A.** Give underwater tours to certified divers.
 - B.** Teach Snorkeling after having passed the Snorkeling Instructor Module and issue Snorkel Diver certifications.
 - C.** Attend an SSI Dive Control Specialist program after having completed the Science of Diving Specialty program.
- 12. Limitations:** Dive Guides may not:
- A.** Conduct, teach or assist in any SSI training programs for non-certified divers.
 - B.** Dive Guides may not attend an Instructor Training Course.

DIVEMASTER (DM) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Advanced Open Water Instructor or higher with the Science of Diving Specialty Instructor rating may issue the Divemaster certification.
- 2. Equipment:** Divemaster candidates are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for being a Dive Professional. See *General Standards*, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered for the Divemaster are provided in the SSI Dive Guide and Science of Diving Instructor Manuals and the SSI Dive Guide and Science of Diving student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 5. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 18 years old.
 - B.** Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C.** Be certified as an active SSI Dive Guide.
 - D.** Have completed the Science of Diving Specialty program or equivalent.
- 6. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner
 - B.** Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - C.** Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - D.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - E.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - F.** Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
 - G.** Logged no less than 60 open water dives totaling 40 hours or more.
- 7. Program Material:** Each Divemaster Candidate is required to maintain his/her own current SSI training materials.
- 8. Qualifications:** After certification Divemasters may do the following:
 - A.** Perform in the same role as a Dive Guide.
 - B.** Assist SSI Instructors with pool/confined water and open water training under direct supervision.
- 9. Limitations:** Divemasters may not:
 - A.** Conduct or teach any SSI training programs for non-certified individual or certified divers independently.

DIVE CONTROL SPECIALIST (DCS) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Dive Control Specialist Instructor or higher may conduct the Dive Control Specialist program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the Dive Control Specialist program, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for being a Dive Professional. See *General Standards, item 25*.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Dive Control Specialist program are provided in the SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor Manual, and the SSI Dive Control Specialist student materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 5. Prerequisites:**
- 6. Be at least 18 years old.**
 - A.** Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - B.** Be certified as an active Divemaster level or equivalent.
 - C.** Logged no less than 60 open water dives totaling 40 hours or more.
- 7. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Logged no less than 75 open water dives totaling 50 hours or more.
 - B.** Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C.** Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - D.** Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - E.** Display leadership behaviors as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - F.** Pass a watermanship and skill evaluation.
 - G.** Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - H.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - I.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - J.** Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
- 8. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Dive Control Specialist program is 50.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 9. Program Material:** Each Dive Control Specialist Candidate is required to maintain current training materials.
- 10. Ratio:** The Student-to-Instructor ratio for open water scuba training activities during the Dive Control Specialist program is 8:1. The Instructor is to decrease this ratio whenever conditions require.
- 11. Maximum Depth:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted at depths between 15 and 130 feet (5 and 40 meters).
- 12. Qualifications:** After certification Dive Control Specialists may do the following:
 - A.** Perform in the same role as a Divemaster
 - B.** Meet the criteria to act as a Certified Assistant.
 - C.** Teach the Open Water Diver academic and pool sessions under the indirect supervision of an active SSI Instructor, but may not conduct exercises involving any self-aid or emergency skills such as Air Sharing, Emergency Swimming- and Emergency Buoyant Ascent.

- D. Assist the Instructor with open water scuba training dives in the role of Certified Assistant only. Take students, no more than 2 at a time, on underwater tours after the students have successfully completed the required skills with an Instructor. Conduct the Try Scuba Program in a **Pool and Confined Water**.
- E. Conduct the Scuba Skills Update program. Qualify for a Training Specialist with additional training.
- F. Enroll in an SSI Instructor Training Program.

13. Limitations: Dive Control Specialists may not:

- A. Conduct open water scuba training dives for the Open Water Diver program.
- B. Conduct exercises involving any emergency skills that are done underwater using scuba equipment.
- C. Issue Open Water Diver certification.

TRAINING SPECIALIST (TS) STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Training Specialist programs are those provided in the SSI Dive Control Specialist Manual and the specific Specialty Instructor Manuals.
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:** A candidate must be certified as a Dive Control Specialist to qualify as Training Specialist.
4. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:** SSI Dive Control Specialist can qualify for the following Training Specialist ratings by:
 - A. Attending a Specialty Instructor Seminar conducted by an active Instructor Trainer.

OR

 - B. Co-Teach an entire Specialty program together with an active Dive Control Specialist Instructor or higher, who is qualified for the specific Specialty including the following:
 1. Altitude Diving
 2. Boat Diving (where applicable)
 3. Computer Diving
 4. Digital Underwater Photography
 5. Equipment Techniques
 6. Navigation (where applicable)
 7. Perfect Buoyancy
 8. Shark Diver
 9. Underwater Naturalist
5. **Program Material:** Training Specialists are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
6. **Qualifications:** Active Training Specialists may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all Specialty programs and Junior Specialty programs they are qualified for.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE (ITC) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active Instructor Trainer or higher may conduct the Instructor Training Course (ITC). The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the ITC, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for being a Dive Professional. See General Standards, item 25.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Training Program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the SSI Instructor Training Course Study Guide.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 5. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 18 years old.
 - B.** Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C.** Be certified as an active Dive Control Specialist or equivalent.
 - D.** Logged no less than 75 open water dives totaling 50 hours or more.
- 6. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A.** Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B.** Logged a minimum of 100 open water dives which accumulate a total dive time of 65 hours or more.
 - C.** Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - D.** Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - E.** Display leadership behaviors as well as passing all requirements as listed in the program curriculum.
 - F.** Pass a watermanship and skill evaluation.
 - G.** Pass all Mini Exams with a minimum score of 90%.
 - H.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - I.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - J.** Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.



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- 7. Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Instructor Training program is 100. These hours may drop down to a minimum of 50 hours, if the candidate enters the program as a certified SSI Dive Control Specialist at high skill level.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

- 8. Program Material:** Each Instructor Candidate is required to maintain current training materials.
- 9. Qualifications:** After passing, the Instructor Training Instructor Candidates may do the following:
- A.** Conduct all academic sessions for the Open Water Diver program without supervision.
 - B.** Conduct exercises involving any self-aid or emergency skills that are done underwater using scuba equipment in the pool without supervision.
 - C.** Enroll in an SSI Instructor Evaluation.
- 10. Limitations:** Instructor Candidates may not:
- A.** Conduct underwater skill evaluation during the open water scuba training dives unless under the direct supervision of an active SSI Open Water Instructor.
 - B.** Issue Open Water Diver certification.
- 11. Delegation:** Instructor Trainers may not delegate any part of the Instructor Training Course (ITC) to anyone who is not an active Dive Control Specialist Instructor or above.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION (IE)

OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active Instructor Certifier may conduct the Instructor Evaluation (IE) provided that they do not have a direct involvement with the ITC candidates. The Instructor Certifier is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** During the IE, students are required to have the same equipment that is required of student divers in other SSI programs, plus any other special equipment for being a Dive Professional. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Evaluation Program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Certifier Manual.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality. Passed an Instructor Training Course program.
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - C. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - D. Display leadership behavior as well as passing all requirements listed in the program curriculum.
 - E. Complete a watermanship and skill evaluation.
 - F. Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - G. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - H. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - I. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
7. **Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Instructor Evaluation program are 8:20. Depending on the number of Instructor Candidates.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Program Material:** Each Instructor Candidate is required to maintain current training materials.
9. **Qualifications:** After certification Open Water Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:
 - A. Snorkeling
 - B. Try Scuba & Try Scuba Diving
 - C. Indoor Diver programs
 - D. Scuba Diver programs
 - E. Open Water Diver programs
 - F. Scuba Skills Update programs
 - G. Advanced Adventurer programs
 - H. Diver Stress & Rescue programs
 - I. Enriched Air Nitrox Diver programs (if taught in conjunction with the ITC)
 - J. Specialty Diver ratings

(Specialty Diver ratings after meeting teaching requirements for each specialty)

 - K. Century Diver ratings
 - L. Silver 300 Diver ratings
 - M. Gold 500 Diver ratings
 - N. Platinum 1000 Diver ratings
 - O. Experienced Diver Tests
 - P. SSI Referral programs
10. **Delegation:** Instructor Certifiers may not delegate any part of the Instructor Evaluation.



DIVER STRESS & RESCUE INSTRUCTOR (DSRI) STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor Manuals.
- 2. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 3. Prerequisites:** The Candidate must be certified as SSI Open Water Instructor. This rating will be obtained automatically during the Instructor Training Course (ITC) and the credentials issued after passing the Instructor Evaluation (IE).
- 4. Certification and Active Status Requirements:** Instructor Candidates who have completed a Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor program as part of the Instructor Training Course or have taken a Seminar conducted by an Instructor Trainer can be certified as a Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor.
- 5. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor program are 8:12.*
The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 6. Program Material:** Diver Stress & Rescue Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
- 7. Qualifications:** Active Diver Stress & Rescue Instructors may teach, supervise or issue certifications for the Diver Stress & Rescue program.

ENRICHED AIR NITROX DIVER INSTRUCTOR (EANI) STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor Manuals.
- 2. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 3. Prerequisites:** The Candidate must be certified as SSI Open Water Instructor. This rating may be obtained during the Instructor Training Course (ITC) after the discretion of the Instructor Trainer and the credentials issued after passing the Instructor Evaluation (IE).
- 4. Certification and Active Status Requirements:** Instructor Candidates who have completed an Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor program as part of the Instructor Training Course or have taken a Seminar conducted by an Instructor Trainer can be certified as an Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor.
- 5. Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructor program are 4 to 6.*
The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 6. Program Material:** Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
- 7. Qualifications:** Active Diver Enriched Air Nitrox Diver Instructors may teach, supervise or issue certifications for the Enriched Air Nitrox Diver and Junior Enriched Air Nitrox Diver program.

SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR (SPI) STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Specialty Instructor programs are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the specific Specialty Instructor Manuals.
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - B. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Be certified as an active Open Water Instructor or equivalent.
4. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:** SSI Instructors can qualify for any Specialty Instructor rating by: Attending a Specialty Instructor Seminar conducted by an active Instructor Trainer. — OR —
 - A. Co-Teaching an entire Specialty program together with an active Instructor who is qualified for the specific Specialty.

OR

 - B. Application through Experience for those Specialty programs for which they can provide proof of minimum 20 logged dives.

With the exception of Science of Diving which will be issued automatically along with the Advanced Open Water Instructor rating.
5. **Program Duration:** *The recommended hours for the each Specialty Instructor program are 4 to 6.*

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
6. **Program Material:** Specialty Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
7. **Qualifications:** Active Specialty Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all Specialty programs and Junior Specialty programs the Instructor is qualified for.
8. **Unique Specialty Programs:** Any other Specialty programs than those provided by SSI can be applied for by the application process listed below to SSI.
 - A. Submit proof to SSI of experience with a minimum of 25 dives in the specialty area.
 - B. Submit a draft training standard outlining prerequisites, minimum age, maximum depth, ratio, etc. and an Instructor Manual following the SSI educational system in design. All documents have to be submitted in an electronic format, e.g., Word or Text document.
 - C. Submit any additional teaching aids used in the programs like PowerPoint PEGs, flip charts, and student materials, etc.
 - D. Submit a list with any sources of knowledge regarding that Specialty such as book references, Webpages, seminars.

After approval, the unique program qualification may be issued to the Dive Center/Instructor as an official SSI Unique Specialty Program. The intellectual property of this unique specialty Program will become the sole property of SSI and may be redistributed.



ADVANCED OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR (AOWI) STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Specialty Instructor programs are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the specific Specialty Instructor Manuals.
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - B. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Be certified as an active Open Water Instructor. Be qualified to conduct at least 4 Specialty programs including **Diver Stress & Rescue**
 - D. Have issued a minimum of 15 Specialty program certifications at various levels.
4. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:** SSI Instructors can qualify for the Advanced Open Water Instructor ratings by:
 - A. Having issued at least 15 diver certifications for Specialty programs they are qualified to conduct.

AND

 - B. By sending an application to SSI Service Center.
5. **Program Material:** Advanced Open Water Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
6. **Qualifications:** After certification, Advanced Open Water Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:
 - A. Dive Guide programs
 - B. Science of Diving programs
 - C. Divemaster programs
 - D. Snorkel Instructor programs

DIVE CONTROL SPECIALIST INSTRUCTOR (DCSI) STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Dive Control Specialist Instructor programs are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the Dive Control Specialist Instructor Manuals.
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - B. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Be certified as an active Advanced Open Water Instructor or the equivalent.
 - D. Have issued a minimum of 45 certifications at the following levels:
 1. Scuba and/or Open Water Divers — 30
 2. Specialty Programs — 15
4. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**

Option 1: Attend a Dive Control Specialist Instructor program and co-teach or role-play an entire Dive Control Specialist Program. The entire training needs to be conducted by an active SSI Instructor Trainer.

OR

Option 2: Attend a Dive Control Specialist Instructor seminar conducted by an active SSI Instructor Trainer.

 - A. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - C. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - D. Display leadership behaviors as well as passing all requirements as listed in the program curriculum.
 - E. Pass a watermanship and skill evaluation.
 - F. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures
 - G. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - H. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
5. **Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Dive Control Specialist Instructor program are **50 to 80**.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
6. **Program Material:** Dive Control Specialist Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
7. **Qualifications:** Active Dive Control Specialist Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:
 - A. Dive Control Specialist programs.
 - B. Assist active Instructor Trainers under indirect supervision during an Instructor Training Course (ITC) in Academic and In-Water Evaluations.

A minimum of 50% of all specific evaluations must be done directly by the Instructor Trainer for each candidate and the other half can be delegated to the Dive Control Specialist Instructor.
 - C. Attend mandatory updates, if the SSI Service Center Introduces new or updated products or programs.
 - D. May Conduct Dive Professional Crossovers independently up to the level of Open Water Instructor with additional training and approval of the SSI Service Center.



MASTER INSTRUCTOR (MI) STANDARDS

1. Prerequisites:

- A. Be an active Dive Control Specialist Instructor.
- B. Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- C. Have logged at least 250 dives.
- D. Have issued a minimum of 150 certifications at the following levels.
 - 1. Scuba- and/or Open Water Divers – 80
 - 2. Specialty Course – Various Programs – 50
 - 3. Diver Stress & Rescue – 15
 - 4. Dive Control Specialists – 5
- E. Train exclusively SSI programs at all Dive Professional levels.

Certifications from other recognized agencies will apply to the certification requirements.

2. Requirements: To qualify for Master Instructor the Instructor must submit a written application including a written summary of having made a significant contribution to the diving industry and/or social activities and/or the environment.

3. Qualification: Active Master Instructors may receive the benefits listed below:

- A. Enroll in an Instructor Trainer Seminar
- B. Actively take part in the SSI Product Review Committee.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINER (IT) STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by an International Training Director (ITD) that has been authorized by SSI HQ. The International Training Director (ITD) is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
2. **Equipment:** During the Instructor Trainer Seminar, candidates are required to own equipment befitting the Instructor Trainer rating, plus any other special equipment needed. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Trainer program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and the various SSI Instructor Manuals.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
5. **Prerequisites:** Be at least 21 years old.
 - A. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B. Be certified as an active Master Instructor or equivalent.
 - C. Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
 - D. Submit a written application to SSI for approval.
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - B. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - C. Display leadership behaviors as well as pass all requirements as listed in the program curriculum. These requirements include:
 - E. Complete and pass watermanship and several skill evaluations.
 - F. Complete and pass several Academic- and In-Water Presentations.
 - G. Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - H. in applying the SSI Business System.
 - I. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - J. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - K. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
 - D. Attend all sessions of an Instructor Trainer Seminar conducted by the SSI Service Center.
7. **Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Instructor Trainer program are **60 to 80**.
The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Program Material:** Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current SSI training materials for all programs they are qualified to teach. In addition, Instructor Trainers need to possess samples of all key SSI products to serve as visual aids in their Dive Professional programs.
9. **Qualifications:** Active Instructor Trainers may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:
 - A. Instructor Training Course (ITC) programs
 - B. Specialty Instructor (SPI) programs in Specialty Courses for which they are qualified as an Instructor
 - C. Dive Control Specialist Instructor (DCSI) programs.
 - D. Dive Professional Crossover (XOVER) programs
 - E. May observe Instructor Evaluations (IE), if the conducting Instructor Certifier permits it.



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10. Maintaining Instructor Trainer Status: Instructor Trainers are required to:

- A. Exclusively conduct the SSI Total Teaching System for all recreational levels and issue only SSI certifications. Only those programs that SSI does not provide materials for can be conducted without violating this standard.
- B. Exemplify the SSI philosophy and display competence in applying the SSI Business System.
- C. Teach one complete Instructor Training Course (ITC) program every 24 months.
- D. Attend mandatory updates, if the SSI Service Center Introduces new or updated products or programs
- E. Instructor Trainers will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates fail the Instructor evaluation (IE) because of non-performance of the Instructor Trainer, the Instructor Trainer can be required to re-attend the next Instructor Trainer Seminar (ITS) or revert to the Master Instructor rating.

INSTRUCTOR CERTIFIER (IC) STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by an International Training Director (ITD) that has been authorized by SSI HQ. The International Training Director (ITD) is to submit application for every IC they would like to create to their respective service center.
2. **Equipment:** During the IC program, candidates are required to have equipment befitting the IC rating, plus any other special equipment for being an Instructor Certifier. See General Standards, item 25.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Certifier program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Certifier Manual.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
5. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be certified as an active SSI Instructor Trainer.
 - B. SSI Service Center, at its sole discretion, will select and qualify all candidates for the level of Instructor Certifier.
6. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Attend an Instructor Certifier program at SSI Service Center.
 - B. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - D. Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
 - E. Maintain proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - F. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
 - G. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures
 - H. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
 - I. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
7. **Program Material:** Instructor Certifiers are required to maintain current SSI training materials for all programs they are qualified for. In addition, Instructor Trainers need to possess samples of all key SSI products to serve as visual aids in their Dive Professional programs.
8. **Qualification:** After approval of the SSI Service Center, active Instructor Certifiers may conduct Instructor Evaluation (IE) programs.
The SSI Service Center, at its sole discretion, will select the Instructor Certifier that can conduct an Instructor Evaluation (IE).
9. **Limitations:** Active Instructor Certifiers may not:
 - A. May not conduct Open Water Instructor Evaluations without prior approval of SSI Service Center.
 - B. Evaluate Instructor Candidates who they have trained personally during an Instructor Training Course (ITC) program.
 - C. Train Instructor Trainers.
10. **Maintaining Instructor Certifier Status:** Instructor Certifiers are required to:
 - A. Exclusively conduct the SSI Total Teaching System for all recreational levels and issue only SSI certifications. Only those programs that SSI does not provide materials for can be conducted without violating this standard.
 - B. Exemplify the SSI philosophy and display competence in applying the SSI Business System.
 - C. Teach at least one complete Instructor Training Program or IE every 24 months
 - D. Attend mandatory updates, if the SSI Service Center Introduces new or updated products or programs



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- E.** Instructor Certifiers acting in the role of Instructor Trainer will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates fail the Instructor Evaluation (IE) because of non-performance, the Instructor Certifier can be required to re-attend the next Instructor Trainer Seminar (ITS) or revert to the Master Instructor rating.

