

Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2018 - Comparative Table

Code section	Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2017	Comment
Foreword		Introductory pages updated to be consistent with WHS codes
Scope and application		Introductory pages updated to be consistent with WHS codes Dictionary has been relocated to the end of the document to be consistent with WHS codes – see Appendix 9
1. Introduction		
1.1 What is Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling?		No change
1.2 Who has health and safety duties in relation to these activities?		No change
1.3 Risk management	No substantive changes	Updated to be consistent with WHS codes
2. Controls measures that apply to all activities		
2.1 Ensuring no persons are left behind	References to sections 6 and 12 of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> have been inserted into this section.	Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes

2.2 Emergency plans	<p>Omit— ‘The person conducting the business or undertaking should ensure diving/snorkelling vessels have a written emergency plan to deal with emergency situations. These emergency plans should be made readily available to workers who should be familiar with these plans. Situations covered by written emergency plans should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) first aid; (b) rescue (c) evacuation (d) missing persons.’ <p>Insert— The person conducting the business or undertaking must ensure that a documented emergency plan is prepared for the diving/snorkelling vessel to deal with emergency situations.</p> <p>The emergency plans must provide for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency procedures; • testing of the emergency procedures, including the frequency of testing; and • information, training and instruction to relevant persons in relation to implementing the emergency procedures. <p>Emergency situations to be covered by the documented emergency plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first aid; • rescue; • evacuation; and • missing persons. <p>Further information regarding emergency plans can be found in the Managing the work environment and facilities Code of practice 2011 at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au</p>	This section has been updated to be consistent with section 43 of the WHS Regulation (duty to prepare, maintain and implement emergency plan).
2.3 Rescue of a person diving/snorkelling	Reference to ‘defibrillation’ inserted as a consequential amendment noting the provision of AED is now required under revised section 2.5 (see below)	
2.4 First aid and oxygen		No change

2.5 Automated external defibrillators	<p>Omit – '(f) the person conducting the business or undertaking should ensure that a risk assessment is undertaken to determine if an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and trained operator should be available for use on a vessel. Factors to consider in conducting the risk assessment are the ability to use the AED safely, the age of the persons undertaking water activities, access to and response time of emergency services, and available personnel.'</p> <p>Insert— 'Providing an automated external defibrillator can reduce the risk of fatality from cardiac arrest. The person conducting the business or undertaking should ensure that an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and trained operator is available on the vessel or readily accessible at the dive or snorkel site (for example, located on the primary vessel, on the dive pontoon, or for shore-based snorkelling on the shore or in a close by location).</p> <p>In circumstances where an operator determines it is not reasonably practicable to provide an AED (for example, a small vessel), a documented risk assessment should describe all the matters considered in making this determination.</p> <p>The AED should be located in an area that is known to all staff, clearly visible and readily accessible. The device should be clearly signed and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.'</p>	Section 2.5 is a new section that requires operators to provide automated external defibrillators as part of their operations (e.g. either on a vessel or at the dive site).
2.6 Risks from moving vessels		No change.
2.7 Marine jellyfish stings		No change.
2.8 Entry and exit from water		No change.
3. Control measures for recreational diving and recreational technical diving		

