



2. General Course Standards

These standards apply to all SDI Diver Courses and Specialties listed in this section.

2.1 Administrative

Instructors must ensure that all students complete the following forms – for each and every course and specialty the student participates in. These records must be kept for a minimum of seven years and must be complete prior to the start of the course. They are:

1. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
2. *SDI Medical Statement Form (unless specifically not required in a non-diving course standard)*

If a student answers yes to any question in the medical statement the student must provide written permission from a licensed physician before participating in confined or open water training for any course or specialty training. A physician-signed medical is valid for up to 12 months with no change in medical condition unless a longer valid term is indicated on a specific medical form.

3. *SDI Diver Registration Form* or preferably register the student online in the member's section of the SDI website (upon completion of the specified program)
4. *SDI Diver Training Record*

2.2 Accidents

Hopefully a member will never have to do this; if a member were involved in an accident or simply witnessed an accident the *SDI Accident Report* Form must be completed by the member/witness, and faxed to SDI Headquarters immediately after the accident occurred. Please refer to the SDI Standards, Part 1, section 6.4.8.

International Training strongly recommends that if any incident occurs, the dive computers are safely secured and potentially downloaded. This should be done in full cooperation with local authorities by encouraging the police, or other investigating authorities to download and preserve data from the victim's dive computer. Professional members should do this when they are giving their statements to the authorities. The professional member (s) involved in the incident must download their dive computer information and submit it with the incident report.

2.3 Definitions

Assistant or Assisted by = A person who is assisting a primary and certified instructor, IT staff instructor or instructor trainer for a course that they, the “assistant”, is not certified to teach. Assistants can be used for the purposes of additional supervision and to increase ratios where standards and environmental conditions allow. Assistants listed on registrations will receive experience credits for courses they have assisted with only if listed on the initial registration form.

Co-Teach or 2nd Instructor = A person who is certified to teach the course taking place and is working together with an also certified instructor, IT staff instructor or instructor trainer. The 2nd instructor will receive equal credit for the course if listed on the initial registration form.

Student Prerequisites = conditions that must be met by students prior to beginning a course. These cannot be completed during the course unless specifically outlined in the standard. Conditions listed here cannot be waived by the instructor. Written standards waivers for prerequisites may be issued by the HQ training department depending on the course, dive site, and the specific prior experience of course participants.

2.4 Confined Water Training

Confined water training must be conducted in a swimming pool or a confined body of water with the following conditions:

1. Approximately 3 metres / 10 feet of visibility
2. Calm surface conditions
3. Easy access to depths that allow students to stand with their head above water
4. Depths that allow skills, as defined in the confined water lesson guide, to be adequately demonstrated
5. Equipment appropriate for the training site
6. Confined water training sites, other than pools, must be approved by SDI Headquarters

2.5 Open Water Training

The instructor, with the following considerations, must carefully choose an open water training site:

1. Body of water similar to the regional diving conditions: ocean, lake, etc
2. Swimming pools are not considered an open water environment
3. Water clarity
4. Temperature above and below the water
5. Weather conditions
6. Water access
7. Equipment adequate for the conditions
8. Thermal protection appropriate for the conditions
9. No dives are to require a decompression stop
10. No dives will be conducted in an overhead environment unless otherwise stated
11. A complete briefing that includes:
 - a. The dive site
 - b. Water conditions
 - c. Skills to be performed
 - d. Entry/Exit to be used
 - e. Emergency procedures
12. A complete debriefing that includes:
 - a. Performance of divers as a whole
 - b. Areas that need improvement
 - c. Environmental observations
 - d. Question and answers

2.6 Student – Minimum Equipment Requirements

The students must have the following equipment:

1. Mask, fins and snorkel
2. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with a low-pressure power inflator
3. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge
4. Alternate air source
5. Weight system
6. Personal dive computer (PDC) unless otherwise noted
7. Exposure suit adequate for the training conditions
8. Compressed gas cylinder
9. Compass; during navigation skills
10. Rescue signal

Note: Students wearing air integrated hose-less computers are not required to carry a submersible pressure gauge.

2.7 Instructor – Minimum Equipment Requirements

Unless otherwise noted, the minimum equipment requirements for training by an instructor, assistant instructor and divemaster is:

1. Mask, fins and snorkel
2. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with a low-pressure power inflator
3. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge
4. Alternate air source
5. Weight system
6. Personal dive computer
7. Exposure suit adequate for the training conditions
8. Compressed gas cylinder
9. Compass
10. Cutting device
11. Rescue signal
12. A dive flag must be carried in accordance with local laws or regulations for all open water locations

Note: Instructors wearing air integrated hose-less computers are not required to carry a submersible pressure gauge.

Note: Cylinder capacities used in the SDI Standards are based on manufacturer values or generalized conversions and are NOT exact conversions from metric to imperial due to variance in cylinder volume and working pressures. If you use metric cylinders, please use the metric size cylinder listed; likewise, if you use imperial cylinders, please use the imperial size cylinder listed, I.E. 3 litres / 18 cubic ft.

Note: Both instructor and students must be wearing a single cylinder backmount configuration for the following courses: Scuba Discovery and Open Water Scuba Diver.

2.8 Temporary Certification Cards

Temporary cards are available for purchase from SDI and can be issued after all performance requirements and administrative requirements are met. The temporary cards are valid for 30 days from the signing and must be signed within 10 days of course completion.

2.9 Upgrading from SDI Junior certification to full SDI certification

This procedure is for divers who were initially certified with the Junior designation and are now eligible to upgrade to the full certification without age related restrictions.

Upgrade Requirements

1. Provide verification of initial certification: certification card or formal verification letter on agency letterhead
2. Provide verification of diving activity in the last 12 months: logbook or personal dive computer download*
3. Divers who are under the age of 18 must provide letter of approval to upgrade signed by parent or legal guardian

*If recent diving activity cannot be produced, diver will be directed to their nearest SDI Dive Center or equivalent to complete the Inactive Diver / Refresher program with an active Instructor.

Upon successful completion of the SDI Inactive Diver/Refresher program or equivalent, active Instructors must: provide a signed letter of update completion or signed log book entry for Junior diver to submit to SDI World Headquarters or Regional Office.

Processing Procedure – Contact SDI World Headquarters or Regional Office. Submit appropriate documentation in accordance with upgrade requirements. After providing all required items and purchasing new certification card, certification to be issued and credential sent to student.