DIVEMASTER CROSSOVER STANDARDS

1. **Intent:** The Divemaster Crossover Standards provide an effective way for trained Dive Professionals to qualify as SSI Divemasters.
2. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the program are provided in the Divemaster Crossover Instructor Manual and additionally Dive Guide and Science of Diving Instructor Manuals and Dive Guide and Science of Diving student materials.
3. **Prerequisites for the Divemaster Crossover program are as follows:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Be an active Divemaster or equivalent with a recognized training organization and have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months.

OR

 - C. If the candidate has not been active within the last two years with a scuba training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-Renewal, which states that no ethics actions or standards violations have been taken or are pending.
4. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Logged no less than 60 open water dives totaling 45 hours or more dive time.
 - B. Have completed the following Specialty Courses or provide proof of experience of minimum 5 logged dives in the following Specialty areas:
 1. Navigation
 2. Night/Limited Visibility Diving
 3. Deep Diving
 4. Search and Recovery
 - C. Have completed a Diver Stress & Rescue program or equivalent.
 - D. Have a current medical examination for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - E. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - F. Complete a watermanship and skills evaluation.
 - G. Provide proof of current training in First Aid/ CPR not older than 2 years.
 - H. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen not older than 2 years. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen.
 - I. Display leadership attitude and leadership level demonstration skills in training and rescue.
 - J. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - K. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
 - L. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
5. **Program Material:** Each Upgrade Candidate is required to maintain his own current SSI training materials.
6. **Program Duration:** The recommended program hours for the Divemaster Crossover programs are 8:12.
7. **Final Exam:** Divemaster candidates must complete the Science of Diving Final Exam to pass the Divemaster Crossover program.
8. **Qualifications:** Active SSI Divemasters may assist Instructors in the Pool/Confined Water under direct supervision.

DIVE CONTROL SPECIALIST & INSTRUCTOR CROSSOVER STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Dive Professional Crossover program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and various SSI Instructor Manuals.
- 2. Intent:** The intent of the Dive Professional Crossover program is to provide an orientation for the Dive Professional candidate to SSI Philosophies & Procedures, Training Standards, SSI Educational System and the scuba skills required in the SSI training programs.
- 3. Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be at least 18 years old.
 - B. Logged no less than 75 open water dives totaling 60 hours or more dive time.
 - C. Be an active Assistant Instructor or equivalent with a recognized training organization and have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months.

OR

 - D. If the candidate has not been active within the last two years with a scuba training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-Renewal, which states that no ethics actions or standards violations have been taken or are pending.
- 4. Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Have a current medical examination for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - B. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C. Complete a watermanship and skills evaluation.
 - D. Provide proof of current training in First Aid/CPR not older than 2 years.
 - E. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen not older than 2 years. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen.
- 5. Additional Requirements for an Open Water Instructor Certification via Crossover are as follows:**
 - A. Be certified at least an Instructor or equivalent for the Crossover to the SSI Open Water Instructor level.
 - B. Logged no less than 100 open water dives totaling 65 hours or more dive time. Additional Requirements for an Advanced Open Water Instructor Certification via Crossover are as follows:
 - C. If the candidate has completed the requirements for SSI Dive Professional Crossover Program and has the teaching experience and qualifications to be an SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor, the candidate will be certified as an SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor.
- 6. Additional Requirements for a Dive Control Specialist Instructor Certification via Crossover are as follows:**
 - A. If the candidate has completed the requirements for SSI Dive Professional Crossover Program and has the teaching experience and qualifications to be an SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor, the candidate may attend the evaluation workshops held in conjunction with the Dive Professional Crossover Program. Upon successful completion the candidate will be certified as a SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the



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Dive Professional Crossover program are 16 to 20.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

- 8. Program Material:** SSI Instructors are required to maintain current SSI training materials.
- 9. Final Exam:** Crossover candidates must complete the Crossover Final Exam to pass the Dive Professional Crossover program.
- 10. Qualifications:** Active SSI Dive Control Specialists or SSI Instructors may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs they will receive qualification for.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINER CROSSOVER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by an International Training Director (ITD) that has been authorized by SSI HQ. The International Training Director (ITD) is to submit application for every IT they would like to crossover to their respective service center.
2. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Instructor Trainer Crossover program are those provided in the SSI Instructor Trainer Manual and various SSI Instructor Manuals.
3. **Intent:** The intent of the Instructor Trainer Crossover program is to provide an orientation for a qualified candidate to SSI Philosophies, Procedures, Training Standards, SSI Educational System and the scuba skills required in the SSI Student- and Instructor training programs.
4. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. Be an active Instructor Trainer or equivalent with a recognized training organization and have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months.
 - B. If the candidate has not been active within two years with a scuba training organization, the candidate is required to provide proof of non-Renewal, which states that no ethics actions or standards violations have been taken or are pending.
 - C. Must have the same teaching experience as required by the Master Instructor Prerequisites.
5. **Certification and Active Status Requirements:**
 - A. Attend an entire Instructor Trainer Seminar conducted by the SSI Service Center. It is recommended to have teaching experience at several levels of SSI certification prior to attending the Instructor Trainer Seminar.
 - B. Have a current medical examination for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - C. Own a Total Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - D. Complete a watermanship and skills evaluation.
 - E. Provide proof of current training in First Aid/ CPR not older than 2 years..
 - F. Provide proof of being competent in the emergency administration of oxygen not older than 2 years. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of emergency oxygen.
 - G. Display leadership attitude and leadership level demonstration skills in training and rescue.
 - H. Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - I. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
 - J. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort.
6. **Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Instructor Trainer Crossover program are 20 to 30.

The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
7. **Program Material:** Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current SSI training materials for all programs they are qualified for. In addition, Instructor Trainers need to possess samples of all key SSI products to serve as visual aids in their Dive Professional programs.
8. **Final Exam:** Crossover candidates must complete the Instructor Trainer and Open Water Instructor Final Exam to pass the Instructor Trainer Crossover program.
9. **Qualifications:** See Instructor Trainer Standard.
10. **Maintaining Instructor Trainer Status:** See Instructor Trainer Standard.



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TECHNICAL EXTENDED RANGE DIVING STANDARDS



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XR & TXR GENERAL STANDARDS

As an SSI XR or TXR Instructor and Dive Professional, you are accountable for your decisions and actions when working with the public. SSI expects you to display appropriate and professional behavior at all times while involved in training or other related activities. SSI Technical Facilities are bound by all of the general and ethical standards for SSI Facilities.

1. Exceeding Standards: SSI XR/TXR Instructors may exceed Standards, may provide more complete coverage of the materials, may provide additional pool/confined water and open water scuba training dives. Incorporating newer, safer and easier techniques and equipment are encouraged. All knowledge and skills changes must be approved by the SSI Service Center prior to incorporating the change.

Certification may not be withheld if a student proficiently meets all SSI XR/TXR standards, but not arbitrary Instructor imposed conditions.

2. Use of Training Materials: All students enrolled in SSI XR/TXR certification programs are to own and use the specific SSI XR/TXR Training Materials. The Instructor and student are both to initial/sign the training record log page(s) when completed. This may be done after each classroom, pool/confined water and training dive or at the completion of each days training.

3. Use of Student Training Records: The SSI XR/TXR Training Records are to be used for monitoring and evaluating each student's progress, knowledge and skills. Training records shall be maintained and retained for five years by SSI XR/TXR Dive Centers. If necessary for quality assurance or solving a Grievance Resolution SSI XR/TXR Dive Centers have to send the Training Records to the SSI Service Center within the time limit specified.

4. Time Period of Completion: All SSI programs are required to be completed within 6 months of their last academic/pool/confined water training. If it has been more than 6 months, the Dive Center/ Instructor will need to conduct a re-evaluation to determine if the student is proficient in the academic and water skills to continue. If it has been more than 12 months since the start of the SSI program the student must repeat a complete program.

5. Dives per Day: The maximum number of Extended Range OR Technical Extended Range training dives per day (excluding pool or confined water dives) is 3 per day in none of the dives require the completion of required staged decompression stops. If any dive on a given day is planned to or actually requires staged decompression stops then the total number of training dives per day is limited to 2. A minimum surface interval of 90 minutes is required between any two decompression dives.

6. Gases: For Extended Range Level Courses divers may breath air or optimized nitrox (if qualified) for bottom gases and a hyperoxic nitrox stage gas with a maximum PPO₂ of 1.5 ATA if the course allows staged decompression. For The Extended Range Diver Course and all Technical Extended Range Level Courses, divers may breathe air or optimized nitrox for bottom gases and hyperoxic gases with a PPO₂ of 1.61 ATA for staged decompression.

Trimix Divers have the same restrictions as all other Technical Extended Range Courses but they may add a helium based trimix for bottom gas – in the Normoxic Trimix course the gas must contain at least 18% oxygen. In addition to all other limits, in any XR or TXR courses both the primary and contingency dive plans must expose the diver to no more than 80% of the limits for CNS toxicity and pulmonary toxicity as calculated using the SSI XR/TechXR materials and the pertinent NOAA tables for both single dive and multiple dive exposures. Where environmental or dive conditions are less than ideal the Instructor should choose more conservative limits.



7. Swim Requirements: For all Extended Range Level Course EXCEPT the Extended Range Diver Course:

- A. Each diver enrolled in the program must complete an effective watermanship skills evaluation that includes:
- B. 400-yard / 365-meter surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins,
- C. 15-minute survival swim / float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids.
- D. Students must also be able to swim a horizontal distance of 30 ft. /10 m. underwater, exhaling continuously and successfully initiate an air sharing ascent while wearing all of the equipment required for their XR Advanced Wreck training dives.

*Note: The watermanship assessment may be waived in the Instructor's discretion if the student has passed the same or higher level XR/TXR watermanship assessment within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of a course.

FOR THE EXTENDED RANGE DIVER COURSE AND ALL TECHNICAL EXTENDED RANGE LEVEL COURSES:

- A. Each diver enrolled in a TXR program must complete an effective watermanship skills evaluation that includes:
 - 1. A 800-yard / 730-meter surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins*
 - 2. A surface swim of at least 400 yards / 365 meters while wearing full technical gear including twin stage cylinders*
 - 3. A 15-minute survival swim/float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids*
 - 4. Students must also be able to swim a horizontal distance of 33 ft. / 10 m. underwater, exhaling continuously and successfully initiate an air sharing ascent while wearing all of the equipment required for their XR Advanced Decompression Procedures training dives*

*Note: The watermanship assessment may be waived in the Instructor's discretion if the student has passed the same or higher level XR/TXR watermanship assessment within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of a course.

8. Definition Water Sites: Sites for the conduct of training dives should be natural bodies of water realistic of local diving conditions in the range of the course being trained.

9. Duration of a Dive: Dive durations are specified in each individual standard but no dive with a duration of less than 20 minutes may be counted as a required dive for certification purposes, although the skills completed on that dive may be used to meet the requirements for certification.

10. Use of Surface Floats & Flags: While diving in navigable waters an alpha or diver down flag must be displayed in accordance with local laws or regulations. All XR/TXR divers MUST be equipped with a surface marker buoy except when completing cave or cavern dives at inland cave diving sites.

11. Minimum Equipment:

FOR EXTENDED RANGE DIVISION CLASSES EXCEPT THE EXTENDED RANGE DIVER CLASS.

- A. An appropriately sized cylinder, it is recommended that divers use Y or H valve configurations.
- B. Stage cylinder or pony cylinders are recommended but not required.
- C. One or Two back gas first- stages depending upon cylinder configuration and 2 second-stage regulators one of which must have an extended length hose of approximately 7 ft. / 2 m. in length.
- D. Stage or pony regulator first- and second-stage if a stage or pony cylinder is used.

OR

- A. In the alternative, back gas cylinders and regulators may be replaced with a CCR or SCR providing that the diver meets all prerequisites as specified for the closed circuit levels in any course AND for any course allowing staged decompression or overhead environment penetration the diver stages enough open circuit gas to complete 66% of the planned bottom time to include ascent and decompression. Note: Some courses may not allow the use of CCRs, verify the in the individual course standards.

- B. Buoyancy compensator with appropriate lift capacity and power inflator. Back mount tech style harnesses are recommended.
- C. Exposure protection appropriate for the environment.
- D. (Students must be able to complete the scheduled run time without shivering or discomfort.)
- E. One timing and depth measuring device or computer, capable of displaying ascent rate.
- F. One submersible pressure gauge or electronic pressure sensor for each cylinder.
- G. Diver's tool or cutting device and a back-up cutting device. At least one cutting device must be capable of cutting small gauge wire.
- H. Compass
- I. Primary dive light (at least a 14-watt halogen or equivalent) and at least 1 back-up light
- J. A sonic alert device or a whistle

FOR THE EXTENDED RANGE DIVER CLASS AND ALL TECHNICAL EXTENDED RANGE CLASSES:

- A. An appropriately sized cylinder with an H-valve, Y-valve or a twinset. Twinsets are recommended for divers who plan to continue to more advanced TechXR training programs.)
- B. Stage cylinder, oxygen cleaned as required.
- C. Two back gas first- and second-stage regulators
- D. Stage or pony regulator first- and second-stage, oxygen cleaned as required.
- E. Buoyancy compensator with appropriate lift capacity and power inflator.
- F. Exposure protection appropriate for the environment.
- G. (Students must be able to complete the scheduled run time without shivering or discomfort.)
- H. Primary and redundant timing and depth measuring devices, or redundant computers, capable of displaying ascent rate.
- I. One submersible pressure gauge or electronic pressure sensor for each cylinder (only one required per twinset)
- J. Diver's tool or cutting device and a back-up cutting device.

- K. Compass
- L. Primary and back-up lights
- M. SMB and reel
- N. SSI TechXR Dive Plan Slate, SSI TechXR Gas Planning Slate, SSI TechXR Back Gas Planning Slate, and SSI TechXR CNS Exposure Tracking Slate.

- 12. Liability Release:** Each student is to complete an SSI Technical Waiver & Release of Liability Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement and a Statement of Understanding prior to any water training. The forms of minors are to be reviewed and signed by a parent or guardian. Children under the age of 15 involved with any water activity are required to watch the SSI Risk Awareness for Children video, if the video is available in their language and if the video is appropriate for the liability regulations in the country, with their parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to any water work.

Attention: Signing a Waiver of Release is contradictory to liability regulations in some countries of the world. Example: In the European Union the Waiver of Release is not valid, and the student should be not forced to sign it.

- 13. Confined Water/Pool like Conditions in the Open Water:** Pool classes may be conducted in confined open water that simulates the safety and comfort of a pool.
- 14. Recommended Depth Limits:** All students, after certification, should be advised to dive within depth limits taught during class.
- 15. Government Laws:** Federal, State and Local Government laws, bylaws and Codes of Practice have precedence over these Standards. It is the SSI member's responsibility to conform to these rules and inform SSI Service Center of any conflict. At no time may the standard of safety provided by SSI Standards be reduced.

ADVANCED WRECK DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI XR Advanced Wreck Instructor or higher may conduct the Advanced Wreck Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Advanced Wreck Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for the XR Advanced Wreck course includes:
 - A.** A complete Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** An SMB is required
 - C.** Primary and back-up lights
 - D.** One safety /cavern reel or spool per diver
 - E.** One primary line reel per dive team (team reels may be provided by the Instructor)
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Advanced Wreck Diver program are those provided in the SSI XR Advanced Wreck Instructor Manual and the SSI Advanced Wreck Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Advanced Wreck Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited penetration dives within the light zone area of a wreck and to a maximum depth of 30 msw /100 fsw utilizing proper wreck penetration procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in The Advanced Wreck Program is 16 years old with parental or guardian consent, otherwise 18 years of age or the age of majority in the jurisdiction where the program will be taught.
- 6. Prerequisites:**
 - XR ADVANCED WRECK COURSE PREREQUISITES:**
 - 1.** Deep and Wreck
 - 2.** Nitrox certification is recommended.
 - 3.** 24 logged dives including at least 6 dives in ocean waters or a similar environment
 - FOR CCR ADVANCED WRECK DIVERS**
 - 1.** Certification as an SSI CCR Diver with qualifications on the specific unit to be used in Training
 - 2.** 25 logged hours on the specific CCR unit to be used in training and 10 CCR hours in ocean like environments
 - 3.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Extended Range Divers
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the XR Advanced Wreck course including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day, are set by the individual Instructor based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Training requirements:** The XR Advanced Wreck course requires open water dives and / or confined water skill development sessions of at least 2 hours and a minimum of 4 overhead environment training dives with a total aggregate time of at least 1.5 hours. No more than three training dives may be conducted per day. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.
 - A.** The open water or confined water training session(s) must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air / EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. A safety stop is required on every dive.
 - B.** Training dives 1-4 must be conducted in overhead environments but penetrations are limited to that area where the diver can clearly see light from the entry point of the penetration. In cases

where a through swim is planned the light from the exit must overlap with the light penetrating from the entrance so that the diver can clearly see light from one or the other at any point during the dive. Divers are required to lay or use navigation lines on all penetration dives.