<p>3.1 Medical fitness</p>	<p>Insert- ‘Chronic conditions such as cardiac and respiratory conditions should be reported if diagnosed subsequent to the latest diving medical.’</p> <p>References to sections 7, 10C and 10D of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> have been inserted into this section.</p> <p>Minimum age for undertaking entry level recreational diving certificate decreased from 12 to 10 years of age.</p> <p>** some parts re-written to improve readability</p>	<p>Additional guidance has been added to ensure PCBUs are made aware if their worker is diagnosed with a chronic condition that would make it harmful for them to dive.</p> <p>Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes.</p> <p>The minimum age for undertaking training in entry level recreational diving will be decreased from 12 to 10 years of age to align with international standards, but additional protections have been introduced by specifying supervision requirements for young divers in parts 3.2 and restrictions on diving depths in 3.8.</p>
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<p>3.2 Supervision of divers in open water</p>	<p>References to sections 8 and 9 of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> have been inserted into this section, and summary of regulatory requirements removed.</p> <p>Insert – ‘Participants must be continually observed with only the brief, periodic interruptions needed to lead the dive and to provide assistance to individual divers’.</p> <p>Insert – ‘a formation that allows the dive instructor, or certified assistant to make immediate physical contact with and render assistance to, any resort diver’</p> <p>Insert – ‘If children aged 10 - 11 are participating in an entry level diving course, there should be a maximum of two children aged 10 - 11 with 1 dive instructor, and no more than four people in total in the group. This ratio cannot be increased by adding a certified assistant.</p> <p>** some parts re-written or re-located to improve readability</p>	<p>Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes.</p> <p>The new requirement for participants to be continually observed is consistent with training agency standards for dive instructors.</p> <p>This amendment, which will prevent large groups swimming in single file, is consistent with existing requirements that instructors always be positioned to make physical contact with any diver.</p> <p>Due to lowering the minimum age for participating in entry level diving courses, additional supervision requirements have been introduced for children under the age of 12, to provide a lower ratio of divers to instructors. This is in line with international dive training agency requirements.</p>
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3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge	<p>Insert – All diving workers must be competent to undertake their designated duties. A competent person has acquired the knowledge and skills to carry out their duties through training, qualifications, experience or a combination of these.</p> <p>The person conducting a business or undertaking must provide suitable and adequate information, training and instruction to their diving workers, for example, lookouts should be trained in appropriate observation and monitoring techniques. This should include ongoing training and supervision of their workers to maintain and improve their competence to perform lookout duties, supervisor duties and guide duties</p> <p>Insert – ‘Resort divers should also be taught how to inflate and deflate their buoyancy control device while on the surface of the water’.</p> <p>Insert – ‘a solo diving certificate or equivalent certification (such as a self-reliant or independent diver), including technical diving certifications that ensure the diver has been taught self-rescuer techniques’</p>	<p>Section 3.3 has been updated to provide greater clarity regarding training of diving workers.</p> <p>This amendment clarifies that this skill should be taught to resort divers.</p> <p>This amendment clarifies that divers who have completed courses with different names will have sufficient skills to be permitted to dive without a buddy.</p>
3.4 Instruction and advice to non-English speaking persons		No change
3.5 Equipment for diving		No change
3.6 Gas quality in gas cylinders	<p>References to the maximum amount of carbon dioxide and oil that a gas cylinder may contain have been updated.</p> <p>Insert – ‘to minimise potential for overheating and’</p>	<p>The code has been updated to remain consistent with Australian Standard 2299.1:2015, which this figure is taken from.</p> <p>Additional guidance on the positioning of compressors inserted, as overheating can also result in the contamination of the air produced by the compressor, which can be a serious risk.</p>
3.7 Decompression management		No change

3.8 Diving depths	Insert – 'and children aged 10 – 11 do not dive beyond 12 metres'.	Due to lowering the minimum age for participating in entry level diving courses, a maximum diving depth for children under the age of 12 has been added as an additional safeguard, in line with international dive training agency requirements.
3.9 Ascent training		No change
3.10 Dive safety log	Reference to sections 10 of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> has been inserted into this section, and summary of regulatory requirements removed.	Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes.
3.11 Divers log		No change
4. Control measures for recreational snorkelling		

<p>4.1 Assessing snorkellers</p>	<p>Insert new content— '4.1 Assessing snorkellers</p> <p>Before snorkellers enter the water they should be assessed to determine whether they may be at risk. This process is subjective and relies on the knowledge and skills of the snorkel worker. The assessment is not designed to stop potential snorkellers customers from participating in snorkelling activities. Identifying which individuals are at risk and providing them with additional attention is a vital part of ensuring their safety by providing them with appropriate advice, equipment and supervision.</p> <p>The assessment can be completed in a number of ways including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking the participating group questions • talking with snorkellers individually • using an assessment form • observing individuals or the group (for example, walk throughs or as passengers on board). <p>Snorkelling workers should observe and record whether any participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are either an older or a very young person • are overweight • appear to be in bad health (e.g. with respiratory problems or particularly unfit) • exhibit stressed behaviour (e.g. appearing to be jumpy, hesitant, overly excited, fidgety or have shaking hands) • have mobility issues • have difficulties in readily understanding instructions from the crew. <p>Example questions to help determine whether a person intending to snorkel is at risk are below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have any medical conditions? • Are you currently taking any prescribed medication? • Do you smoke? • Have you snorkelled before? • Can you swim well? 	<p>Section 4.1 is new content which provides greater clarity in the code for when a declaration is required from an at risk snorkeller including guidance on identifying who might be an at risk snorkeller.</p>
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	<p>Where the person conducting the business or undertaking identifies an at risk snorkellers they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure all members of the team know who they are and why they are at risk • implement controls for managing at risk snorkellers (see section 4.3). 	
<p>4.2 Medical fitness</p>	<p>References to section 13 of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> have been inserted into this section.</p> <p>Insert – ‘Declarations for at risk snorkellers</p> <p>In addition, where a person is identified as an at risk snorkeller, the person conducting the business or undertaking may require the person to complete a declaration and request they advise the snorkel worker if they have any concerns about their medical conditions. A sample declaration is provided at Appendix 6.</p> <p>The completed declaration should be considered by the duty holder or someone on their behalf such as a snorkelling supervisor to determine what advice, equipment and supervision should be given to the person to assist in their safe participation’</p>	<p>Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes</p> <p>This content has been added to assist PCBU's comply with requirements in the Regulation.</p>

