



Diving at Work Regulations 1997
List of Approved Diving Qualifications
dated
01 January 2026

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Guidance on this document

Document status

1. This document contains regulatory requirements; it is **not** a guidance leaflet.

Document title

2. This document shall be known as: "List of Approved Diving Qualifications dated 01 January 2026"

Approved qualifications

3. Under regulation 14(1) of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (DWR)⁽¹⁾, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) may approve in writing such qualification as it considers suitable for the purpose of ensuring the adequate competence of divers for the purposes of regulation 12(1)(a). Under regulation 14(2), HSE's approval may be limited to any diver or class of divers, or any dive or class of dive, and may be subject to conditions or limited to time. Approvals generally come into force on the date that they are signed and remain in force until such time as they are revoked in writing by a person authorised in that regard by the Health and Safety Executive.

Duties of and restrictions on divers

4. Under regulation 12(1)(a), no diver shall dive in a diving project unless they have an approved qualification which is valid for any activity they may reasonably expect to carry out while taking part in the diving project. An exception to this is where the dive is part of training which, if successfully completed, would lead to the issue of an approved qualification (regulation 12(2)(a)).

Duties of the diving contractor

5. Under regulation 6(3)(a), the diving contractor shall ensure that there are sufficient people with **suitable competence** to carry out safely and without risk to health both the diving project and any action (including the giving of first-aid) which may be necessary in the event of a reasonably foreseeable emergency connected with the diving project.

Suitable competence

6. The inclusion of a particular diving qualification in this list does not mean that a person holding that qualification is necessarily competent to carry out every type of diving work falling within the relevant class of diving. The qualification must be appropriate to:
 - any activity the diver may reasonably expect to carry out while taking part in the diving project;
 - the objectives of the diving project;

¹ S.I. 1997 No. 2776.

- the required diving technique;
- the level of competence required to undertake the assigned duty;
- the findings of the risk assessment;
- any restriction and/or limitation stated on a particular diving qualification certificate, which must be strictly complied with such as: diving technique; type of equipment; breathing gases; and maximum depth;

7. Some certificates listed have expiry dates (even though this may not be stated on the certificate). Non-UK qualifications must be current and renewed⁽²⁾ as required by the issuing authority in order to be approved by HSE.

Recreational Diving Qualifications

8. Some recreational qualifications are acceptable for specific classes of diving. These are CMAS (Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (World Confederation of Underwater Activities)) qualifications or their equivalent where a particular Recreational Agency/Organisation is not a CMAS member, and also qualifications that meet EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3⁽³⁾.

9. HSE has produced a table of equivalencies. Only CMAS 2*, and 3* equivalences are listed as only these are quoted in the List of Approved Diving Qualifications. Qualifications within a particular agency/organisation that are higher than those listed are therefore acceptable.

Recreational Agency/Organisation	CMAS 2* equivalence	CMAS 3* equivalence
American Nitrox Divers International UK Ltd (ANDI)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)	Dive Leader & Sports Diver	Advanced Diver
DMT NASE UK	Rescue Diver & Advanced Rescue Diver	Divemaster
Global Underwater Explorers (UK) Ltd (GUE)	Not applicable	All GUE qualifications
International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers UK (IANTD)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
International Technical Diving Agency (ITDA)	Advanced Nitrox Diver	Extended Range Nitrox Diver
National Association of Underwater Instructors UK (NAUI)	Master Scuba Diver	Divemaster
Professional Association of Diving Instructors International Ltd (PADI)	Rescue Diver	Dive Master
Professional SCUBA Association International (Europe) (PSAI)	Advanced Deep Air Level 1	Advanced Deep Air Level 2

² Supervisors do not have to renew their diving qualifications unless they will also be diving in a diving project.

³ EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 Recreational diving services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3 – "Dive Leader"

Sub-Aqua Association (SAA)	Dive Leader & Club Diver	Dive Supervisor
Scottish Sub-Aqua Club (SSAC)	Diver	1 st Class Diver & Master Diver
SCUBA Diving International (UK) (SDI)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
SCUBA Schools International GB Ltd (SSI)	Advanced Open Water Diver	Dive Guide
Technical Diving International (UK) (TDI)	Advanced Nitrox	Extended Range

10. The above list is not a comparison of qualifications from one agency/organisation to another. Neither does it automatically grant any rights to persons wishing to use their current qualification to gain a qualification with another agency/organisation. Crossover requirements are entirely at the discretion of the agency/organisation to which the person is applying.