- C. The SSI XR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - D. Students must remain within ten feet (3m) of their dive buddy at all times.
 - E. A reel and guideline must be used as a primary method of navigation on all penetration dives. Navigation patterns are limited to simple, one line linear patterns.
 - F. No penetration may exceed 2/3s of the divers bottom gas supply. Upon any diver consuming 1/3 of the available bottom gas or CCR time the dive must be turned leaving 1/3 for the exit and 1/3 for contingencies.
- 9. Sequence:** Overhead environment training dives 1-2 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all open water practice sessions have been completed. Overhead Environment Training dives 3-4 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** All dives in this program must be conducted at depths no deeper than 30 msw / 100 fsw.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All training dives must be conducted during daylight hours.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Advanced Wreck students for open water training is 6:1 and for overhead environment dives the ratio is 4:1 should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and open water training sessions in confined or open water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions suitable for the completion of practice drill sessions.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Advanced Wreck Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Advanced Wreck Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on no-decompression dives utilizing advanced wreck diving equipment and procedures into limited penetration overhead environments (within the zone of natural light entering the wreck through the entrance or exit) at depths not in excess of 30 msw / 100 fsw. Dives must be conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.
- 17. Credits:** Advanced Wreck students may credit dives in this course to the open water training session and dives 1-2 of the SSI XR Cavern Diver program, providing that the course was successfully completed and the water work in the Cavern Diver Course is commenced within 90 days of completion of the Advanced Wreck Diver Course. The crediting of all or any portion of the qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for overhead environment diving OR the Instructor must conduct both a confined water session and an evaluation dive prior to commencing any training dives requiring overhead environment penetration.

CAVERN DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI XR Cavern Diving Instructor or higher may conduct the Cavern Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Cavern Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for the XR Cavern Course includes:
 - A.** A complete Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** An SMB is required
 - C.** Primary and back-up lights
 - D.** One safety /cavern reel or spool per diver
 - E.** One primary line reel per dive team (team reels may be provided by the Instructor)
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Cavern Diver program are those provided in the SSI XR Cavern Instructor Manual and the SSI Cavern Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Cavern Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct cavern penetration dives within the light zone, at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw, utilizing cavern diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Cavern Diver Program is 18 years old or 15 with parent / guardian consent.
- 6. Prerequisites:** XR Cavern course prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Open Water Diver Certification or equivalent
 - B.** Nitrox Diver Certification recommended.
 - C.** 24 logged dives
 - D.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Extended Range Divers.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the XR Cavern course including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Training Requirements:** The XR Cavern Course requires a confined water or open shallow water skill development session or dive of at least 2 hours and a minimum of 4 training dives with a minimum run time of 20 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. The total aggregate time for dives 1-4 must be a minimum of 90 minutes. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

If Nitrox is used, mixes are limited to a PPO₂ of 1.4 for bottom gases and safety stops.

 - A.** Training dives 1-4 must be planned within the no decompression limits of the SSI combined Air / EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. All dives require safety stops.
 - B.** Students may use no more than 1/3 of their gas supply for the penetration phase on any cavern dive with 1/3 for the exit and 1/3 left in reserve for emergencies.
 - C.** All dives are limited to a maximum depth of 100 ft. / 30 m.
 - D.** A simple linear guideline to open water must be maintained during all phases of any penetration dive.
 - E.** The SSI XR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - F.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.

- 9. Sequence:** Cavern training dives 1-4 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all open water practice sessions have been completed. No new skill may be completed by students in the overhead environment until it has been practiced in open water.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** The training dives must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All cavern diving training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water with at least 33 ft. / 10 m. of visibility and which allows sunlight penetration into all areas of the cavern system where diving activity will take place. If during the course of any training dive the visibility should change so that sunlight is no longer visible the dive must be terminated. Dives are limited to areas where two divers can swim side by side freely and without restriction.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of students for cavern training is 6:1 for open water dives and 4:1 for overhead environment dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and open water practice sessions in shallow open water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Cavern Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Cavern Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives in cavern light zones utilizing cavern equipment and procedure to depths of 100 fsw/30 msw, providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience. The thirds rule of gas management must be applied to all dives.
- 17. Credits:** Cavern students may credit 2 dives from this course to dives 1-2 of the SSI XR Advanced Wreck Diver Program, providing that the course was successfully completed and the water work in the Advanced Wreck Diver Course is commenced within 90 days of completion of the Cavern Diver Course. The crediting of all or any portion of the qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for limited penetration diving OR the Instructor must conduct both a confined water session and an evaluation dive prior to commencing any dives requiring limited penetration.

XR INTRODUCTION TO CAVE DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI TXR Basic Cave Diving Instructor or higher may conduct the Introduction to Cave Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Introduction to Cave Diver.
- 2. Equipment:**
 - A.** The minimum required student equipment for the XR Intro to Cave Course includes:
 - 1.** A complete Extended Range Diving System (an H or Y valve cylinder with 2 primary regulators is required)
 - 2.** 1 Primary and 2 back-up lights
 - 3.** One safety /cavern reel or spool per diver
 - 4.** SSI TechXR Dive Plan Slate, SSI TechXR Gas Planning Slate, SSI TechXR Back Gas Planning Slate, and SSI TechXR CNS Exposure Tracking Slate.
 - 5.** 3 line arrows or other regionally line marking devices and 2 non-directional cookies or line marking devices
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Introduction to Cave Diver program are those provided in the SSI XR Basic Cave Instructor Manual and the SSI Introduction to Cave Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Introduction to Cave Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct single cylinder Cave penetration dives utilizing the thirds rule of gas management at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw, utilizing Introduction to Cave diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Introduction to Cave Diver Program is 18 years old.
- 6. Prerequisites:** TechXR Introduction to Cave course prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Stress and Rescue Certification or equivalent
 - B.** SSI Cavern Diver Certification or equivalent
 - C.** Advanced Open Water certification
 - D.** 50 logged dives
 - E.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watersmanship skills evaluation specified for Extended Range Divers.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the XR Introduction to Cave course including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Training Requirements:** The XR Introduction to Cave Course requires a confined water or open shallow water skill development session or dive of at least 1 hour and a minimum of 4 training dives with a minimum run time of 30 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be conducted per day. The total aggregate time for dives 1-4 must be a minimum of 2 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards

 - A.** Training dives 1-4 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air/EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. All dives require safety stops and in the Instructors discretion simulated Decompression stops may be allowed.
 - B.** Students may use no more than 1/3 of their gas supply for the penetration phase on any Introduction to Cave dive with 1/3 for the exit and 1/3 left in reserve for emergencies.

- C. All dives are limited to 100 fsw/30 msw of depth.
 - D. A simple linear guideline to open water must be maintained during all phases of any penetration dive.
 - E. The SSI XR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - F. Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
9. **Sequence:** Introduction to Cave training dives 1- 4 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all open water practice sessions have been completed. No new skill may be completed by students in the overhead environment until it has been practiced in open water.
10. **Maximum Depth:** All training dives must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw.
11. **Training Conditions:** All Introduction to Cave diving training dives must be conducted in water with at least 33 ft. / 10 m. of visibility at the dive commencement. Dives are limited to areas where two divers can swim without restriction one behind the other freely. Dives must be completed in at least 2 different cave sites.
12. **Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for Introduction to Cave training is 6:1 for confined and open water sessions and 3:1 for overhead environment dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
13. **Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
14. **Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and open water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions.
15. **Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Intro to Cave Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
16. **Qualification:** Introduction to Cave Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on cave dives utilizing Introduction to Cave equipment and procedure to depths of 100 fsw/30 msw, providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience. The thirds rule of gas management must be applied to all dives.
17. **Credits:** Introduction to Cave students may not credit any training in this program to dive requirements for other SSI XR/TXR courses. However, this course may be conducted in conjunction with the SSI XR Advanced Nitrox Course providing that all qualifying dives deeper than 100 ft. / 33 m. or requiring staged decompression must be conducted in open water and those open water dives may not be applied to any of the requirements for the Intro to Cave Diver overhead environment dive requirements.

ADVANCED NITROX DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI XR Advanced Nitrox Instructor or higher may conduct the Advanced Nitrox Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Advanced Nitrox Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for the XR Advanced Nitrox course includes:
 - A.** A complete Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** An SMB is required
 - C.** Primary and back-up lights
 - D.** One safety /cavern reel or spool per diver
 - E.** Stage cylinder, oxygen cleaned as required.
 - F.** Stage or pony regulator first- and second-stage, oxygen cleaned as required
 - G.** SSI TechXR Dive Plan Slate, SSI TechXR Gas Planning Slate, SSI TechXR Back Gas Planning Slate, and SSI TechXR CNS Exposure Tracking Slate
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Advanced Nitrox Diver program are those provided in the SSI XR Advanced Nitrox Instructor Manual and the SSI Advanced Nitrox Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Advanced Nitrox Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited decompression dives to a maximum depth of 130 fsw/40 msw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Advanced Nitrox program is 18 years old.
- 6. Prerequisites:** XR Advanced Nitrox program prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications
 - B.** Advanced Open Water certification
 - C.** Logged 24 dives including 6 nitrox dives
 - D.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Extended Range Divers.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the XR Advanced Nitrox program including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Training Requirements:** The XR Advanced Nitrox program requires a confined water or shallow water skill development session or dive of at least 2 hours and a minimum of 4 training dives with a minimum run time of 30 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. No more than two dives may be made on any day when a dive requiring stage decompression is made. The total aggregate time for dives 1-4 must be a minimum of 2 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR and TXR Standards

- A.** Training dives 1-2 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air/EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. All dives require safety stops or simulated stage decompression stops to be completed.
- B.** Actual stage decompression training may be conducted or simulated in dives 3-4. The total time for all required stage stops must not exceed 15 minutes per dive.

- C.** The SSI XR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
- D.** Students must remain within ten feet (3m) of their dive buddy at all times.
- E.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 9. Sequence:** Open water training dives 1-2 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all confined water practice sessions have been completed. Open water training dives 3-4 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** The first 2 training dives must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw. The remaining training dives must be conducted at depths between 100 fsw/30 msw and up to / 40 msw.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice unless the diver is otherwise qualified for dives in those areas.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 6:1 for dives 1-2 and 4:1 for dives 3-4. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and confined water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions similar to those encountered in a pool environment.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Advanced Nitrox Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Advanced Nitrox Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 132 fsw/40 msw and requiring staged decompression stops of no longer than 15 minutes providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.
- 17. Credits:** Advanced Nitrox students may credit dives in this program to dives 1-4 of the SSI XR Extended Range program, providing that the program was successfully completed and the water work in the Extended Range program commences within 90 days of completion of the Advanced Nitrox Diver program. The crediting of all or any portion of the qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for technical diving.

OR

The Instructor must conduct both a confined water session and a no-decompression evaluation dive prior to commencing any dives requiring staged decompression stops.

EXTENDED RANGE DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI XR Extended Range Instructor or higher may conduct the Extended Range Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Advanced Nitrox Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for the XR Advanced Nitrox course includes:
 - A.** A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** An SMB is required.
 - C.** Primary and back-up lights
 - D.** One safety /cavern reel or spool per diver
 - E.** Stage cylinder, oxygen cleaned as required.
 - F.** Stage or pony regulator first- and second-stage, oxygen cleaned as required.
 - G.** SSI TechXR Dive Plan Slate, SSI TechXR Gas Planning Slate, SSI TechXR Back Gas Planning Slate, and SSI TechXR CNS Exposure Tracking Slate.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Advanced Nitrox Diver program are those provided in the SSI XR Extended Range Instructor Manual and the SSI Advanced Nitrox/Extended Range Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Extended Range Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited decompression dives to a maximum depth of 150 fsw/45 msw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Extended Range program is 18 years old or the age of majority in the jurisdiction where the program will be taught whichever is higher.
- 6. Prerequisites:** XR Extended Range program prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications
 - B.** Advanced SSI Advanced Nitrox certification
 - C.** 50 logged dives
 - D.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.
- 7. Credit for previous training:** Divers certified as SSI XR Advanced Nitrox Divers may credit dives and the confined water sessions from the Advanced Nitrox program to the confined water session and dives 1-4 of the SSI XR Extended Range program, providing that the program was successfully completed in technical diving gear and the water work in the Extended Range program commences within 180 days of completion of the Advanced Nitrox program. The crediting of all or any portion of the qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for technical diving or the Instructor must conduct both a confined water session and a no-decompression evaluation dive prior to commencing any dives requiring staged decompression stops.
- 8. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the XR Extended Range program including dives is 20 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 9. Training Requirements:** The XR Extended Range program requires a confined water or shallow water skill development session or dive of at least 2 hours and a minimum of 6 training dives with a minimum run time of 30 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. No more than two dives may be made on any day when a dive requiring stage decompression is made. The total aggregate time for dives 1-4 must be a minimum of 2 hours and the total aggregate run time for dives 5 & 6 must be at least 90 minutes. If environmental or water

conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards

- A.** Preliminary dives 1-2 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air/EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. All dives require safety stops or simulated stage decompression stops to be completed.
 - B.** Training dives 3-4 will include actual stage decompression training for dives to a maximum depth of 132 fsw/40 msw. The total time for all required stage stops on dives 3-4 must not exceed 15 minutes per dive.
 - C.** Training dives 5-6 will include actual stage decompression training for dives at depths between 132 fsw/40 msw and 150 fsw/45 msw. The total time for all required stage stops must not exceed 25 minutes per dive.
 - D.** The SSI XR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - E.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
 - F.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 10. Sequence:** Open water training dives 1-4 may only be conducted after the completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all confined water practice sessions have been completed. Open water training dives 5-6 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 11. Maximum Depth:** The first 2 training dives must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw. Training dives 3-4 must be conducted at depths less than 132 fsw/40 msw. Training dives 5-6 must be conducted at depths between 132 fsw/40 msw and 150 fsw/45 msw.
- 12. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice unless the diver is otherwise qualified for dives in those areas.
- 13. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 6:1 for dives 1-2 and 4:1 for dives 3-6. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 14. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 15. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and confined water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions similar to those encountered in a pool environment.
- 16. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Extended Range Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 17. Qualification:** Extended Range Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 150 fsw/45 msw and requiring staged decompression stops of no longer than 30 minutes providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.
- 18. Credits:** In the Instructors discretion preliminary dives 1 and 2 of the TechXR Decompression procedures program may be credited from the XR Extended Range program providing that the program was successfully completed and the water work in the Decompression Procedures program commences within 180 days of completion of the Extended Range program.

EXTENDED RANGE INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

XR ADVANCED WRECK INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the XR Advanced Wreck Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI XR Advanced Wreck Instructor Manual. This evaluation course may be conducted by a XR Advanced Wreck Instructor Trainer.
- 2. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 3. Prerequisites:**

SSI XR ADVANCED WRECK INSTRUCTOR CANDIDATES:

1. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
2. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
3. SSI EAN Instructor recommended
4. SSI Wreck Instructor
5. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor
6. SSI XR Advanced Wreck Diver
7. Certified 10 Wreck Divers

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the XR/TXR Instructor Crossover Seminar.

CERTIFIED SSI XR ADVANCED WRECK DIVER OR EQUIVALENT:

1. Logged 25 Advanced Wreck Dives

4. Additional Requirements:

- A.** Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B.** Provide his or her own Advanced Wreck diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching limited penetration dives in challenging environments

5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A.** Complete the SSI XR Advanced Wreck IEE
- B.** Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid
- C.** Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- D.** Complete the SSI XR/TXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience
- E.** Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.*

*Note: The watermanship assessment may be waived in the Instructor trainer's discretion if the student has passed the same watermanship assessment within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of the Advanced Wreck Instructor Evaluation Exam.

6. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the XR Advanced Wreck IEE are 12 to 16 and will include:

- A.** All academics and a written exam
- B.** A shallow water skills evaluation dive
- C.** The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise two limited penetration wreck divers. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

7. Program Material: SSI XR Advanced Wreck Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI XR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.



- 8. Qualifications:** After certification, active SSI XR Advanced Wreck Instructors may:
- A.** Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI XR Advanced Wreck Diver program
 - B.** Issue SSI XR Advanced Wreck Diver certifications
 - C.** XR Advanced Wreck Instructors who are also certified as intro to cave or higher level cave divers with at least 25 cavern or cave dives may also be certified as an SSI Cavern Diving Instructor after successful completion of this program.

XR CAVERN INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the XR Cavern Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI XR Instructor Manual. This evaluation course may be conducted by a TXR Cave Instructor Trainer.

2. Intent: The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.

3. Prerequisites:

SSI XR CAVERN INSTRUCTOR CANDIDATES

- A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
- B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
- C. SSI EAN Instructor recommended
- D. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the XR/TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar.

CERTIFIED SSI TECHXR BASIC OR XR INTRO TO CAVE DIVER OR EQUIVALENT

- A. Logged 25 Cavern or Advanced Wreck Dives at least
- B. 15 of which must be cavern/ cave dives

4. Additional Requirements:

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own Intro to Cave or Full Cave diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching limited penetration dives in challenging environments

5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A. Complete the SSI XR Cavern IEE
- B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid
- C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration

D. Complete the SSI XR/TXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience

E. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers

**Note: The watermanship assessment may be waived in the Instructor trainer's discretion if the student has passed the same watermanship assessment within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of the Cavern Instructor Evaluation Exam.*

6. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the XR Cavern IEE are 16 to 20 and will include:

- A. All academics and a written exam
- B. A shallow water skills evaluation dive
- C. The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise two cavern dives
- D. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions

7. Program Material: SSI XR Cavern Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI XR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.

8. Qualifications: After certification, active SSI XR Cavern Instructors may:

- A. Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI XR Cavern Diver program
- B. Issue SSI XR Cavern Diver certifications

XR Cavern Instructors who are also certified as Advanced or Technical Wreck divers with at least 15 Advanced Wreck dives may also be certified as an SSI Advanced Wreck Diving Instructor after successful completion of this program.

