

## Table of changes for the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024 (the code)

Changes *this is not an exhaustive list	Comment
The code is now shorter in length with more streamlined content.	This reflects the new structure of the Regulation.
Definitions have been updated in line with the new Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024 (the Regulation).	See the table of changes for the Regulation. Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
A more streamlined section includes control measures for all activities rather than duplicating control measures that are common to both diving and snorkelling.	See 2. Control measures that apply to all activities This reflects the new structure of the Regulation.
The counting of persons has been updated to refer to active counts and headcounts, whereas previously referred to as active and passive.	See 2.1 Ensuring no people are left behind and the table of changes for the Regulation.
What steps need to be taken if the counts do not agree and a definition of emergency plan is provided.	Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
The requirements for lookouts, guides and rescuers for diving and snorkelling has been consolidated and content updated.	See 2.2.1 Lookouts, guides and rescuers. Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
<p>Risk assessments for diving and snorkelling have been consolidated and updated into the following risk assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general dive and snorkel</li> <li>• determining number of lookouts, and number and location of supervisory personnel</li> <li>• environmental dive site.</li> </ul> <p>The environmental dive site risk assessment should be confirmed in-water. Examples of risk assessments can be found in Appendices 4, 5 and 6 of the code and downloadable word versions of these risk assessments can now be found on the WorkSafe website: <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling</a></p>	<p>See 2.2.2 Risk assessments for recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling.</p> <p>This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
The code states that a first aid kit should include a pulse oximeter following feedback from subject matter experts.	See 2.5 First aid. This has been included to address feedback from the WHSQ Dive Unit.
Amendments were made to the Regulation to replace outdated medical criteria for entry-level certificate diving which triggered a requirement to provide a medical certificate. The medical criteria (over 45 years old, body mass index, gender, waist circumference) was replaced with a medical declaration in the approved form which indicates whether a medical certificate is required based on the individual's answers in the form.	See 3.1 Medical fitness. See the table of changes for the Regulation. This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.

<p>The code now refers to the Worksafe website to access the approved form/medical declaration. The medical declaration is the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) Diver Medical Participant Questionnaire which is already used by industry. This will remove some additional paperwork and align medical screening in Queensland with the rest of the world.</p>	
<p>To accurately assess conditions at the time of the dive, an in-water dive site risk assessment is included in the code. The in-water risk assessment should be performed by the dive instructor or competent person within an hour before the dive starts and if there is a significant change in conditions during the dive.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>To address the risk of confusion of multiple non-certified dive groups at the same dive site the code now states the dive site risk assessment should include the risk of dive group interaction underwater.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>To ensure commercial pressures do not influence the decision about whether to cancel or modify a dive, the code now states that the dive instructor or a competent person should have the authority to decide whether a non-certified dive should be cancelled or modified.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Additional guidance is included to address when the non-certified divers to dive instructor ratios should be reduced and guidance on maintaining physical contact.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Following feedback from industry highlighting the importance of dive instructor competence, the dive code now states that the dive operator should implement a system to regularly review a diver worker's knowledge, skills and abilities.</p>	<p>See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addressed feedback from industry about the importance of dive instructor competency.</p>
<p>For non-certified dives, the code includes further information on basic skills. The dive operator should ensure the dive instructor assesses the knowledge, skills and abilities of potential divers and provides the necessary information and instruction to minimise the risks to the person's health and safety. A list of basic skills taught underwater is provided.</p> <p>This section also now refers to non-certified divers being instructed and/or informed about a quick release mechanism for their weight system.</p>	<p>See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Further guidance is provided about identification and the search area and timely response for locating a missing diver.</p> <p>Further guidance on how to manage the group of divers if there is a separated or panicked diver. This includes the dive instructor to use a controlled ascent procedure with and return all other divers in the group to the surface ascending with all divers.</p>	<p>See 2.4 Rescue of a person diving or snorkelling. See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>The code now includes a charter vessel operation section in response to coronial recommendations.</p>	<p>See 2.11 charter vessel operation.</p>

	This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.
Further guidance is included on diving equipment such as fins being correctly fitted and remedies if the fins do not fit.	See 3.4 Equipment for diving. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.
Divers with the condition 'patent foramen ovale' has been added to factors which can contribute to development of decompression illness.	See 6. Additional guidance on certain matters. This addition addresses feedback from subject matter experts.
Following an e-safe alert and feedback from subject matter experts about Immersion Pulmonary Oedema (IPO) being not well understood and potentially fatal, the code now includes a section on IPO. This section includes what IPO is, symptoms and action required by dive operators if someone presents with IPO symptoms.	See 6.5 Immersion Pulmonary Oedema. This addition addresses feedback from subject matter experts.
Following feedback, additional information has been added on marine stingers and that dive operators should supply protective swimwear if there is a risk of marine stingers. The code now refers to the Australian Resuscitation Council and New Zealand Resuscitation Council website for the latest information on symptoms and treatment for marine stings.	See section 2.9 Marine jellyfish stings. See section 6.6 Marine stingers
Following a number of shark bite incidents, the code now includes a section on sharks which was developed in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.	See section 6.7 Sharks
The following appendices to the code will now also be available in a downloadable word version on the WorkSafe website. <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• example record for count of persons</li> <li>• sample method of providing advice about medical conditions to prospective recreational snorkellers</li> <li>• sample declaration form for a person who is identified as an at risk snorkeller</li> <li>• example of environmental dive site and in-water risk assessment</li> <li>• example risk assessment to determine lookouts and supervision</li> <li>• example combined dive/snorkel site lookout and supervision.</li> </ul> <p>The following documents have been removed from the code but will be available alongside the code on the WorkSafe website in a downloadable word version:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling compliance checklist</li> <li>• recreational snorkelling compliance checklist</li> <li>• medical declaration for non-certified diving</li> <li>• medical declaration for entry-level certificate diving (this will be a link to the UHMS website and the questionnaire.</li> </ul>	See Appendices. This change addresses feedback from industry about the usability of forms and that examples are helpful, particularly when they can be modified to account for the specific dive operation. The medical declarations will no longer sit within the code which allows the regulator to update them in line with the latest medical evidence. This also allows the medical declaration for entry-level certificate diving to be linked to the latest version of the Underwater Hyperbaric Medical Society questionnaire. See WorkSafe website <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling</a>