

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION
TO
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,
TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

§6051. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the listed terms are as follows:

~~HOOKAH~~Hookah Diving. A type of shallow water surface-supplied diving where the diver uses the second stage of a SCUBA regulator connected to a non-return valve and hose to a surface air source.

~~Technical Diving. All diving other than scientific or commercial diving performed by employees in making or performing observations, measurements, adjustments, underwater photography or special effects and related activities, etc., which require technical expertise and are not an integral part of an ongoing construction, demolition, repair, maintenance, shipbuilding, shipbreaking, or ship repair job.~~

Technical Diving. Diving other than scientific or commercial diving, which requires technical expertise and is not an integral part of an ongoing construction, demolition, repair, maintenance, shipbuilding, shipbreaking, or ship repair job. Such activities include, but are not limited to, making or performing observations, measurements, adjustments, underwater photography and special effects, zoo and aquarium exhibit diving, etc.

Zoo and Aquarium Exhibit Diving: Diving performed inside zoo and aquarium exhibits and holding tanks for the purpose of science, education, or animal husbandry, which requires technical expertise and is not an integral part of an on-going construction, demolition, or maintenance job.

Note: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

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§6056. Basic Operation Procedures.

(a) SCUBA Diving (Compressed Air and Mixed Gas).

(2) Procedures.

(A) A standby diver shall be available while a diver is in the water; ~~or~~

(B) A diver shall be line-tended from the surface; ~~or~~ accompanied by another SCUBA diver in the water where they shall remain in effective communication with each other throughout the diving operation.

~~(C) A SCUBA diver shall be accompanied in the water by another SCUBA diver and they shall remain in effective communication with each other throughout the diving operation.~~

Exception to 6056(a)(2): Technical divers shall be deemed to be in compliance with subsection 6056(a)(2) provided the employer complies with either (A) or (B).

(5) ~~HOOKAH~~Hookah.

(A) Hookah diving shall be permissible only during scientific and technical diving operations.

~~(B)~~ Hookah divers shall comply with all SCUBA diving procedures in this section except for the depth limitations contained in Section 6056(a)(1). ~~HOOKAH~~Hookah diving shall not be conducted at depths greater than ~~190 fsw (58 msw)~~ 30 fsw (9 msw).

(C) A non-return valve shall be connected to the mask, helmet, or second stage of the SCUBA regulator.

(D) When using hookah, each diver shall wear a safety harness with:

1. A positive buckling device;

2. An attachment for the primary gas hose to distribute the pull force of the line and to prevent strain on the mask, helmet, or second stage regulator; and

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3. A lifting point to distribute the pull force of the line over the diver's body.

(~~B~~E) Divers using ~~HOOKAH~~hookah shall be equipped with an independent reserve breathing gas supply and regulator.

(~~C~~F) Each ~~HOOKAH~~hookah diver shall be hose tended by a separate dive team member while in the water.

(~~D~~G) The ~~HOOKAH~~hookah breathing gas supply shall be sufficient to support all ~~HOOKAH~~hookah divers in the water for the duration of the planned dive, including decompression.

(H) Second stage regulators used for hookah shall be designed to function within the delivered gas supply pressure at the diver's working depth.

Note: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

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§6057. Equipment Procedures and Requirements.

(b) SCUBA.

(1) Regulators. Regulators shall be submitted to functional test every six months at which time, at a breathing rate of 15 breaths per minute the regulator must have an exhalation pressure not to exceed 3 inches of water nor a negative inhalation pressure not to exceed minus 3 inches of water.

(2) SCUBA tanks.

(A) SCUBA tanks shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 454, Unfired Pressure Vessel Safety Orders, Title 8, California Administrative Code;

(B) SCUBA tanks ~~must~~shall be hydrostatically tested in accordance with DOT standards.

(C) SCUBA tanks ~~must~~shall have an internal visual inspection at intervals not to exceed 12 months.

(D) SCUBA tank valves shall be functionally tested at intervals not to exceed 12 months.

(3) Submersible Pressure Gauges. Submersible pressure gauges shall be tested against a master gauge at intervals not to exceed six months.

(4) Buoyancy Compensators.

(A) A dry suit or other variable volume ~~buoyancy~~buoyancy compensation device shall be equipped with an exhaust valve.

(B) Buoyancy compensation devices shall be functionally inspected at intervals not to exceed six months.

(C) When used for SCUBA diving, a buoyancy compensation device shall have an inflation source separate from the breathing gas supply.

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Exception to 6057(c)(4)(C): Technical diving.

(D) A buoyancy compensation device shall be used to secure the cylinders to the diver and provide underwater buoyancy compensation or surface buoyancy as needed. If a dry suit is being worn by the diver, then a cylinder harness with a quick release may be worn to secure the cylinders to the diver.

(5) Submersible Depth Gauge. Each depth gauge shall be tested or calibrated every six months and when there is reasonable cause to believe a discrepancy exists.

(6) Weight Belts and Harnesses. Weight belts and harnesses used by SCUBA divers shall be capable of quick release.

(7) Underwater Breathing Masks and Helmets. Underwater breathing masks and helmets used ~~at~~for SCUBA must meet the requirements for the same equipment used in the surface supplied mode.

(c) Surface Supplied Diving.

Note: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.