EXTENDED RANGE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING SEMINAR STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the XR Instructor Training Seminar are those provided in the SSI XR Instructor Trainer Manual. This program may be conducted by an SSI XR Instructor Trainer.
- 2. Intent:** The XR Instructor Training Seminar is intended to certify the candidate as an XR Advanced Nitrox Instructor AND to prepare the Instructor candidate for attendance at an XR Instructor Evaluation for certification as an Extended Range Instructor. Actual Certification as an XR Instructor is dependent upon:
 - A.** Completion of this seminar
 - B.** Successful completion of the IEE for the Extended Range level
- 3. Prerequisites**
 - A.** All XR ITS candidates must be in an active teaching status with a recognized training agency and have no quality assurance issues or disciplinary actions with any agency that are either still pending or that resulted in any action or sanction against the Instructor Crossover candidate within the immediately preceding 12 months.
 - B.** All ITS candidates must meet the following minimum prerequisites.
 - 1.** SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor or equivalent
 - 2.** EAN Instructor
 - 3.** Deep Diving Instructor
 - 4.** Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor
 - 5.** Certified 10 EAN Divers
 - 6.** Logged 25 EAN Dives
 - 7.** Science of Diving Instructor (note: the SOD Instructor Seminar may be completed in conjunction with the TXRITS)
 - 8.** Logged at least 100 dives including 20 dives deeper than 24 m / 80 fsw
 - 9.** Certified SSI XR Extended Range Diver or higher certification (or equivalent) OR the Extended Range Diver Level program may be conducted in conjunction with the Extended Range ITS
- 4. Additional Requirements**
 - A.** Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
 - B.** Provide his or her own Extended Range scuba diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching simulated and/or stage decompression in deep and challenging environments. (twinsets are required)
 - C.** Provide proof of current training in CPR, First Aid and proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
 - D.** Complete the SSI XR/TXR Instructor Assessment Form and provide proof of the required teaching and diving experience
 - E.** Candidates must complete the swim testing requirements and skills evaluation specified for the SSI Divemaster Certification program prior to completion of the ITS
 - F.** Candidates must meet all experience and prerequisite requirements specified in the XR Extended Range IEE prior to attendance at the IEE
- 5. Evaluation Requirements:** This course may be completed by co-teaching at least 2 separate XR Extended Range Courses under the direct supervision of active XR/TXR Instructor Trainer(s). The trainers must evaluate the candidate performance to include successful completion of all evaluated events in the ITS, fill out the evaluation section of the Instructor Assessment form or XR Instructor Training Folder and forward the form directly to the IT who will conduct the Instructor's evaluation.

OR

Attending the two day seminar to include the planning and participation as team member on an extended range dive deeper than 40 msw/132 fsw AND planning and supervision of 2 technical dives deeper than 40 msw / 132 fsw while acting as an Instructor.



- 6. Program Duration and Conduct:** The recommended hours for the XR Instructor Training Seminar is 16 hours and will include:
 - A.** All academics
 - B.** A review of all XR/TXR Standards and all SSI Facility Standards
 - C.** A sample dive planning session for orientation to the TechXR Dive Planning Slates
 - D.** A confined water session that will include both the presentation and the evaluation of all water skills required in the XR Extended Range Diver Course. All skills must be demonstrated and presented perfectly
 - E.** Assist in the planning and participate as a team member dive 5 or 6 of the XR Extended Range Diver Program
 - F.** Plan and conduct as an acting Instructor dive 5 or 6 of the Extended Range Diver Course supervising an assistant or another ITS candidate diver who will act as the student during the training dive
 - G.** Demonstrate the ability to rescue an unconscious diver in a twinset with technical harness by bringing the diver to the surface from a depth of between 5 msw / 15 fsw and 10 msw/33 fsw, establishing positive buoyancy, evaluating the diver's status, removing all equipment and removing the diver from the water. Assistance may be used ONLY for the handling of equipment once it is removed from the diver and in removing the diver from the water. This skill must be completed proficiently and without unnecessary time delays depending upon the conditions present at the rescue site.
 - H.** Complete an equipment assembly drill without errors in a time limit of 60 minutes. Provide the student with a completely disassembled tech harness, a bare backplate or similar soft plate, a bladder, 2 first stage regulators with no hoses attached, all hoses and devices to complete assembly, a dive light, 2 back up lights and a reel; Have the student assemble the parts into a correctly configured dive set in less than 1 hour. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student's needs and abilities.
- 7. Program Material:** SSI XR Instructor package.
- 8. Qualifications:** After completion, XR ITS graduates may be certified as SSI XR Advanced Nitrox Instructors AND participate in an SSI XR IE for the Extended Range Level.

XR EXTENDED RANGE INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION STANDARDS

1. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the XR Extended Range Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI XR Instructor Manual. This program may be conducted by an SSI Tech XR Extended Range Instructor Trainer.

2. Intent: The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.

3. Prerequisites:

SSI XR EXTENDED RANGE INSTRUCTOR CANDIDATES

- A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
- B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
- C. SSI EAN Instructor
- D. Certified 10 EAN Divers
- E. Certified 10 Deep Divers
- F. SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor
- G. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the XR Instructor Crossover Seminar which includes passing the Science of Diving Instructor Exam.

H. Successful completion of the XR Instructor Training Seminar

OR

XR/TXR INSTRUCTOR CROSSOVER SEMINAR

- I. Logged 150 dives
- J. Logged 25 EAN Dives
- K. SSI XR Extended Range Diver or Equivalent

L. Logged 10 dives deeper than 99 fsw/30 msw

M. Successful completion of the XR Instructor Training Seminar prior to commencing any part of the Extended Range IEE.

OR

A. Certification as a current and active technical Instructor with a recognized technical training agency AND meet all prerequisite experience requirements.

NOTE: Instructor Candidates who do not meet the prerequisite requirements for the Extended Range Instructor Level may not attend the IEE until the prerequisite requirements are met.

4. Additional Requirements

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own Extended Range scuba diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching simulated and/or stage decompression in deep and challenging environments

5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A. Complete the SSI XR Extended Range IEE
- B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid
- C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- D. Complete the SSI XR/TXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience
- E. Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Extended Range Divers

6. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the XR Extended Range IEE are 8:12 and will include:

- A. All academics and a written exam
- B. A shallow water skills evaluation dive

The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise a full decompression dive at a depth of at least 140 fsw/42 msw with 20 minutes of planned staged decompression time, at least 1 gas switch and at least 3 staged stops. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.



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- 7. Program Material:** SSI XR Extended Range Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI XR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.
- 8. Qualifications:** After certification, XR Extended Range Instructors may:
 - A.** Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI XR Advanced Nitrox and Extended Range Diver programs
 - B.** Issue SSI XR Advanced Nitrox and Extended Range Diver certifications

XR INSTRUCTOR TRAINER (XRIT) STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by SSI Staff. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the IT program, candidates are required to have equipment befitting the Extended Range IT rating, plus any other special equipment for being an Extended Range IT. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the XR Instructor Trainer evaluation may include all skills detailed in any SSI XR Extended Range Course Materials, Manuals or Instructor Guides.
- 3. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 4. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 21 years old
 - B.** Own a Total Technical Diving System or a Closed Circuit Diving System of professional type and quality
 - C.** Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner
 - D.** Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization
 - E.** SSI XR Extended Range Instructor EITHER
 - 1.** Certified SSI Master Technical Instructor (or equivalent)

OR

 - 2.** Certified SSI Instructor Trainer, Instructor Certifier or Instructor Trainer (or equivalent) with minimum of 200 certifications issued including 25 open water Instructors and 15 Dive Control Specialists or Divemasters
- F.** Have logged a minimum of 250 dives including a minimum of 100 Extended Range Dives and at least 50 dives deeper than 132 fsw/40 msw, including 25 dives that required at least 3 staged stops and at least 1 gas switch per dive
- G.** Have issued a minimum of 50 certifications at any SSI Extended Range Level including a minimum of 30 Extended Range Divers
- H.** Submit a written application to SSI for approval
- 5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:**
 - A.** Maintain certification in First Aid & CPR
 - B.** Maintain certification in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit
 - C.** Display leadership behaviors as well as pass all requirements as listed in the program curriculum
 - D.** Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers
 - E.** Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%
 - F.** Exemplify the SSI TXR philosophy and display competence in applying the SSI Business System
 - G.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures
 - H.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable)
 - I.** Work only through an active SSI TXR Dive Center or SSI TXR Dive Resort
- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the Instructor Trainer program are 40. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions
- 7. Program Material:** Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current SSI XR training materials.



8. Qualifications: Active XR Instructor Trainers may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:

- A. Extended Range Instructor Training Seminars
- B. Advanced Nitrox to Extended Range Instructor Upgrade Programs
- C. May observe Extended Range Instructor Evaluations
- D. May be appointed by an SSI Regional Office or SSI Hq to be an evaluator at an Extended Range Instructor Exam & Evaluation
- E. May conduct Extended Range Specialty Instructor Evaluations if qualified for the specialty as noted in the following sections of this standard.

9. Delegation: Instructor Trainers may not delegate parts of the Instructor Training Course to anyone who is not an active SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor or above AND an SSI Extended Range or Technical Extended Range Instructor.

10. Maintaining Instructor Trainer Status: Instructor Trainers are required to:

- A. Teach or co-teach one complete Extended Range Instructor Training Seminar (ITS) or an Extended Range Specialty Instructor Evaluation or an Extended Range Instructor Upgrade every 24 months.
- B. Extended Range Instructor Trainers will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates fail the Extended Range Instructor Evaluation (IE) because of non-performance of the Instructor Trainer, the Instructor Trainer can be required to attend an Extended Range Instructor Training Seminar (XRITS) or revert to the Extended Range Instructor Rating.

11. Specialty Qualification requirements for the XRCD:

**XRIT ADVANCED WRECK INSTRUCTORS
UPGRADE PERMISSIONS**

- 1. An active and current XRIT in teaching status
- 2. Certified as an SSI XR Adv. Wreck Instructor
- 3. Certified as a TXR Technical Wreck Diver
- 4. Logged a minimum of 50 Advanced Wreck or Technical Wreck Dives
- 5. Certified a minimum of 25 Advanced Wreck Divers

XRIT CAVERN INSTRUCTORS UPGRADE PERMISSIONS

- 1. An active and current XRIT in teaching status
- 2. Certified as an SSI XR Cavern Instructor
- 3. Certified as a TXR Basic Cave Instructor
- 4. Certified as a TXR Cave Diver
- 5. Logged a minimum of 50 Cave or Cavern Dives
- 6. Certified a minimum of 25 Cavern Divers

XRIT CCR INSTRUCTORS UPGRADE PERMISSIONS

CCR/SCR Certifications are unit specific.

- 1. An active and current XRIT in teaching status
- 2. Certified as an SSI XR CCR/SCR Instructor on the specific unit he will qualify to teach
- 3. Certified as a CCR/SCR Deep Diver
- 4. Own or have facility sponsored access to a Total Closed Circuit Diving System of professional type and quality including the CCR unit the XRCD will use for his or her classes.
- 5. Logged a minimum of 100 CCR/SCR Dives including at least 50 logged hours on the specific SCR/CCR the Instructor Trainer will teach
- 6. Certified a minimum of 30 CCR/SCR Divers including at least 15 CCR Deep Divers

XRIT SIDE MOUNT INSTRUCTORS UPGRADE PERMISSIONS

1. An active and current XRIT in teaching status
2. Certified as an SSI XR Side Mount Instructor
3. Certified as an XR or TXR Specialty Instructor in at least one overhead environment specialty
4. Logged a minimum of 50 Side Mount Dives
5. Certified a minimum of 25 Side Mount Divers
6. Other Specialty Instructors Upgrade Permissions
7. An active and current XRIT in teaching status
8. Certified as an SSI XR Instructor in the specific specialty to be taught
9. Logged a minimum of 50 dives in the specialty area.
10. Certified a minimum of 25 Divers in the specialty



DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES DIVER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Instructor or higher may conduct the Decompression Procedures Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Decompression Procedures Diver.
2. **Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:
 - A. A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Decompression Procedures Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Instructor Manual and the SSI Decompression Procedures Diver materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Decompression Procedures Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited decompression dives to depths of up to 180 fsw/55 msw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Decompression Procedures program is 18 years old.
6. **Prerequisites:** TechXR Decompression Procedures program prerequisites:
 - A. SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications or equivalents
 - B. Advanced Open Water certification
 - C. Certification as either an SSI TechXR Extended Range Diver

OR

 - D. An SSI TechXR Full Cave Diver

OR

 - E. An SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Diver or equivalent.
 - F. 75 logged dives including at least 10 deeper than 120 fsw/36 msw
7. **Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Decompression Procedures program including dives is 18 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Training Requirements:** The TechXR decompression Procedures program requires a minimum of 6 training dives including 2 preliminary evaluation dives and 4 core training dives. The total aggregate time for dives 3-6 must be a minimum of 3.0 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 6 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards

 - A. Preliminary dives 1 and 2 may be credited from the TechXR Extended Range program providing that the program was successfully completed and the water work in the Decompression Procedures program commences within 90 days of completion of the Extended Range program. The crediting of qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If one or both of the preliminary dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for technical diving or the Instructor must conduct a no-decompression evaluation dive prior to commencing any dives requiring staged decompression stops.
 - B. Preliminary Dives 1 and 2 must have a minimum run time of 30 minutes. Dive 1 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air/EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. The Instructor may require safety stops or simulated stage decompression stops. Preliminary dive 2 is limited to staged decompression stops totaling no more than 20 minutes.
 - C. The primary plan decompression obligation for Core dives must not exceed 30 minutes for dives 3-4 and 45 minutes for dives 5-6. There must be a minimum of 2 stage stops in each training dive.

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watersmanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

- D. The SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - E. Students must remain within ten feet (3m) of their dive buddy at all times.
 - F. A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 9. Sequence:** Open water training dives 3-4 may only be conducted after completion of all watermanship assessments and after the preliminary dives have been completed or credited as stated in sub paragraph b above. Open water training dives 5 and 6 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 3-4 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** Preliminary dives 1 & 2 must be conducted at depths less than 132 fsw/40 msw. Core training dives 1-2 may be conducted at depths to a maximum of 50 msw / 165 fsw. Training dives 3-4 may be conducted at depths to a maximum of 180 fsw/55 msw. At least one dive during the program must be to a depth of 165 fsw/50 msw for certification.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice except when the student divers are qualified for those specific environments or when an SSI TechXR overhead environment program is being completed in conjunction with the Decompression Procedures program. No more than three training dives may be conducted per day. No more than two dives may be made on any day when a dive requiring stage decompression is made.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 4:1 for all dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and confined water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions similar to those encountered in a pool environment.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving an decompression Procedures Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Decompression Procedures Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 180 fsw/55 msw and requiring staged decompression stops of no longer than 45 minutes providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.
- 17. Credits:** Decompression Procedures students may not credit dives in this program to any other SSI TechXR program if the course is conducted individually. This course can be conducted in conjunction with the:
- 1. TXR Advanced Decompression Program
 - OR
 - 2. TXR Technical Wreck Program
 - OR
 - 3. TXR Cave Program
- A.** If conducted in conjunction with the Advanced Decompression Procedures Course.
- B.** Divers must complete all of the prerequisites, skills development and academic requirements for both programs.
- C.** The skills can be combined so that all material is covered in at least 7 dives including:
- 1. at least 1 preliminary evaluation dive.
 - 2. core training dives 3-4 of the Decompression Procedures Program
 - 3. all 4 Dives in the Advanced Decompression Procedures Program.
- D.** All dives and exercises including the shallow/confined water sessions of the SSI Decompression Procedures Program must be completed while wearing twin stages.

- E.** Divers must complete 1 twin stage Decompression dive at a depth less than 165 fsw/50 msw with at least 30 minutes of planned decompression time, 3 stops and 2 gas switches prior to completing training dives 1-4 of the TechXR Advanced Decompression Program.

- F.** All skill and academic requirements including the final exam for the Advanced Decompression program must be completed prior to the conduct of dives 3-4 in the Advanced Decompression program. If conducted in conjunction with the SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Program:
 - 1.** Dives 1-4 of the Technical Wreck Program may also be used to meet the requirements of preliminary dives 1 & 2 and core training dives 3 and 4 of the Decompression Procedures Program.
 - 2.** Divers must complete all of the prerequisites, skills development and academic requirements for both programs.
 - 3.** The recommended maximum depth for penetration training dives is 150 fsw/45 msw and under no circumstances may any penetration dives be conducted at depths in excess of 50 msw/165 fsw during the course.

- G.** If conducted in conjunction with the SSI Cave Program:
 - 1.** Dives 5-8 of the Cave Program may also be used to meet the requirements of preliminary dives 1-2 and core training dives 3-4 of the Deco Procedures Program.
 - 2.** Divers must complete all of the prerequisites, skills development and academic requirements for both programs.
 - 3.** Under no circumstances may any cave penetration dives be conducted at depths in excess of 45 msw/150 fsw during the course.
 - 4.** Divers must successfully complete at least one SMB deployment in shallow water (>30 msw / 100 fsw) and **MUST** complete an SMB deployment on either Decompression Procedures Dive 5 or 6 at some point in the dive prior to reaching the first required staged Decompression stop.

ADVANCED DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Instructor or higher may conduct the Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:
 - A.** A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** A second stage bottle with regulator for travel gas
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Instructor Manual and the SSI Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct twin stage decompression dives to depths of up to 180 fsw/55 msw utilizing air or 220 fsw/65 msw utilizing helium based trimix gases (if properly qualified) and technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Advanced Decompression Procedures program is 18 years old.
- 6. Prerequisites:** TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures program prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications or equivalents
 - B.** Advanced Open Water certification
 - C.** Certification as an SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Diver or TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver or equivalent. (Normoxic Trimix Certification is recommended)
 - D.** 100 logged dives including at least 10 dives deeper than 99 fsw/30 msw and requiring at least 2 staged decompression stops on each dive.

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures program including dives is 10 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

8. Training Requirements: The TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures program requires a minimum of 4 training dives with a total aggregate run time of 4.0 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards

- A.** A shallow or confined water skill development session/dive must be conducted to develop and evaluate the diver's abilities to manage twin stage diving procedures. If this session is conducted in open water the dive must be conducted within the no-decompression limits and at a maximum depth of no more than 100 fsw/30 msw.
 - B.** The primary plan decompression obligation for training dives 1-4 must not exceed 60 minutes. There must be a minimum of 3 stage stops and two gas switches for each training dive. The minimum run time for dives 1-2 is 45 minutes and the minimum run time for dives 3-4 is 55 minutes.
 - C.** The SSI TechXR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - D.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
 - E.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
 - F.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
 - G.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 9. Sequence:** Open water training dives 1-2 may only be conducted after completion of all watermanship assessments and after the preliminary dives have been completed or credited as stated in sub paragraph b above. Open water training dives 3-4 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.