<p>4.3 Control measures for at risk snorkellers</p>	<p>Insert new content—</p> <p>‘Where a person is identified as an at risk snorkeller, the person conducting the business or undertaking should ensure they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are easy to identify in the water to assist in providing for closer supervision; • wear and/or use a flotation device; and • snorkel in a buddy pair. <p>Where the person refuses to comply with any reasonable instruction by the person conducting the business or undertaking to use control measures for their safe participation, the duty holder can refuse to allow the person to enter the water.</p> <p>Snorkellers must comply, so far as the person is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the person conducting the business or undertaking to allow the person conducting the business or undertaking to comply with the SRWA Act.</p> <p>System for easy visual identification of at-risk snorkellers</p> <p>Operators should have a system in place to provide the lookouts with an easy visual identification of at risk snorkellers while they are in the water (for example, different coloured vests, wetsuits, snorkels, or noodles, or flotation jackets).</p> <p>Snorkelling equipment is usually available in bright colours. Using the same colour snorkels, fins or masks, or attaching coloured ribbons is a simple way to clearly identify and easily supervise at risk snorkellers.</p> <p>Flotation devices for at-risk snorkellers</p> <p>Flotation devices used for snorkelling include personal flotation devices, non-standard swim jackets, boards, life rings and tubes (such as noodles).</p> <p>All at-risk snorkellers should be directed to wear and/or use a flotation or other device which is able to support the wearer in a relaxed state. Snorkel workers should assist at risk snorkellers with these devices by demonstrating their use and advising that it will help them as a control to relax in the water.</p>	<p>Section 4.3 is new content which provides greater clarity in the code regarding safety of at risk snorkellers including requiring operators to have a system in place for easy visual identification of persons who are at risk snorkellers and requiring at risk snorkellers to wear and/or use a floatation device such as a buoyancy vest or noodle and where reasonably practicable be directed to snorkel in a buddy pair.</p>
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	<p>Generally all flotation devices can provide some support for snorkellers and minimise the stress of maintaining their position in the water. However, a panicking snorkeller will receive better flotation support from a personal flotation device compared to a noodle.</p> <p>Snorkel guides should always have a flotation device on hand that can be given to a snorkeller who appears to be tired or distressed.</p> <p>Snorkelling in a buddy pair</p> <p>At-risk snorkellers should so far as is reasonably practicable be directed to snorkel in a buddy pair and remain in a pair arrangement for the duration of their time in the water.</p> <p>Persons should be advised where they become separated from their buddy they should attempt to locate their buddy in the first instance.</p> <p>Where an at-risk snorkeller has been identified as snorkelling alone they should be directed by the snorkelling worker to return to the vessel or to the snorkel supervisor until their buddy is located.</p> <p>In addition at risk snorkellers may also be directed to snorkel in an area which allows the lookout or snorkelling supervisor to offer closer supervision.'</p>	
4.4 Supervision of snorkelling in open water	References to section 14 of the <i>Safety and Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> have been inserted into this section.	Regulation inserted to be consistent with WHS codes

<p>4.5 Appropriate skills and knowledge</p>	<p>Omit— ‘The person conducting the business or undertaking should ensure recreational snorkelling workers are trained in the procedures required at any particular snorkelling site and for the work they are doing.’</p> <p>Insert— ‘All snorkelling workers must be competent to undertake their designated duties. A competent person has acquired the knowledge and skills to carry out their duties through training, qualifications, experience or a combination of these.</p> <p>The person conducting a business or undertaking must provide suitable and adequate information, training and instruction to their snorkel workers. This should include ongoing training and supervision of their workers to maintain and improve their competence to perform lookout duties, supervisor duties and guide duties.’</p> <p>Insert new content ‘briefing snorkellers’— From the time a snorkeller makes a booking until they enter the water, there are opportunities to provide them with information and advice about safe snorkelling.</p> <p>Most snorkelling operators and workers provide information and advice to snorkelling customers through a briefing, but this can be combined with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distributing brochures, signs and posters • using illustrated charts, diagrams and site photographs • showing safety films of snorkellers • providing translated materials where required. <p>Key safety messages for all recreational snorkellers should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There are serious risks associated with certain medical conditions, especially cardiac conditions. • Snorkelling with a paired buddy improves your safety • Know your own ability and snorkel accordingly”. <p>Key safety messages for at-risk snorkellers should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Use a flotation device to reduce your physical exertion in the water. 	<p>Section 4.5 has been updated to provide greater clarity regarding training of snorkelling workers.</p> <p>New content has been added on briefing snorkelling customers to ensure persons who intend to participate in recreational snorkelling are given consistent messages about the risks of snorkelling and the required safety measures.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snorkel with a buddy or as a part of a guided tour. • Stay close to supervising staff or other support and signal if help is required". <p>It may not be necessary to cover all issues with every snorkeller. Separate briefings for more experienced snorkellers may be required.</p> <p>Amendment to section on 'Advice on the snorkelling environment and potential problems' Item (m)(ii) omits reference to '(more than 3 or 4)' deep breaths</p>	Number of breaths has been omitted as there is no safe number of hyperventilation breaths as apnoeic hypoxia can occur from extended breath-holding with hyperventilation
4.6 Instruction and advice to non-English speaking persons		No change
4.7 Equipment for snorkelling		No change
5. Recreational technical diving – additional requirements		

