



2. General Course Standards

These standards apply to all TDI Diver Courses and Specialties

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. *TDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
2. *TDI Medical Release Form (unless specifically not required in a non-diving course standard)*
 - a. If a student writes a yes to any question on the *TDI Medical release Form*, the student must provide written permission from a doctor 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. *TDI Diver Registration Form* or preferably register the student online in the member's section of the TDI website (upon completion of the specified course)
4. *TDI Diver Training Record*; these training records must be kept for a minimum of 7 years
5. For all unit-specific CCR courses, instructor shall download student's dive logs of all training dives; these training records must be kept for a minimum of 7 years.

2.2 Accidents

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

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 to be adequately demonstrated
5. Equipment appropriate for the training site
6. Confined water training sites other than pools, must be approved by TDI 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.)

Note: swimming pools are not considered an open water environment

2. Water clarity
3. Temperature above and below the water
4. Weather conditions
5. Water access
6. Equipment adequate for the conditions
7. Thermal protection appropriate for the conditions
8. 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
9. A complete debriefing that includes:
 - a. Performance of divers as a whole
 - b. Areas that need improvement
 - c. Environmental observations
 - d. Question and answers
10. Team diving concepts are to be emphasized on all dives in all TDI courses

2.6 Conducting training in an overhead environment (cavern, cave, wreck, etc.)

TDI non-overhead courses may be conducted in an overhead environment under the following conditions:

1. The student is already certified as a diver for the overhead environment they are being trained in and have logged at least 10 post-training dives in that environment
2. The instructor is a qualified TDI Instructor for the overhead environment the training is being conducted in
3. The instructor has previous experience diving at the site the training is being conducted

4. Both student and instructor are equipped appropriately for the environment
5. The course is NOT the student's initial training on a rebreather (SCR or CCR).
 - a. After accumulating 25 hours of rebreather diving experience, a student may participate in additional rebreather training in an overhead environment at the discretion of the instructor as long as all of the other conditions above have been met

2.7 Conducting Courses Using Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR)

The following TDI Diver level courses may be conducted using CCR subject to the requirements below:

Advanced Nitrox, Advanced Wreck, Cavern, Introductory Cave, Full Cave, Mine Diver Level 1 and 2, Technical DPV

1. Course student(s) must meet all course prerequisites and be fully certified on the CCR unit being used
(Unless combining advanced nitrox training with CCR training)
2. Course instructor (s) must be a qualified TDI CCR Instructor on unit they are diving
3. Course instructor(s) must be a certified diver(s) on the CCR unit the student is diving

Note: Cylinder capacities used in the TDI 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.