10. Maximum Depth: The first evaluation/skill development session must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw. The remaining 4 training dives must be conducted at depths as specified below:

- A.** If air or optimized nitrox is used for the bottom gas the recommended depth limit is 165 fsw/50 msw and the maximum limit under excellent conditions is no deeper than 180 fsw/55 msw.
- B.** Divers who are properly qualified as TechXR Normoxic Trimix Divers may use trimix as a bottom gas on dives 3-4 with a maximum depth limit of 220 fsw/65 msw. It is recommended that trimix 21/35 be used as a back gas for dives to a depth of 180 fsw/54 msw and that trimix 18/45 be used for dives between 180 fsw/54 msw and 200 fsw/60 msw. Divers who are taking this program as an integrated part of the TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver Class may complete dives with depth limits in accordance with the SSI Normoxic Trimix Diver Standards.

11. Training Conditions: All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice except when the student divers are qualified for those specific environments or when the SSI TechXR Cave or Technical Wreck Diver program is being completed in conjunction with the Advanced Decompression Procedures program. No more than two training dives may be conducted per day.

12. Ratio: The maximum student ratios for open water training is 4:1 for all dives shallower than 180 fsw/55 msw and 2:1 for dives 180 fsw/55 msw or deeper. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.

13. Use of Certified Assistants: Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.

14. Training Without Pool: It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and the skill evaluation sessions in shallow open water environments providing that proper supervision can be maintained.

- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Advanced Decompression procedures Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 180 fsw on air or 220 fsw on trimix (if Trimix certified) and requiring staged decompression stops providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.
- 17. Credits:** Dives from this program may not be credited to other programs, however this program may be conducted in conjunction with the TechXR Normoxic Trimix program. Combined Normoxic Trimix and Advanced Decompression Procedures program requirements (for programs conducted as one program):
- A.** The Combined program may only be conducted by SSI TXR Trimix Instructors.
 - B.** Divers must complete all of the skills development and academic requirements for both programs. However the skills can be combined so that all material is covered in at least 6 dives including the preliminary evaluation dive.
 - C.** All dives and exercises including the shallow/confined water sessions of the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix program must be completed while wearing twin stages.
 - D.** Divers must complete 1 twin stage Decompression dive at a depth less than 165 fsw/50 msw with at least 30 minutes of planned decompression time, 3 stops and 2 gas switches prior to completing training dives 1-4 of the TechXR Normoxic Trimix program.
 - E.** All skill and academic requirements including the final exam for the Advanced Decompression program must be completed prior to the conduct of dives 3-4 in the Normoxic Trimix program.



NORMOXIC TRIMIX DIVER STANDARDS

1. Instructor: An active SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Instructor or higher may conduct the Normoxic Trimix Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Normoxic Trimix Diver.

2. Equipment: The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:

A. A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System

3. Content: The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Normoxic Trimix Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Instructor Manual and the SSI Normoxic Trimix Diver materials.

4. Intent: The intent of the Normoxic Trimix Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited decompression dives to depths of up to 200 fsw/60 msw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.

5. Minimum Age: The minimum age for participation in Normoxic Trimix program is 18 years old.

6. Prerequisites: TechXR Normoxic Trimix program prerequisites:

A. SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications or equivalents

B. Advanced Open Water certification

IF CERTIFIED AS AN SSI TECHXR DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES DIVER OR EQUIVALENT:

A. Must have at least 75 logged dives including at least 20 dives deeper than 99 fsw/30 msw and at least 10 dives requiring at least 2 staged decompression stops with at least 1 gas switch.

IF THE DIVER IS NOT CERTIFIED AS A TECHXR DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES DIVER OR EQUIVALENT:

A. Must be certified as an SSI TechXR Extended Range Diver or equivalent AND the diver must have 100 logged dives including 30 that are deeper than 90 fsw/27 msw and 10 dives requiring at least 2 staged decompression stops with at least 1 gas switch. Additionally divers in this category must complete preliminary dives

A & B shown below in the training requirements section.

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

7. Program Duration: The recommended time for the TechXR Normoxic Trimix program including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

8. Training Requirements: The TechXR Normoxic Trimix program requires a minimum of 4 core training dives. The total aggregate dive time must be a minimum of 3.5 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled. At least one dive must have a total run time in excess of 60 minutes.

A. If the Instructor does not have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the students water skills and abilities to conduct technical dives the Instructor must conduct a preliminary evaluation dive. If the diver has not completed the TechXR Decompression Procedures program or equivalent as a prerequisite to this program, the Instructor must conduct two additional preliminary evaluation dives. Preliminary Dives 1 and 2 must have a minimum run time of 30 minutes and a depth no deeper than 132 fsw/40 msw. Dive 1 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air/EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. The Instructor must require safety stops or simulated staged decompression stops. Preliminary dive 2 is limited to staged decompression stops totaling no more than 15 minutes and requiring or simulating at least 2 staged stops and 1 gas switch.

OR

B. If the SSI Normoxic TRIMIX program is conducted as a fully integrated program continuous with The SSI Extended Range program the preliminary dives are still required but may be conducted as decompression dives within the maximum limits specified in the SSI Extended Range program.

- C.** At the Instructors discretion air may be used for the back gas on core training dives 1 and / or 2 for the purposes of demonstrating the immediate effect of helium on the management of narcosis. Air may not be used on any dive that exceeds 55 msw / 180 fsw or that exceeds the depth of the student's previous certifications for air diving. Trimix must be used as the back gas for core training dives 3 and 4. On all dives where trimix is used the divers must breathe trimix with an oxygen concentration of 18% or higher for back gas. All dive plans including contingency plans and actual dives are limited to a maximum PPO₂ of 1.4 for the bottom phase of any dive. The recommended gas mixture for these programs is 21/35 for back gas. The recommended equivalent narcosis depth limit is 100 fsw/30 msw and the maximum allowed END is 132 fsw/40 msw. Divers must use a single stage cylinder and if the diver has either completed the Advanced Decompression Procedures program or is taking that program in conjunction with the Normoxic Trimix program 2 stage cylinders may be used. Divers may breathe nitrox mixtures with an oxygen concentration as great as 99% or oxygen in the stage cylinder(s) for ascents and decompression stops. Mixes are limited to a PPO₂ of 1.61 for all decompression and safety stops. In addition to all other limits, both the primary and contingency dive plans must expose the diver to no more than 80% of the limits for CNS toxicity and pulmonary toxicity as calculated using the SSI TechXR materials and the pertinent NOAA tables for both single dive and multiple dive exposures. Where environmental or dive conditions are less than ideal the Instructor should choose more conservative limits.
- D.** The primary plan decompression obligation for dives 1-4 must not exceed 60 minutes. There must be a minimum of 2 stage stops in each training dive. Either dive 3 or 4 must be conducted at a depth of between 165 fsw/50 msw and 200 fsw/60 msw (220 fsw/67msw if the diver has advanced deco procedures certification AND will use twin stages for the dives).
- E.** Students must remain within ten feet (3m) of their dive buddy at all times.
- F.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 9. Sequence:** Open water training dives 1-2 may only be conducted after completion of all watermanship assessments have been completed. Open water training dives 3-4 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** The first 2 training dives must be conducted at depths less than 180 fsw/55 msw. The remaining training dives may be conducted at depths up to 200 fsw/60 msw. If the diver is certified as a TXR Advanced Decompression Diver AND uses a staged travel gas in addition to the staged Decompression gas the depth limit for dives 3 & 4 is 67 msw/220 fsw.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice except when the student divers are qualified for those specific environments or when the SSI TechXR overhead environment program is being completed in conjunction with the Normoxic Trimix program. No more than two training dives may be conducted per day.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 4:1 for all dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and water practice sessions in shallow open water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions similar to those encountered in a pool environment.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Normoxic Trimix Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Normoxic Trimix Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an

equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 220 fsw/67 msw and requiring staged decompression stops of no longer than 60 minutes providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.

- 17. Credits:** This program may be conducted in conjunction with the TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures program. If the combined program is completed OR the diver has completed both programs individually, dives from the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver and Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver programs (NO EQUIVALENTS) may be credited to the Hypoxic Trimix program. Credit is allowed at the Instructor's discretion only if the most recent course work was completed within the 90 days immediately preceding the start of the Hypoxic Trimix program and the Instructor has recent experience (within 90 days) with the diver's water skills and ability to function as a Trimix diver.
- A.** Conducting the Combined Advanced decompression Procedures and Normoxic Trimix programs:
 - B.** Combined Normoxic Trimix and Advanced Decompression Procedures program requirements (for programs conducted as one program):
 - C.** Divers must complete all of the skills development and academic requirements for both programs. However the skills can be combined so that all material is covered in at least 6 dives including the preliminary evaluation dive.
 - D.** All dives and exercises including the shallow/confined water sessions of the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix program must be completed while wearing twin stages.
 - E.** Divers must complete 1 twin stage Decompression dive at a depth less than 165 fsw/50 msw with at least 30 minutes of planned decompression time, 3 stops and 2 gas switches prior to completing training dives 1-4 of the TechXR Normoxic Trimix program.
 - F.** All skill and academic requirements including the final exam for the Advanced Decompression program must be completed prior to the conduct of dives 3-4 in the Normoxic Trimix program.

HYPOXIC TRIMIX DIVER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Hypoxic Trimix Instructor or higher may conduct the Hypoxic Trimix Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Hypoxic Trimix Diver.
2. **Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:
 - A. A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System
 - B. Two stage regulator first and second-stages, oxygen cleaned as required.
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Hypoxic Trimix Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Hypoxic Trimix Instructor Manual and the SSI Hypoxic Trimix Diver materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Hypoxic Trimix Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct limited decompression dives to depths of up to 330 fsw/100 msw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Hypoxic Trimix program is 21 years old.
6. **Prerequisites:** TechXR Hypoxic Trimix program prerequisites:
 - A. SSI Science of Diving, Deep, Nitrox and Stress/Rescue Certifications or equivalents
 - B. Advanced Open Water certification
 - C. Certification as an SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver and an Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver or equivalent.
 - D. 150 logged dives. The dives must include at least 30 dives deeper than 99 fsw/30 msw, 10 dives deeper than 165 fsw/50 msw and 20 dives requiring 2 or more staged decompression and at least 2 gas switches. A single dive can be used for credit towards more than 1 of these requirements as long as the minimum number of dives is achieved.

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

Dives from the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver program (NO EQUIVALENTS) may be credited to meet the requirements of core training dives 1 and 2 of the Hypoxic Trimix program in accordance with the following standards. Credit is allowed solely at the Instructors discretion if the student is certified as both a TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver and a TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver (NO EQUIVALENTS). To allow credit, one or both of the prerequisite programs must have been completed within the 180 days immediately preceding the start of the Hypoxic Trimix program and the Instructor must have recent experience (within 180 days) with the diver's water skills and abilities in a technical diving environment.

7. **Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Hypoxic Trimix program including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Training Requirements:** The TechXR Hypoxic Trimix program requires a minimum of 4 core training dives. The recommended total aggregate run time is 6 hours (360 minutes), if the Instructor has prior knowledge of the divers abilities some run time from previous programs may be credited making the total aggregate run time required a minimum of 5 hours (300 minutes). Credits for run time do not reduce the required 4 core training dive minimum for this program. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled. If the Instructor does not have direct knowledge of the students water skills and abilities to conduct technical dives, the Instructor must conduct an additional preliminary evaluation dive in full Hypoxic Trimix Gear at a depth of no more than 100 fsw/30 msw prior to the completion of any deeper dives or dives requiring staged decompression.

Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards

- A. In addition to all other limits, both the primary and contingency dive plans must expose the diver to no more than 80% of the limits for CNS toxicity and pulmonary toxicity as calculated using the SSI TechXR materials and the pertinent NOAA tables for both single dive and multiple dive exposures. Where environmental or dive conditions are less than ideal the Instructor should choose more conservative limits.

- B.** The primary plan decompression obligation for dives 1-4 must not exceed 90 minutes. There must be a minimum of 4 stage stops and two gas switches in each training dive.
 - C.** Students must remain within ten feet (3m) of their dive buddy at all times.
 - D.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
- 9. Sequence:** Open water training dives 1-2 may only be conducted after completion of all watermanship assessments have been completed. Open water training dives 3-4 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-2 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** The first 2 training dives must be conducted at depths less than 180 fsw/55 msw. The remaining training dives must be conducted at depths between 60 msw / 200 fsw and 330 fsw/100 msw. At least 1 dive during the program must be to a depth of at least 230 fsw/70 msw to qualify for certification
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours in water which allows direct vertical access to the surface. Training dives may not be conducted in wrecks, caverns, caves or under ice except when the student divers are qualified for those specific environments. No more than two training dives may be conducted per day.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for open water training is 4:1 for all dives less than 180 fsw/55 msw. For dives 180 fsw/55 msw or deeper the student to Instructor ratio is 2 to Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and water practice sessions in shallow open water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions similar to those encountered in a pool environment.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Hypoxic Trimix Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Hypoxic Trimix Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on dives utilizing technical equipment and procedure to depths of 330 fsw/100 msw.
- 17. Credits:** Dives from this program may not be credited to other programs.

TECHXR BASIC CAVE DIVER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Basic Cave Diving Instructor or higher may conduct the Basic Cave Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Basic Cave Diver.
- 2. Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:
 - A.** A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System
 - B.** 2 safety/cavern reels or spools per diver
 - C.** 1 primary reel per dive team (may be provided by the Instructor)
 - D.** 3 line arrows or other regionally line marking devices and 2 non-direction cookies or line marking devices
- 3. Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Basic Cave Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Basic Cave Instructor Manual and the SSI Basic Cave Diver materials.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the Basic Cave Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct Cave penetration dives utilizing the thirds rule of gas management at depths less than 30 msw / 100 fsw, utilizing Basic Cave diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
- 5. Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Basic Cave Diver Program is 18 years old.
- 6. Prerequisites:** TechXR Basic Cave course prerequisites:
 - A.** SSI Stress and Rescue Certification or equivalent
 - B.** SSI Cavern Diver Certification or equivalent
 - C.** Advanced Open Water certification
 - D.** 50 logged dives
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Basic Cave course including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 8. Training Requirements:** The TechXR Basic Cave Course requires a confined water or open shallow water skill development session or dive of at least 1 hour and a minimum of 4 training dives with a minimum run time of 30 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. The total aggregate time for dives 1-4 must be a minimum of 2 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 4 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.
 - A.** Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards
 - B.** Training dives 1-4 must be planned within the no-decompression limits of the SSI combined Air / EAN Tables or the student's personal dive computer. All dives require safety stops.
 - C.** Students may use no more than 1/6 of their gas supply for the penetration phase on any Basic Cave dive with 1/6 for the exit and the balance left in reserve for emergencies.
 - D.** All dives are limited to 100 fsw/30 msw of depth.
 - E.** A simple linear guideline to open water must be maintained during all phases of any penetration dive.
 - F.** The SSI TechXR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - G.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 meters of their dive buddy at all times.
- 9. Sequence:** Basic Cave training dives 1-4 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all open water practice sessions have been completed. No new skill may be completed by students in the overhead environment until it has been practiced in open water.

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.



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- 10. Maximum Depth:** All training dives must be conducted at depths less than 100 fsw/30 msw. Diver overhead environment dive requirements.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All Basic Cave diving training dives must be conducted in water with at least 33 ft. / 10 m. of visibility at the dive commencement. Dives are limited to areas where two divers can swim without restriction one behind the other freely. Dives must be completed in at least 2 different cave sites.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for Basic Cave training is 6:1 for confined and open water sessions and 3 to 1 for overhead environment dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and open water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Basic Cave Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Basic Cave Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on cave dives utilizing Basic Cave equipment and procedures to depths of 100 fsw/30 msw, providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience. The 1/6 rule of gas management must be applied to all dives.
- NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATION WILL EXPIRE 1 YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUE.** It is recommended that divers receiving this certification obtain a dual certification as a TechXR Intro to Cave Diver which may be issued upon completion of the Basic Cave Diver Course without any additional requirements.
- 17. Credits:** Basic Cave students may not credit any training in this program to dive requirements for other SSI TechXR courses. However this course may be conducted in conjunction with the SSI TechXR Extended Range Course providing that all required qualifying dives deeper than 100 ft. / 33 m. or requiring staged decompression must be conducted in open water and those open water dives may not be applied to any of the requirements for the Basic Cave

TECHXR CAVE DIVER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Basic Cave Diving Instructor or higher may conduct the Cave Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Cave Diver.
2. **Equipment:**
 - A. Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers. Plus:
 - B. 1 Primary light with at least a 20 watt halogen or equivalent bulb. Canister style lights are recommended.
 - C. 2 back-up dive lights
 - D. 2 safety/cavern reels or spools per diver
 - E. 1 jump or gap reel per diver
 - F. 1 primary reel per diver
 - G. 3 line arrows or other regionally line marking devices and 2 non-direction cookies or line marking devices
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Cave Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Cave Instructor Manual and the SSI Cave Diver materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Cave Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct Cave penetration dives utilizing the thirds rule of gas management at depths less than 132 ft. / 40 m., utilizing Cave diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in Cave Diver Program is 18 years old.
6. **Prerequisites:** TechXR Basic Cave course prerequisites:
 - A. SSI Stress and Rescue Certification or equivalent
 - B. SSI TechXR Cavern Diver Certification or equivalent
 - C. Advanced Open Water certification
 - D. 75 logged dives including at least 20 cavern or cave dives.

—————
EITHER
—————

 - E. SSI TechXR Basic Cave Certification

—————
OR
—————

 - F. SSI TechXR Intro to Cave Certification AND TechXR Extended Range Certification (with a twinset)

Each diver enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.
7. **Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Cave course including dives is 16 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
8. **Training Requirements:** The TechXR Cave Course requires a confined water, open shallow water or cavern area skill development session or dive of at least 1 hour and a minimum of 8 training dives with a minimum run time of 30 minutes each. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. The total aggregate time for dives 1 – 8 must be a minimum of 4 hours. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 8 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.
 - A. Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards
 - B. Training dives 1-4 must be planned within the decompression limits specified by the divers current certifications. All dives require safety stops.
 - C. Students may use no more than 1/3 of their gas supply for the penetration phase on any Cave dive with 1/3 for the exit and 1/3 left in reserve for emergencies. Gas matching formulas must be used and applied to the dive plan.