5.1 Recreational technical diving using EANx or mixed gas	<p>Common content across the previous sections Diving using EANx with SCUBA, Diving using EANx rebreathers, Diving using mixed gas with SCUBA and Diving using mixed gas rebreathers has been consolidated under the heading ‘Recreational technical diving using EANx or mixed gas’.</p> <p>Insert – ‘divers comply with the requirements of relevant training agency standards’</p> <p>Omit the following sections –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Qualifications and experience of an EANx dive instructor – Prerequisites for EANx divers in training – Equipment 	<p>Content in this part has been consolidated where possible to avoid repetition. Some prescriptive requirements have been removed and replaced with a requirement that diving using EANx or mixed gas be undertaken in accordance with training agency standards, as these standards are updated more frequently than the code of practice and keep pace with changes in technology.</p> <p>The requirement for people training in recreational scuba diving using EANx to complete two open water dives prior to certification has been removed, as it is not required in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>Key safeguards have been retained, including ensuring that a qualified dive supervisor is present at the dive site, that the diver conducts a gas analysis and identifies the maximum operating depth for the gas they are using, that rebreather divers conduct certain pre-dive tests on their rebreather units, that divers are consulted about emergency procedures, and that safety requirements around the mixing of EANx or other gases are complied with.</p>
5.2 Decompression diving (using air or other gases)		No change
6. Additional guidance on certain matters		
6.1 Decompression illness		No change
6.2 Nitrogen narcosis		No change

6.3 Barotrauma		No change
6.4 Panic		No change
6.5 Marine stingers		No change
6.6 Plant	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of plant, refer to the <i>Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace Code of Practice 2013</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS code of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
6.7 Noise	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of noise, refer to the <i>Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work Code of Practice 2011</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS code of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
6.8 Hazardous chemicals	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of hazardous chemicals, refer to the <i>Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace Code of Practice 2013</i> and the <i>Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice 2011</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS codes of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
6.9 Manual tasks	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of manual tasks, refer to the <i>Hazardous Manual Tasks Code of Practice 2011</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS code of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
6.10 Confined spaces	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of confined spaces, refer to the <i>Confined Spaces Code of Practice 2011</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS code of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
6.11 Workplace environment	Insert – 'For more information on how to manage the health and safety risks of the workplace environment, refer to the <i>Managing the Work Environment and Facilities Code of Practice 2011</i> '	Reference to the relevant WHS code of practice added to provide duty holders with more information
Appendix 1: Example record for passive count system - headcount		No change
Appendix 2: Sample medical declaration for resort diving		No change
Appendix 3: Medical declaration for entry-level certificate divers		No change
Appendix 4: Body mass index chart		No change
Appendix 5: Sample method of providing advice about medical snorkeller.	Updated to reference the new requirements for persons identified as an at risk snorkeller.	

conditions to prospective recreational snorkellers	New signature table included for ease of use of this form by operators.	
Appendix 6: Sample declaration form for a person who is identified as an at risk snorkeller	New appendix to the code which provides a sample declaration that can be used to assist the crew in identifying which individuals may be at risk from participating in recreational snorkelling. The appendix reflects the updated requirements for persons identified at risk (e.g. medical conditions to be declared, wear and/or use a flotation device that will support the wearer in a relaxed state; wear a particular colour snorkel or vest that will allow the crew to offer closer supervision and snorkel in a buddy pair).	
Appendix 7: Recreational diving and snorkelling compliance checklist	Updated to reflect new requirement for operators to provide automated external defibrillators as part of their operations (e.g. either on a vessel or at the dive site).	
Appendix 8: Guidance material	No change	
Appendix 9: Dictionary	<p>Dictionary has been relocated to the end of the document to be consistent with WHS codes. Terms that are no longer referred to in the code have been deleted.</p> <p>Insert – Training agency standards Diver training standards developed by technical dive training organisations, such as PADI, SSI, RAID, TDI/SDI and NAUI, or those based on the minimum international standards recognised by the Recreational Scuba Training Council</p>	New definition added to support the amendments to Part 5 Recreational technical diving – additional requirements