- D.** All dives are limited to a depth limit of 132 ft. / 40 m.
 - E.** A guideline to open water must be maintained during all phases of any penetration dive. Complex navigation courses including jumps, circuits and other multiple line navigational aids are permitted.
 - F.** The SSI TechXR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - G.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
- 9. Sequence:** Cave training dives 1-4 may only be conducted after completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all open water practice sessions have been completed. All new skills should be practiced in open water prior to attempting the skills in the overhead environment.
- A.** Cave training dives 5-8 may only be conducted after completion of all watermanship assessments, open water training, dives 1-4 and all academics sessions.
 - B.** Dives 6-8 may only be completed after completion of all of the above requirements and successful completion of the TXR Cave Diver Final Exam.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** All training dives must be conducted within the limits of the student's certification level or less than 132 ft. / 40 m. whichever is shallower.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All Cave diving training dives must be conducted in water with at least 20 ft. / 6 m. of visibility at the dive commencement. Minor restrictions are permitted (areas where two divers may swim single file without removing or manipulating equipment to navigate the restriction. Dives must be completed in at least 2 different cave sites.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Open Water students for Cave training is 4:1 for confined and open water sessions and 2:1 for overhead environment dives. Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and open water practice sessions in shallow confined water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and calm conditions.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Cave Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Cave Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on cave dives Cave equipment and procedure to depths the depths of the student's certification providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience. The thirds rule of gas management must be applied to all dives.
- 17. Credits:** Cave students may not credit any training in this program to dive requirements for other SSITechXR courses. However this course may be conducted in conjunction with the SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Diver Course providing that at least 2 qualifying dives deeper than 150 ft. / 45 m. must be conducted in open water and those open water dives may not be applied to any of the requirements for the Cave Diver overhead environment dive requirements. If conducted in conjunction with the SSI Decompression Procedures Program:
- A.** Dives 5-8 of the Cave Program may also be used to meet the requirements of preliminary dives 1-2 and core training dives 3-4 of the Decompression Procedures Program.
 - B.** Divers must complete all of the prerequisites, skills development and academic requirements for both programs.
 - C.** Under no circumstances may any cave penetration dives be conducted at depths in excess of 45 msw / 150 fsw during the course.
 - D.** Divers must successfully complete at least one SMB deployment in shallow water (>30msw / 100 fsw) and MUST complete an SMB deployment on either Decompression Procedures Dive 5 or 6 at some point in the dive prior to reaching the first required staged deco stop.

TECHXR TECHNICAL WRECK DIVER STANDARDS

1. **Instructor:** An active SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Instructor or higher may conduct the Technical Wreck Diver program. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for Advanced Nitrox Diver.
2. **Equipment:** The minimum required student equipment for this course includes:
 - A. A complete Technical Extended Range Diving System

 - OR

 - B. In the alternative, back gas cylinders and regulators may be replaced with a CCR or SCR providing that the diver meets all prerequisites as specified for the closed circuit Technical Wreck Divers. AND the diver stages enough open circuit gas to complete 50% of the planned bottom time and all planned decompression obligations.

 - AND

 - C. Primary and back-up lights
 - D. 1 primary reel per dive team (may be provided by the Instructor)
 - E. 2 safety/cavern reels or spools per diver
3. **Content:** The knowledge and skills to be covered in the Technical Wreck Diver program are those provided in the SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Instructor Manual and the SSI Technical Wreck Diver materials.
4. **Intent:** The intent of the Technical Wreck Diver program is to provide divers with the training necessary to independently plan and conduct full penetration dives inside ship wrecks or other structures to a maximum depth of 50 msw / 165 fsw utilizing technical diving equipment and procedures with an equally qualified dive buddy.
5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for participation in the Technical Wreck Program is 18 years old or the age of majority in the jurisdiction where the course will be taught whichever is higher.
6. **Prerequisites:** TechXR Technical Wreck course prerequisites:
 - A. Deep, Wreck and Stress/Rescue Certifications
 - B. SSI TechXR Extended Range and either Advanced Wreck Diver Certification or Cavern Dive Certification
 - C. 75 logged dives to include at least 20 wreck dives and 20 dives in ocean like environments

FOR CCR TECHNICAL WRECK DIVERS

 - A. Certification as an SSI CCR Diver with qualifications on the specific unit to be used in training and Certification as a CCR Extended Range Diver.
 - B. 75 logged hours on CCRs to include at least 50 hours on the specific unit to be used in training, 20 CCR wreck dives and 20 CCR dives in ocean like environments
 - C. Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards The open water evaluation dive may be credited from previous technical training providing that the previous course was completed within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of the Technical Wreck Course. The crediting of qualifying dives is entirely within the Instructor's discretion. If dives are credited, the Instructor must either have direct and recent knowledge (within 90 days) of the student's skill level for technical diving.
7. **Program Duration:** The recommended time for the TechXR Technical Wreck course including dives is 20 hours. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

- 8. Training requirements:** The TechXR Technical Wreck course requires an open water evaluation dive, a confined water or open water watermanship assessment session and a minimum of 6 wreck penetration training dives. No more than three training dives may be Conducted per day. No more than two dives may be made on any day when a dive requiring stage decompression is made. The total aggregate time of actual penetration for training dives 1 – 6 must be a minimum of 180 minutes. If environmental or water conditions make it unsafe or impractical to meet the aggregate time requirement in 6 dives, additional training dives should be scheduled.
- A.** Gas limits are specified in the general XR/TXR Standards
 - B.** Preliminary open water evaluation dive 1 must be planned within the limits of the Extended Range diver standards. All dives require safety stops or required stage decompression stops to be completed.
 - C.** Training dives 1-4 will include at least 180 minutes of actual penetration dive training for dives to a maximum of 1/3 of the diver's gas supply. If the 180 minutes of actual penetration dive time cannot be met within 6 dives due to environmental or other conditions the Instructor must schedule additional dives to meet the required time limit.
 - D.** The SSI TechXR Instructor must directly supervise all diving activities and visually observe and evaluate all student skills underwater.
 - E.** Students must remain within 10 ft. / 3 m. of their dive buddy at all times.
 - F.** A reel and guideline, must be used as a primary method of navigation on all penetration dives. Complex navigation patterns are allowed.
 - G.** A guideline, physical structure, or Surface Marking Bag (SMB) and reel must be used for ascent on dives where stage decompression is simulated or conducted.
 - H.** A rule of thirds for gas management must be used on all penetration dives. Upon any diver consuming 1/3 of the available bottom gas or CCR time the dive must be turned leaving 1/3 for the exit and 1/3 for contingencies. The principles of gas matching must be included in all dive plans.
- 9. Sequence:** Overhead environment training dives 1-4 may only be conducted after the completion of the gear configuration section, all watermanship assessments and all confined or open water practice sessions have been completed. Overhead environment training dives 5-6 may not be completed until all standards requirements for academic lectures, the final written exam and dives 1-4 have been successfully met or exceeded.
- 10. Maximum Depth:** The maximum depth limit for any training dive shall not exceed the maximum depth certifications of the student or a maximum of 165 fsw/50 msw whichever is shallower.
- 11. Training Conditions:** All open water scuba training dives must be conducted during daylight hours.
- 12. Ratio:** The maximum number of Technical Wreck Diver students for dives is 4 to Instructors should reduce the student to Instructor ratio anytime conditions dictate a reduced number of students.
- 13. Use of Certified Assistants:** Certified Technical Assistants can be used and are recommended but they cannot be used to increase student ratios.
- 14. Training Without Pool:** It is acceptable to conduct watermanship assessments and confined water practice sessions in open water environments as long as the conditions give the Instructor adequate visibility and control.
- 15. Final Exam:** Each student receiving a Technical Wreck Diver certification must have passed a Final Exam with a minimum passing score of 80%.
- 16. Qualification:** Technical Wreck Diver Certification entitles the holder to dive autonomously with an equally or higher qualified buddy on full penetration dives utilizing technical wreck penetration equipment and procedures providing that dives are conducted in environments similar to those of the divers training and experience.

17. Credits: Dives from this course may not be credited to other SSI TechXR courses if the course is completed individually. The course can be conducted in conjunction with the TXR Decompression Procedures Program.

IF CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SSI TECHXR DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES PROGRAM:

- A.** The preliminary open water evaluation in the Technical Wreck Program may be used to meet the preliminary dive requirements in the Deco Procedures Program. Penetration Dives 1-4 of the Technical Wreck Program may also be used to meet the requirements of the core training dives 1 and 2 of the Decompression Procedures Program. A total of must be completed of 8 core training dives including 6 full penetration dives must be completed in the combined program.
- B.** Divers must complete all of the prerequisites, skills development and academic requirements for both programs.
- C.** The recommended maximum depth for penetration training dives is 150 fsw/45msw and under no circumstances may any penetration dives be conducted at depths in excess of 50 msw/165 fsw during the course.

TECHXR DECOMPRESSION PROCEDURES INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Extended Range Instructor Evaluation Exam are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Manual. This program may be conducted by an SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor Certifier.
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:**
 - A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
 - B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
 - C. SSI EAN Instructor
 - D. Certified 10 Deep Divers
 - E. SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor
 - F. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor
 - G. SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor or equivalent.

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar which includes passing the Science of Diving Instructor Exam.

- H. SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Diver or Equivalent
- I. Logged 200 Dives including at least 15 logged decompression dives deeper than 120 fsw/36 msw including at least 5 with 30 minutes of staged decompression time and requiring at least 1 gas switch.

For Advanced Decompression Procedures Specialty Program Permissions add the following prerequisites in addition to all requirements stated above:

- J. SSI Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver or equivalent.
- K. An additional 5 logged decompression dives deeper than 130 fsw/36 msw with at least 45 minutes of staged decompression time and requiring at least 2 gas switches.

Note: The requirements in the two preceding paragraphs may be met after completion of the Extended Range IEE.

4. Additional Requirements

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own Extended Range scuba diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching simulated and/or stage decompression in deep and challenging environments
- C. Meet one of the following experience requirements Certified 10 or more divers at the TechXR Advanced Nitrox Diver or TechXR Extended Range Diver Levels or Equivalent.

OR

- D. Teach at least two complete SSI TechXR Advanced Nitrox programs and co-teach at least 1 TechXR Extended Range Procedures program and 1 TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures program with a certified SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor Trainer(s) and provide recommendation forms completed and signed by the assisted Instructor(s) for each class assisted. Co-teaching activities must take place after completion of the Extended Range Instructor Evaluation Exam and prior to certification as an Extended Range Instructor.
- E. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:
- F. Complete the SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor Evaluation Exam
- G. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid.
- H. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- I. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience.
- J. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

5. **Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the TechXR Extended Range IEE are 8:12 and will include:
 - A. All academics and a written exam
 - B. A shallow water skills evaluation dive.
 - C. The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise a full decompression dive at a depth of at least 150 fsw with at least 45 minutes of planned staged decompression time and at least 1 gas switch.
 - D. For Advanced Decompression Procedures Permissions all water skills must be completed while wearing twin stage cylinders and the deep dive must involve 2 gas switches. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
6. **Program Material:** SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI TechXR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.
7. **Qualifications:** After certification, active SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructors may:
 - A. Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Diver program
 - B. Issue SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures Diver certifications
 - C. Active Decompression Procedures Instructors with Advanced Decompression Procedures Specialty permissions may:
 - D. Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver program
 - E. Issue SSI TechXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Diver certifications
 - F. Teach advanced Decompression programs to depths of 180 fsw/55 msw on air.
 - G. TechXR Advanced Decompression Instructors who are also TechXR Trimix Instructors may teach advanced Decompression programs to depths of 220 fsw/65 msw using normoxic trimix in accordance with the diver level standards.

TECHXR TRIMIX INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Trimix Instructor Evaluation Exam are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Manual. This program may be conducted by an SSI TechXR Trimix Instructor Certifier.

2. Intent: The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.

3. Prerequisites:

- A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
- B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
- C. SSI EAN Instructor
- D. Certified 10 Deep Divers
- E. SSI Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor
- F. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar which includes passing the Science of Diving Instructor Exam.

- G. Certified as a TechXR Decompression Procedures Instructor with Advanced Decompression Procedures Specialty Program Permissions or equivalent.
- H. SSI TechXR Hypoxic Trimix Diver or Equivalent
- I. Logged 250 dives including:
 - 1. At least 30 logged trimix dives
 - 2. At least 30 logged dives deeper than 165 fsw/50 msw, including 10 dives requiring at least 4 staged stops (may include 1 deep stop) and at least 2 gas switches per dive.

4. Additional Requirements

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own trimix diving scuba diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching staged decompression in deep and challenging environments

5. Meet one of the following experience requirements:

- A. Certified 10 or more TechXR Decompression Procedures or Advanced Decompression Procedures Divers or Equivalent (at least 2 certifications must be Advanced Decompression).

OR

- B. Teach at least one complete SSI TechXR Decompression Procedures and one complete Advanced Decompression Procedures program and Co-teach at least 1 Normoxic Trimix program and 1 Hypoxic Trimix program with a certified SSI TechXR Trimix Instructor Trainer(s) and provide recommendation forms completed and signed by the assisted Instructor(s) for each class assisted. Co-teaching activities must take place after completion of the Trimix Instructor Evaluation program and prior to certification as Trimix Instructor.

6. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A. Complete the SSI TechXR Trimix IEE.
- B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid.
- C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- D. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience.

E. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in this program must successfully complete a watermanship skills evaluation that includes:

1. An 800-yard / 7300-meter surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins*
2. A surface swim of at least 400 yards / 365 meters while wearing full technical gear including twin stage cylinders*
3. A 15-minute survival swim/float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids*
4. Students must also be able to swim a horizontal distance of 33 ft. / 10 m. underwater, exhaling continuously and successfully initiate an air sharing ascent while wearing all of the equipment required for the TechXR Diver programs*

*Note: The watermanship assessment may be waived in the Instructor trainer's discretion if the student has passed the same watermanship assessment within the 6 month period immediately preceding the commencement of the Trimix Instructor program.

7. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the TechXR Trimix IEE are 8:12 and will include at least each of the following:

- A. Demonstrate mastery of all academic materials and achieve a score of at least 90% on all written exams.
- B. A shallow water skills evaluation dive.
- C. The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise a full decompression dive at a depth of at least 180 fsw/55msw with at least 60 minutes of planned staged decompression time and at least two gas switches. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.

8. Program Material: SSI TechXR Trimix Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI TechXR student and Instructor materials and training standards.

9. Qualifications: After certification, active SSI TechXR Trimix Instructors may:

- A. Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver program
- B. Issue SSI TechXR Normoxic Trimix Diver certifications
- C. Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Hypoxic Trimix Diver program
- D. Issue SSI TechXR Hypoxic Trimix Diver certifications



TECHXR INTRODUCTION TO & BASIC CAVE INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. **Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Basic / Introduction To Cave Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Manual. This evaluation course may be conducted by a TechXR Cave Instructor Certifier (2 certifiers or 1 certifier and 1 Instructor trainer is required).
2. **Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
3. **Prerequisites:** SSI TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave Instructor Candidates
 - A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
 - B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
 - C. SSI EAN Instructor (recommended)
 - D. SSI Cavern Instructor
 - E. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor
 - F. SSI TechXR Full Cave Diver (or Equivalent)
 - G. Certified 10 Deep Divers

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar.

 - H. Logged 50 Cave/Cavern Dives
 - I. SSI TechXR Cavern Instructor (or Equivalent)

4. Additional Requirements:

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own Full Cave Diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching full penetration dives in challenging environments
- C. Meet one of the following experience requirements Certified 10 or more divers at the TechXR Cavern Diver Level

OR

- D. Teach at least two complete SSI TechXR Cavern Courses and co-teach at least 2 TechXR Intro to Cave Diver Courses and with certified SSI TechXR Intro to Cave Diving Instructor(s) and provide recommendation forms completed and signed by the assisted Instructor(s) for each class assisted. Co-teaching activities must take place after completion of the Intro to Cave Instructor Evaluation Exam and prior to certification as a Intro to Cave Instructor.
- ### 5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:
- A. Complete the SSI TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave IEE.
 - B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid.
 - C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
 - D. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience.
 - E. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the TechXR Intro to Cave IEE are 16 to 20 hours and will include:
 - A.** All academics and a written exam
 - B.** A shallow water skills evaluation dive.
 - C.** The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise two full penetration basic cave dives while acting as an Instructor. At least one dive must be evaluated by an active SSI TechXR Cave Instructor Certifier. The other dive must be evaluated by a different Cave Instructor Trainer or Cave Instructor Certifier. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 7. Program Material:** SSI TechXR Intro to Cave Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI TechXR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.
- 8. Qualifications:** After certification, active SSI TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave Instructors may:
 - A.** Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Basic Cave and Intro to Cave Diver program
 - B.** Issue SSI TechXR Basic Cave & Intro to Cave Diver certifications



TECHXR CAVE INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

- 1. Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Cave Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Manual. This evaluation course may be conducted by a TechXR Cave Instructor Certifier (2 certifiers or 1 certifier and 1 Instructor trainer is required).
- 2. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 3. Prerequisites:** SSI TechXR Cave Instructor Candidates
 - A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
 - B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
 - C. SSI EAN Instructor
 - D. SSI Cavern Instructor
 - E. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor
 - F. SSI TechXR Cave Diver (or Equivalent)
 - G. Certified 20 Cavern and / or Basic / Intro Cave Divers

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar.

 - H. Logged 100 Cave / Cavern Dives
 - I. SSI TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave Instructor (or Equivalent)
 - J. SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor (or Equivalent)

4. Additional Requirements

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
 - B. Provide his or her own Full Cave Diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching full penetration dives in challenging environments
 - C. Meet one of the following experience requirements Certified 10 or more divers at the TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave Diver Level
- OR
- D. Teach at least two complete SSI TechXR Intro to Cave or Basic Cave Courses and co-teach at least 2 TechXR Intro to Cave Diver Courses with certified SSI TechXR Cave Diving Instructor(s) and provide recommendation forms completed and signed by the assisted Instructor(s) for each class assisted. Co-teaching activities must take place after completion of the Cave Instructor Evaluation Exam and prior to certification as a Intro to Cave Instructor.

5. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A. Complete the SSI TechXR Basic / Intro to Cave IEE.
- B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid.
- C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- D. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience.
- E. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

- 6. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the TechXR Cave IEE are 20 to 24 hours and will include:
 - A.** All academics and a written exam
 - B.** A shallow water skills evaluation dive.
 - C.** The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise four full penetration cave dives while acting as an Instructor. At least two dives must be evaluated by an active SSI TechXR Cave Instructor Certifier. The other dive must be evaluated by a different Cave Instructor Trainer or Cave Instructor Certifier. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.
- 7. Program Material:** SSI TechXR Intro to Cave Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI TechXR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.
- 8. Qualifications:** After certification, active SSI TechXR Full Cave Instructors may:
 - A.** Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Cave Diver program
 - B.** Issue SSI TechXR Cave Diver certifications



TECHXR TECHNICAL WRECK INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Technical Wreck Instructor Evaluation Exam (IEE) are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Manual. This evaluation course may be conducted by a:

2. TechXR Technical Wreck Instructor Trainer.

3. Intent: The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.

4. Prerequisites: SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Instructor Candidates

- A. SSI Science of Diving Instructor
- B. SSI Deep Diving Instructor
- C. SSI EAN Instructor
- D. SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Diver
- E. SSI Advanced Open Water Instructor
- F. SSI TechXR Advanced Wreck Instructor
- G. SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor
- H. Certified 10 Deep Divers
- I. Logged 50 Technical Wreck Penetration Dives

Non-SSI Instructor candidates may use equivalent recreational certifications from a recognized recreational training agency for all prerequisite specialty programs except for Science of Diving. Equivalencies for the Crossover IEEs will only be accepted after successful completion of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar.

- J. SSI TechXR Advanced Wreck Instructor (or Equivalent)
- K. SSI TechXR Extended Range Instructor (or Equivalent)

5. Additional Requirements:

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner
- B. Provide his or her own Advanced Wreck diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching limited penetration dives in challenging environments
- C. Meet one of the following experience

requirements Certified 15 or more divers at the TechXR Advanced Wreck Level.

OR

D. Teach at least two complete SSI TechXR Advanced Wreck Courses and co-teach at least 2 TechXR Technical Wreck Diver Courses with certified SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Diving Instructor Trainers(s) and provide recommendation forms completed and signed by the assisted Instructor(s) for each class assisted. Co-teaching activities must take place after completion of the Technical Wreck Instructor Evaluation Exam and prior to certification as a Technical Wreck Instructor.

6. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:

- A. Complete the SSI TechXR Technical Wreck IEE.
- B. Provide proof of current training in CPR and First Aid.
- C. Provide proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration
- D. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment form and document the required teaching and diving experience.
- E. Each Instructor candidate enrolled in the program must complete the watermanship skills evaluation specified for Technical Extended Range Divers.

7. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the TechXR Technical Wreck IEE are 16 to 20 hours and will include:

- A. All academics and a written exam
- B. A shallow water skills evaluation dive.
- C. The candidate must plan, conduct and supervise two full penetration wreck divers while acting as an Instructor. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions.



- 8. Program Material:** SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Instructors are required to maintain and utilize current SSI TechXR student and Instructor materials, and training standards.
- 9. Qualifications:** After certification, active SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Instructors may:
 - A.** Teach, assist, or supervise the SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Diver program
 - B.** Issue SSI TechXR Technical Wreck Diver certifications

MASTER TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

1. Prerequisites:

- A.** Be an active TechXR Instructor qualified at the Normoxic Trimix level or higher.
- B.** Be an active TechXR or XR Instructor for at least 2 years (equivalent active experience with an approved agency may be used to meet this requirement).
- C.** Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- D.** Have logged at least 350 dives.
- E.** Have logged at least 200 technical dives of which at least 20 must be deeper than 60 msw/200 fsw. (IE: dives requiring staged decompression, using gases other than air or recreational nitrox, dives into extended overhead environments, dives deeper than 40 msw).
- F.** Have issued a minimum of 200 recreational or Technical certifications including the following levels.
- G.** A minimum of 40 divers at any XR level including a minimum of 25 Extended Range Divers and 10 XR Specialty Divers (Adv. Wreck, Cavern, Intro to Cave, CCR or CCR Deep Diver)
- H.** A minimum of 75 certifications at the TXR Levels including:
- I.** A minimum of 20 Decompression Procedures Divers (Basic or Advanced)
- J.** A minimum of 20 Trimix Divers (Hypoxic or Normoxic)
- K.** A minimum of 20 TXR Specialty Divers (Basic Cave, Cave, Tech Wreck, Tech CCR or Trimix CCR)

2. Training Requirements: To qualify for Master Technical Instructor the Instructor must submit a written application including a written summary of having made a significant contribution to the diving industry and/or social activities and/or the environment.

3. Qualification: Active Master Technical Instructors may receive the benefits listed below:

- A.** Enroll in an Extended Range or Technical Extended Range Instructor Trainer Seminar
- B.** Actively take part in the SSI TXR Product Review Committee.

TECHXR INSTRUCTOR TRAINER STANDARDS

- 1. Instructor:** This program may only be conducted by SSI Staff. The Instructor is to directly supervise, visually observe and evaluate all required knowledge and skills for certification.
- 2. Equipment:** During the CD program, candidates are required to have equipment befitting the TXR CD Rating, plus any other special equipment for being a Technical Extended Range CD.
- 3. Content:** The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TXR Instructor Trainer evaluation may include all skills detailed in any SSI TXR Technical Extended Range Course Materials, Manuals or Instructor Guides.
- 4. Intent:** The intent of the program is defined under Qualifications.
- 5. Prerequisites:**
 - A.** Be at least 21 years old.
 - B.** Own a Total Technical Diving System of professional type and quality.
 - C.** Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - D.** Have no ethics or Standards violation pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
 - E.** Certified as an SSI TXR Master Technical Instructor
 - F.** Have issued a minimum of 50 certifications at any SSI Technical Extended Range Level including at least 25 Extended Range Divers.
 - G.** Submit a written application to SSI for approval.
- 6. Training Requirements for Certification and Active Status:**
 - A.** Maintain certification in First Aid & CPR.
 - B.** Maintain certification in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit.
 - C.** Display leadership behaviors as well as pass all requirements as listed in the program curriculum.
 - D.** Complete the SSI TXR watermanship and skill evaluation.
 - 1.** An 800 meter surface distance swim using a mask, snorkel and fins.
 - 2.** A surface swim of at least 400 meters while wearing full technical gear including twin stage cylinders.
 - 3.** A 15-minute survival swim/float without the use of mask, snorkel, fins or other swimming aids.
 - 4.** Students must also be able to swim a horizontal distance of 75 feet/23 meters underwater on one breath of air.
 - E.** Pass a Final Exam with a minimum score of 90%.
 - F.** Exemplify the SSI TXR philosophy and display competence in applying the SSI Business System.
 - G.** Comply with all annual Renewal procedures.
 - H.** Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
 - I.** Are required to work through an active SSI TXR Dive Center or SSI TXR Dive Resort.
- 7. Program Duration:** The recommended hours for the TXR Instructor Trainer program is 40. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer Trainer, based on student needs, student ability and water conditions,
- 8. Program Material:** Instructor Trainers are required to maintain current SSI TXR Training materials.



9. Qualifications: Active TXR Instructor Trainers may teach, supervise, or issue certifications for all programs listed below:

- A.** TXR Decompression Procedures Instructor Evaluations
- B.** TXR Advanced Decompression Procedures Upgrades
- C.** May observe XR and TXR Instructor Evaluations
- D.** May be appointed by an SSI Regional Office or SSI Hq to be an evaluator at an XR or TXR Instructor Exam & Evaluation
- E.** May conduct Technical Extended Range Instructor or TXR Specialty Instructor Upgrades and Evaluations if qualified for the specialty as noted in the following sections of this standard.

10. Delegation: Instructor Trainer may not delegate parts of the Instructor Training Course to anyone who is not an active SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor or above AND an SSI Extended Range or Technical Extended Range Instructor.

11. Maintaining Instructor Trainer Status: Instructor Trainers are required to:

- A.** Teach or co-teach one complete Extended Range Instructor Training Seminar (ITS), Technical Instructor Upgrade or Specialty Instructor program every 24 months.
- B.** Technical Extended Range Instructor Trainers will be held responsible for their quality of education. If a significant number of their candidates fail the Extended Range Instructor Evaluation (IE) because of non-performance of the Instructor Trainer, the Instructor Trainer can be required to attend an Extended Range Instructor Training Seminar (XRITS) or revert to the Extended Range Instructor Rating.

12. Specialty Qualification requirements for TXRCD:

TXRCD TRIMIX INSTRUCTORS UPGRADE PERMISSIONS

- A.** An active and current TXRCD in teaching status
- B.** Certified as an SSI XR Normoxic and Hypoxic Trimix Instructor
- C.** Logged a minimum of 75 Trimix Dives including at least 20 dives deeper than 60 msw / 200 fsw
- D.** Certified a minimum of 20 Trimix Divers including at least 5 Hypoxic Trimix Divers

TXRCD TECHNICAL WRECK INSTRUCTORS EVALUATION PERMISSIONS

- A.** An active and current TXRCD in teaching status
- B.** Certified as an SSI XR Technical Wreck Instructor
- C.** Logged a minimum of 100 Advanced or Technical Wreck Dives
- D.** Certified a minimum of 25 Technical Wreck Divers
- E.** Receive recommendation from two SSI TXR Technical Wreck Diving Instructors or Instructor Trainers

Note: Technical Wreck Instructor Evaluations require 2 TXR Cave Instructor Trainers

TXRCD CAVE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATIONS PERMISSIONS

- A.** May also conduct Basic Cave Instructor Evaluations
- B.** An active and current TXRCD in teaching status
- C.** Certified as an SSI TXR Cave Instructor
- D.** Logged a minimum of 100 Cave Dives
- E.** Certified a minimum of 25 Cave Divers and 20 Basic or Intro to Cave Divers
- F.** Receive recommendation from two SSI TXR Cave Diving Instructors or Instructor Trainers

Note: Cave Instructor Evaluations require 2 TXR Cave Instructor Trainers

TXRCD TECH CCR INSTRUCTORS UPGRADE PERMISSIONS

Tech CCR Instructor Certifications are unit specific.

- A.** An active and current TXRCD in teaching status
- B.** Certified as an SSI XR Trimix CCR Instructor on the specific unit he will qualify to teach
- C.** Own or have facility sponsored access to a Total Closed Circuit Diving System of professional type and quality including the CCR unit the TXRCD will use for his or her classes.
- D.** Logged a minimum of 150 CCR Dives including at least 100 logged hours on the specific Tech CCR the Instructor Trainer will teach.
- E.** Logged a minimum of 25 hours of Technical CCR Dives.
- F.** Logged a minimum of 25 hours of TRIMIX CCR Dives.
- G.** Certified a minimum of 50 CCR/SCR Divers including at least 15 CCR Technical Divers 5 of which must CCR Trimix Divers

OTHER TECHNICAL SPECIALTY INSTRUCTORS EVALUATION PERMISSIONS

- A.** An active and current TXRCD in teaching status
- B.** Certified as an SSI TXR Instructor in the specific specialty to be taught
- C.** Logged a minimum of 50 dives in the specialty area Certified a minimum of 25 Divers in the specialty

TECHXR INSTRUCTOR CROSSOVER STANDARDS

1. Content: The knowledge factors and skills to be covered in the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar are those provided in the SSI TechXR Instructor Trainer Manual. This program may be conducted by an SSI TechXR Instructor Trainer.

2. Intent: This Instructor Crossover seminar is intended to prepare the non SSI Instructor upgrade candidate for attendance at a TechXR IE. This seminar is NOT required for SSI Instructors who are also Technical Instructors from another recognized agency and who wish to upgrade their technical Instructor certifications. Actual certification as a TechXR Instructor is dependent upon:

- A. Completion of this seminar if required.
- B. Successful completion of the IEE-TechXR for the crossover level the candidate is seeking.
- C. Successful completion of all written exams for all TechXR Instructor levels subordinate to the crossover level the candidate is seeking,

3. Prerequisites

- A. All Instructor Crossover candidates must be in an active teaching status with a recognized training agency other than SSI and have no quality assurance issues or disciplinary actions with any agency that are either still pending or that resulted in any action or sanction against the Instructor Crossover candidate within the immediately preceding 12 months.
- B. Prerequisite certifications vary depending upon the Instructor Crossover level of the candidate. All Instructor Crossover candidates must meet the following minimum prerequisites.
 - 1. Deep Diving Instructor
 - 2. EAN Instructor
 - 3. Deep Diving Instructor
 - 4. Diver Stress & Rescue Instructor
 - 5. Certified 10 EAN Divers
 - 6. Advanced Open Water Instructor or equivalent
 - 7. Logged 25 EAN Dives
 - 8. SSI Extended Range Diver or Equivalent
- C. Additionally each upgrade candidate must meet the following prerequisites as stated in the IEE for the TechXR certification level they are

seeking.

- 1. Certification as a technical diver with a recognized technical training agency at a level that is at least equivalent to the level being sought in the TechXR program
- 2. Certification in a current active teaching status with a recognized technical training agency at a level that is equivalent to the level being sought with SSI's TechXR Program

OR

- 1. Recreational Instructors who are not certified with a recognized technical training agency may qualify to attend the TXR Extended Range Instructor Evaluation by completing both this IUS and the Extended Range ITS. At least one of these two programs (IUS, ERITS) must be conducted by an IT that is different from the IT conducting the Instructor Evaluation if the Instructor is not certified with an ISO certified training agency.
- 2. Certified at least as many divers at each level as specified in the IEE for the highest TechXR Instructor Level the candidate is seeking (teaching internships are not allowed for the initial crossover but may be allowed for any subsequent Instructor Crossover IEEs)
- 3. Logged 150 dives and meet the prerequisite dive experience standards specified in the TechXR standards for the IEE at the highest TechXR Level Certification that the candidate is seeking

4. Additional Requirements

- A. Have a current medical exam for diving signed by a licensed medical practitioner within the past 12 months.
- B. Provide his or her own Extended Range scuba diving equipment appropriate for an Instructor teaching simulated and/or stage decompression in deep and challenging environments
- C. Provide proof of current training in CPR, First Aid and proof of training in Emergency Oxygen Administration.

- D. Complete the SSI TechXR Instructor Assessment Form and provide proof of the required teaching and diving experience.
- E. Evaluation Requirements Candidates for this program are divided into two categories of Certified Instructors.
- F. Instructors from ISO certified training agencies have no restrictions or additional training requirements.
- G. Instructors from recognized non-ISO certified training agencies must also obtain a recommendation from an SSI DCSI (or higher level) who is also an extended range diver (or higher). The recommendation must be provided by an Instructor who has knowledge of the skills and reputation of the Crossover Candidate and it must be documented on the XR/TXR recommendation form with an original signature.

OR

- H. The assessment may be completed as a part of the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar if the ICS will be completed by a trainer that is different from the certifier conducting the IEE or the ITS if the candidate must attend an ITS.

5. Program Duration: The recommended hours for the TechXR Instructor Crossover Seminar are 5 to 6 and will include:

- A. All academics
- B. Completion of the SSI Science of Diving Instructor Seminar and Exam
- C. A review of all TechXR Standards and all SSI Facility Standards.
- D. A sample dive planning session for orientation to the TechXR Dive Planning Slates
- E. Plan and conduct as an acting Instructor dive 5 or 6 of the Extended Range Diver (or higher level) Course supervising the IT or another qualified diver who will act as the student during the training dive.
- F. Demonstrate the ability to rescue an unconscious diver in a twinset with technical harness by bringing the diver to the surface from a depth of at least 5 msw / 15 fsw, establishing

positive buoyancy, evaluating the diver's status, removing all equipment and removing the diver from the water. Assistance may be used ONLY for the handling of equipment once it is removed from the diver and in removing the diver from the water. The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual Instructor Trainer, based on student's needs and abilities.

- 6. **Program Material:** SSI TechXR Instructor Crossover package to include all TechXR student level materials and all of the Instructor guides/materials through the TechXR Instructor Certification Level that the candidate is seeking.
- 7. **Qualifications:** After completion, Crossover Candidates may participate in an SSI TechXR IEE for the level equivalent to their current technical Instructor certifications.



Training & Dive Center Standards

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SSI DIVE CENTER & SSI DIVE RESORT STANDARDS



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SSI DIVE CENTER STANDARDS

The intent of the SSI Dive Center Standards is to provide an overview of the requirements for SSI Membership. The following Authorized Memberships are available for dive centers:

- Dive Center
- Instructor Training Center
- Diamond Dive Center
- Diamond Instructor Training Center
- Diving School

DIVE CENTER

A Dive Center is generally defined as a diving operation which generates its main income by equipment sales and diving tuition.

1. SSI Dive Centers must meet the following standards:

- Have a retail business location in an area zoned for business and maintain an appropriate atmosphere for business.
- Post and maintain established regular retail business hours that are convenient for customers.
- Have a professional image in the following required areas; retail sales, rental department and service & repair department. Maintain a neat, clean and attractive facility with adequate amount of inventory appropriately displayed.
- Have a compressed air system that delivers quality-breathing air.
- Have all required governmental licenses and permits and comply with all labor and tax laws.
- Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment

Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Service Center approved alternative program by requiring SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Dive Center.

- Institute an instructional program using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications to every student who complete SSI training programs
- Each student has their own SSI training materials and DiveLog. Whenever possible, home study kits are offered.
- Use the SSI Open Water Diver Program as the primary Open Water Diver training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI products, programs and services.
- Purchase the minimum amount of SSI product on a yearly basis as defined in the annual SSI Dive Center Agreement.
- Provide five (5) or more levels of SSI diver certification.
- Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff.



INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CENTER

- 1. Instructor Training Centers must have met or exceeded all requirements for Dive Centers and Dive Resorts plus additional:**
 - A.** Have an active status SSI Instructor Trainer on staff (full or part-time).
 - B.** Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency.
 - C.** Train and issue only SSI certifications for leadership levels. Except Dive Professional programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Professional entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Professional products, programs and services.
 - D.** Have and keep current all required training materials for SSI Instructor Training Program programs.
 - E.** Conduct at least one SSI Instructor Training Course Program every 24 months.

DIAMOND DIVE CENTER

The SSI Diamond Dive Center Status recognizes SSI Dive Centers that make a commitment to excellence and leadership in the categories of:

1. BUSINESS PRACTICES & ETHICS
2. QUALITY ASSURANCE
3. EDUCATION COMMITMENT
4. CUSTOMER SERVICE
5. DIVING PASSION.

Only Dive Centers recognized as the leaders in their marketplace can be considered for the SSI Diamond Dive Center rating.

The SSI Diamond Dive Center rating is a privilege. All accounts are reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to meet or exceed the standards. SSI reserves the right to revoke the SSI Diamond rating, if the account, in SSI's judgment, does not meet the standards.

1. SSI Diamond Dive Centers must meet all standards for Dive Center plus the following additional standards:

- A. Have the scuba businesses as the main business with more than 70% in the retail location.
- B. Have well-lighted, clean retail sales area, employing contemporary visual merchandising techniques, including manikins; all merchandise must be clean and priced.
- C. Have a clean, well-organized equipment repair and service area and private areas in the retail space dedicated as dressing rooms.
- D. Have a classroom with multimedia equipment
- E. Store personnel have a professional, well-groomed appearance and wear a store-approved uniform
- F. Instructional staff wears the same brand of Total Diving System sold by sold by dive center
- G. Have an SSI Educational Center/SSI Material Display on the sales floor or in the public area with representative samples of the SSI products, programs and services Use a high quality Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards for student divers

H. Institute SSI instructional programs exclusivity as much as possible, using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials. Exceptions only allowed in programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Professional entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Professional products, programs and services. Provide all levels of SSI instructional programs applicable for the area.

I. Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must possess to their own personal SSI Training Material. Whenever possible complete Home Study Kits are to be offered. Issue SSI certification cards to all students who complete SSI training programs.

J. Uses an adequate amount of SSI Marketing Materials like posters, flyers, flags, and clothing in order to promote the business in conjunction with SSI. Visit at least one SSI Member Meeting and/or International Dealer Conference and/or Business Support Program and/or Business Training annually

K. Have a web site that promotes the dive center and an email address

L. Use the SSI Web system ODIN for C-Card orders and keep the Event Calendar current with all programs and activities offered.

M. Publish a professional newsletter on a regular schedule including a dive travel schedule and offer travel services and trip options including a schedule of local diving activities and social activities to customers, preferably through a store dive club.

N. Must have general liability insurance with SSI listed as additionally insured.



DIAMOND INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CENTER

Diamond Instructor Training Centers must be an Active Diamond Dive Center or Dive Resort and meet all standards for Instructor Training Center.

DIVING SCHOOL

A limited Facility, the Diving School cannot engage in any type of retail scuba business activities.

1. To be a Diving School, the following additional requirements are to be met:

- A. Be a tuition location, accredited college, university, vocational school or municipality.
- B. Have a professional image in your training location.
- C. Have or have access to a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air.
- D. Have all required licenses and permits and comply with all labor and tax laws.
- E. Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- F. Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- G. Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- H. Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Service Center's approved alternative program. Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Facility.
- I. Institute an instructional program using SSI Instructors and SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications. Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct SSI training.
- J. Use the SSI Open Water Diver Program as the primary Open Water Diver training program and have a representative sample of the other offered SSI products, programs and services.
- K. Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual and DiveLog and view the SSI Training Video or DVD. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- L. Provide two (2) or more levels of SSI diver certification and use SSI as the primary certification agency.
- M. May not sell equipment, but repair for the general public.
- N. **Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff.**

All SSI Diving School accounts are reviewed annually and at SSI's sole discretion Renewal may or may not be awarded, as defined in the Authorized Dive Center Agreement. If a professional Dive Center establishes within an adequate distance from the Diving School then the status of the Diving School may be asked to be affiliated to the Dive Center as an Alternate Location or upgraded by appropriate measurements to Dive Center.

SSI DIVE RESORT STANDARDS

The intent of the SSI Dive Resort Standards is to provide an overview of the requirements for SSI Memberships. The following Authorized Memberships are available for dive operators in resort areas:

- Dive Resort
- Instructor Training Center
- Diamond Dive Resort
- Diamond Instructor Training Center
- Dive Boat

DIVE RESORT

A Dive Resort is generally defined as a diving operation in a resort area which generates its main income by selling diving services like diving trips, guided dives and diving tuition.

1. SSI Dive Resorts must meet the following standards:

- A.** Post and maintain established regular business hours that are convenient for customers.
- B.** Have a professional image in the following areas; dive trips and tuition, rental department, compressor and dive boats. Maintain a neat, clean and attractive facility with adequate amount of inventory appropriately displayed.
- C.** Have or have access to a compressor system that delivers quality-breathing air or enriched air.
- D.** Have all required governmental licenses and permits and comply with all labor and tax laws.
- E.** Conduct operation with a commitment to high quality.
- F.** Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.

- G.** Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for student divers.
- H.** Offer properly maintained and documented up-to-date equipment for rental and other instruction than SSI.
- I.** Agree to implement SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program or an SSI Service Center's approved alternative program. Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Dive Resort.



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- J.** When SSI training is requested use SSI Instructors, SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications using an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct the SSI training.
- K.** Have a representative sample of the all SSI products, programs and services for all SSI programs offered.
- L.** Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual and DiveLog and view the SSI Training Video or DVD. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- M.** When working with referral students, conduct the Universal Referral Program as outlined in the Universal Referral Program manual.
- N.** Provide five (5) or more levels of SSI diver certification and at least diving experiences from two (2) out of the following different specialty areas of diving: Boat Diving / Wreck Diving / Deep Diving / Waves, Tides & Currents / Shark Diving / Scooter Diving / Digital Underwater Photography / Night Diving / Enriched Air Nitrox
- O.** Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING RESORT

1. Instructor Training Resort must have met or exceeded all requirements for Dive Resorts plus:

- A. Have an active status SSI Instructor Trainer on staff (full or part-time).
- B. Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency.
- C. Train and issue only SSI certifications for leadership levels. Except Dive Professional programs not offered by SSI. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Professional entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Professional products, programs and services.
- D. Have and keep current all required training materials for SSI Instructor Training Program programs.
- E. Conduct at least one SSI Instructor Training Program per year. Diamond Dive Resort

The SSI Diamond Dive Resort Status recognizes SSI Dive Resorts that make a commitment to excellence and leadership in the categories of:

- 1. BUSINESS PRACTICES & ETHICS
- 2. QUALITY ASSURANCE
- 3. EDUCATION COMMITMENT
- 4. CUSTOMER SERVICE
- 5. DIVING PASSION.

Only Dive Resorts recognized as the leaders in their marketplace can be considered for the SSI Diamond Dive Resort rating.

The SSI Diamond Dive Resort rating is a privilege. All accounts are reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to meet or exceed the standards. SSI reserves the right to revoke the SSI Diamond rating, if the account, in SSI's judgment, does not meet the standards.

Any Dive Resort can be awarded with this rating by meeting or exceeding all requirements for SSI Dive Resorts plus additional:

- A. Have dive equipment repair service available at the facility
- B. Have a compressed air system delivering Enriched Air
- C. Have or have access to a dive boat.
- D. Have a classroom with adequate multimedia equipment
- E. Store personnel have a professional, well-groomed appearance and wear a store-approved uniform
- F. Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for rental.
- G. Use the SSI Equipment Service Program throughout the Facility on Training-, Rental-, Instructor and Retail Equipment and have an equipment policy in place.
- H. Maintain SSI as primary diver certification agency. Use the SSI Divemaster/Dive Control Specialist Program as the exclusive Dive Professional entry training program and have a representative sample of the other SSI Dive Professional products, programs and services.
- I. Issue SSI c-cards for all SSI programs taught within the Dive Resort.
- J. Have established an SSI Educational Center/SSI Material Display on the sales floor or in the public area with representative samples of the SSI products, programs and services for all programs offered.
- K. Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must possess to their own personal SSI Training Material. Whenever possible complete kits are to be offered.
- L. Provide all levels of SSI diver certification being applicable for the area.



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- M.** Uses an adequate amount of SSI Marketing Materials like posters, flyers, flags, and clothing in order to promote the business in conjunction with SSI.
- N.** Visit at least one SSI Member Meeting and/or International Dealer Conference and/or Business Support Program and/or Business Training annually
- O.** Have a web site that promotes the dive center and an email address
- P.** Use the SSI Web system ODIN for C-Card orders and keep the Event Calendar current with all programs and activities offered.
- Q.** Publish a professional newsletter on a regular schedule for customer retention.
- R.** Must have general liability insurance with SSI listed as additionally insured.

DIAMOND INSTRUCTOR TRAINING RESORT

Diamond Instructor Training Centers must be an Active Diamond Dive Resort and meet all standards for Instructor Training Center.

GENERAL DIVE BOAT STANDARDS

As a limited Facility, the SSI Dive Boat cannot engage as a full service retail scuba business. The Dive Boat is restricted to instruction out of the harbor away from other SSI Dive Centers and Dive Resorts, but may be supported by them.

- A.** Meet all US Coast Guard and other government agency requirements, if they apply.
- B.** Use professionally trained crews.
- C.** Have regular boat inspections and preventative maintenance performed.
- D.** Have or have access to a compressed air system that delivers quality breathing air.
- E.** Have all required licenses and permits and comply with all labor and tax laws.
- F.** Conduct operation with a commitment to high-quality.
- G.** Have no ethics or Standards violations pending or any verified ethics or Standards violations in the past 12 months with SSI or any other training organization.
- H.** Use the minimum Total Diving System, as defined in the SSI Standards, for all divers.
- I.** Provide properly maintained and documented up-to-date equipment for rental.
- J.** Agree to implement the SSI Monitor's Assessment Procedures (MAP) program. Require SSI Instructors to teach programs within the control and direction of the Facility.
- K.** When SSI training is requested use SSI Instructors, SSI teaching materials, and issue SSI certifications using an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct the SSI training.
- L.** When working with referral students, conduct the SSI Referral Program as outlined in the SSI Referral Program manual.

FOR CHARTER BOATS ONLY

- M.** All General Dive Boat Standards apply.
- N.** The Dive Boat is restricted to the instruction of open water referrals, supervision of diving, and related support of SSI Dive Centers and Resorts.
- O.** Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct the SSI Referral Program.

FOR LIVEBOARDS ONLY

- A.** All General Dive Boat Standards apply.
- B.** The Dive Boat is restricted to the instruction of open water referrals, open water diver training, specialty diver training, and supervision of diving and related support of SSI Dive Centers and Resorts.
- C.** Have an active status SSI Instructor on staff to conduct all SSI referral, Open Water Diver and Specialty training programs.
- D.** Have a representative sample of the all SSI products, programs and services for all SSI programs offered.
- E.** Due to the importance of each student understanding the material; each student must have access to their own personal SSI Training Manual and DiveLog and view the SSI Training Video or DVD. With a family, each student must have access to their own SSI Training Manual, and DiveLog.
- F.** Provide two (2) or more levels of SSI diver certification and use SSI as the primary certification agency.
- G.** May conduct training only while out to sea with a minimum duration of two nights.



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APPENDIX



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DIVE PROFESSIONAL STATUSES

ACTIVE STATUS

An individual who has been certified as a dive professional and fulfills the following prerequisites:

- A. Is affiliated with an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort
- B. Maintains professional liability insurance (if required legally in the country). The dive professional must list SSI as an additional insured in the policy and must provide current proof of insurance to the SSI Service Center in order to receive active teaching status.
- C. Has paid the Renewal Fees for current active status with SSI.

INACTIVE STATUS

An individual who has been certified as a dive professional and paid the annual inactive fees with SSI, but misses a affiliation with an active SSI Dive Center or SSI Dive Resort and/or current proof of professional liability insurance. Affiliation with an active Authorized Dealer and proof of current insurance (if required legally in the country) will be necessary to get back into active teaching status as well as the difference in fees between active and inactive.

CANCELLED STATUS

An individual who has been certified as a dive professional but has not paid any annual fees to SSI. After one year of cancelled Status, an update is required to return to active teaching status.

RETIRED STATUS

An individual, who has been certified as a dive professional and paid the annual fees with SSI, but has not taught any student or Instructor classes for 10 years, will be automatically set into Retired Status. An update will be necessary to get back into active teaching status.

UNDER REVIEW STATUS

An individual who has been certified as a dive professional, but has been placed in Under Review due to a written complaint submitted to SSI accusing the dive professional of a severe breach of Ethical or Training Standards. An Under Review Status Member cannot obtain active teaching status again with SSI globally until such time as the written allegations are resolved and a remedial form of training has been conducted. The individual's certification data cannot be verified any longer by the SSI Diver Verification (a notification will be displayed instead that the member is under review by SSI).

EXPELLED STATUS

An individual who has been certified as a dive professional, but has been expelled from SSI due to severe breaches of Ethical- or Training Standards. An Expelled Status Member cannot obtain active teaching status again with SSI globally and the individual's certification data cannot be verified any longer by the SSI Diver Verification (a notification will be displayed instead that the member has been expelled from SSI).

DECEASED STATUS

A dive professional who has passed away.

DIVE CONTROL SPECIALIST, DIVEMASTER & INSTRUCTOR UPDATE PROCEDURES

1. For Dive Guide, Divemaster, Dive Control Specialists or Instructors who have not maintained an active teaching status with SSI, the following procedures to update are provided:

- A. From Inactive Status having paid Inactive Status Renewal dues for the current year.
- B. Have current Dive Professional teaching Materials.
- C. Complete the Renewal Paperwork.
- D. Pay the difference between Active- and Inactive Status Renewal Fee.

2. From Cancelled / Retired Status not having paid Renewal dues for the current year or longer.

- A. Have current Dive Professional teaching Materials.
- B. Complete the Renewal Paperwork and update the contact information.
- C. Pay the Registration and Active Status Renewal Fee.
- D. Resolve any outstanding problems with SSI, SSI Dive Center / Dive Resort or SSI insurance carrier.
- E. Have a current medical exam for scuba diving not older than 1 year and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- F. Maintain proof of current training in FirstAid/CPR not older than 2 years.
- G. Maintain proof of being competent in emergency administration of oxygen. This shall include knowledge of the medical principles involved and practical use of an emergency oxygen unit not older than 2 years.
- H. Maintain Professional Liability Insurance (where applicable).
- I. Work through an active SSI Dive Center or SSI

Dive Resort.

3. For Dive Control Specialists or Instructors who have not maintained an active teaching status with SSI, the additional following procedures to update are provided:

- A. After 2 years of Cancelled- or Inactive Status: The Dive Professional who wants to switch back to Active Status is to have a complete review of SSI training materials and procedures by completing the following:
 - B. Team-teach at least one Open Water Diver program with an active SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor and complete a watermanship- and skill evaluation.
- C. After 5 years of Cancelled- or Inactive Status: The Dive Professional who wants to switch back to Active Status is to have a complete review of SSI training materials and procedures by completing the following:
 - D. Attend a SSI Dive Professional Crossover (XOVER) Program conducted by an active Instructor Trainer and complete a watermanship- and skill evaluation.
- E. After 10 years of Cancelled- or Inactive Status: The Instructor will be automatically placed in Retired Status. If the Instructor wants to switch back to Active Status, the individual is to have a complete review of SSI training materials and procedures by completing the following:
 - F. The Instructor must attend in a SSI Instructor Training Course (ITC) conducted by an active Instructor Trainer and complete a watermanship- and skill evaluation.
- G. The Dive Control Specialist must Attend in an SSI Dive Control Specialist Program conducted by an active SSI Dive Control Specialist Instructor or higher and complete a watermanship- and skill evaluation.

SSI GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION

The intent of the Grievance Resolution Committee is to research ethical or standard related complaints about SSI Authorized Dive Centers and DiveResorts, Instructors and Dive Professionals.

Attention: The Grievance Resolution Committee is explicitly not responsible for complaints, which are not related to SSI training programs and business ethics in conjunction with SSI training programs or services.

There are two types of complaints: verbal and written. It is the policy of the Grievance Resolution Committee, which is comprised of members of the SSI Service Center staff, to take all complaints seriously, but to research only written complaints.

1. **Verbal:** Verbal complaints must be followed up by a written and signed complaint.
 2. **Written:** When a written, signed complaint or an action request form is received, the Grievance Resolution Committee conducts the following procedures:
 - A. The Committee reviews the complaint.
 - B. The complainant is notified that the complaint was received.
 - C. A copy of the complaint is sent to the Dive Center, Dive Professional by certified mail.
 - D. The Dive Center, Dive Professional has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to respond in writing.
 1. If no written response is received by the deadline, the Dive Center, Dive Professional becomes inactive until the matter is resolved. Inactive status is defined as not being allowed to perform all duties outlined in the SSI Training Standards.
 2. If an incomplete written response is received, the Dive Center, Dive Professional becomes inactive until the remaining documentation is received.
 3. If a complete written response is received, the Committee will review both complaint and response to determine if SSI Training Standards have been violated.
- E. An initial determination is made whether Standards may have been violated.
 1. If it appears reasonable that Standards were not violated, the Committee sends a notice to the complainant and the Dive Center, Dive Professional that the Committee has found no violations and will take no further action.
 2. If Standards may have been violated, the Committee will research the complaint.
 - F. The Committee uses several research methods, depending on the nature of the complaint.
 1. The Committee may request contact information from the Dive Center, Dive Professional for students trained in the past twelve months by the Instructor in question. The students' names will be selected at random from store certification files at SSI Service Center. A survey is sent to each student to gather information.
 2. The Committee may contact (via phone) all students who did not respond to the survey or answer all the questions.
 3. The Committee may request copies of key documents from the Dive Center, Dive Professional.
 4. The Committee may hire a professional investigator to gather information.
 5. The Committee may request all Dive Center information on the Dive Professional.
 6. The Committee may use such other research methods, as it deems appropriate.
 - G. The Committee determines from the research whether a Standards violation occurred.
 1. If research does not indicate a Standards violation, the Committee informs complainant and Dive Center, Dive Professional that no violations have been found and that the case is closed pending further documentation to the contrary.
 2. If research does indicate a Standards violation, the Committee determines appropriate action.
 - H. The Committee may confer with legal representatives before taking action.



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- I. The Committee may require several types of action of the Dive Center or Dive Professional, which is at the sole discretion of the SSI Service Center, depending on the violation.
 - 1. If retraining is necessary, the Committee will determine the extent of retraining and the time frame for the completion of the retraining.
 - 2. If suspension is necessary, the Committee will determine the length of suspension, the extent of retraining and method of follow-up, and the conditions under which the Dive Center, or Dive Professional will be reinstated.
 - 3. If termination is necessary, the Authorized Dive Center, Dive Professional membership is revoked. Future reinstatement is at the sole discretion of SSI.

- J. The Committee will notify the SSI Dive Center or Dive Professional in writing of the resolution of the complaint either by e-mail or postal service.



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