Using combinations of approved diving qualifications

11. Some classes of diving allow for combinations of approved diving qualifications. Only those combinations listed are approved.

HSE clarification note

12. Text between [] is intended as an HSE clarification note showing the HSE equivalent. The text is therefore not likely to appear as part of the official qualification title.



DIVING AT WORK REGULATIONS 1997

APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS UNDER REGULATION 14(1)

1. On behalf of the Health and Safety Executive I hereby approve under regulation 14 of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 ("DWR")⁽⁴⁾ the diving qualifications specified in Schedules 1 to 9 of this document, for the purposes of regulation 12(1)(a) of DWR.
2. The list of approved qualifications as of 01 January 2025 is revoked and this approval shall come into operation on the date on which it is signed and shall remain in force until such time as it is revoked in writing by a person authorised in that regard by the Health and Safety Executive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Renouf', is positioned to the left of the date and name.

Date: 01 January 2026

Mark Renouf (HM Chief Inspector of Diving)

A person authorised to perform functions under
Regulation 14 of the Diving at Work Regulations
1997 on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive

⁴ S.I. 1997 No. 2776.

Schedule 1

Offshore Diving

The class of Offshore Diving⁽⁵⁾ is defined as all diving:

- (a) at sea outside the United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽⁶⁾. This will include all diving operations in UK designated areas of the continental shelf undertaken in connection with offshore installations, energy structures, eg wind farms, emerging energy technologies, wells and pipeline works, and with those parts of mines which extend outside the 12-mile limit; or
- (b) at sea off, or in connection with, offshore installations and pipeline works within the 12-mile limit; or
- (c) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used; or
- (d) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning.

HSE approves the following qualifications for Offshore Diving

1. For Closed Bell Diving or Saturation Diving Techniques:

Great Britain

HSE Closed Bell Diving

HSE Part II

HSE Part II (Restricted) (Air range only)

Transitional Part II (issued between 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981)

TSA or Manpower Services Commission Mixed gas/Bell Diving (issued between August 1975 and June 1981)

Australia

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 4 - [Closed Bell]

Canada

Category 3 Diver - [Closed Bell]

Bell Diver - [Closed Bell]

France

Classe 3 mention A - [Closed Bell] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Norway

Bell diver - diver certificate issued by the Petroleum Safety Authority/HAVTIL, Norway
[Closed Bell]

⁵ See also: Commercial diving projects offshore: Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice.

⁶ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

South Africa

Class 1 - Saturation Diver - [Closed Bell]

2. For Surface Supplied, Surface-Orientated Diving Techniques to a maximum depth of 50 metres:

All those qualifications listed under 1 above (for Closed Bell Diving or Saturation Diving Techniques), plus:

Great Britain

HSE Surface Supplied Diving with HSE Surface Supplied Diving (Top-up)
HSE Part I
Transitional Part I (issued between 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981)
TSA or MSC Basic Air Diving (issued between August 1975 and June 1981)

Australia

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 3 - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]⁷

Canada

Category 1 Diver - [Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
Category 2 Diver - [Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
Surface Supplied Mixed Gas Diver to 70m - [Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver to 50m - [Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]

Denmark

Erhvervsdykker – (*Air Diving Qualification*) - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver – [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-up)]

France

Classe 2 mention A - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
(issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Netherlands

Duikarbeid Categorie B50 - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]
(valid until 1st February 2027)
NDC Registratie Instelling B50 - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]

Northern Ireland⁽⁸⁾

Part I - [equivalent to HSE Part I]

⁷ Not all ADAS divers will have received dry suit training. Diving contractors should check for relevant dry suit competency/experience.

⁸ Issued by the Department of Economic Development, Northern Ireland

Norway

Dykkersertifikat Klasse I – Overflateorientert dykker – (*Diving Certificate Class I - Surface Orientated Diver*) - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]

South Africa

Class II - Surface-Supplied Mixed Gas Diver - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]

Class II - Surface-Supplied Air Diver - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]

In addition, the following qualifications may be used for Surface Supplied, Surface-Orientated Diving Techniques to a maximum depth of 50 metres, but only if the diver also holds the HSE surface supplied (top-up) qualification:

Great Britain

HSE Part III

Transitional Part III (issued between 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981)

The following UK Military Diving Qualifications⁽⁹⁾:

Royal Navy - Clearance Diving Officer - Professional Qualifying Course

Royal Navy – Mine Clearance Diving Officer (MCDO) - Professional Qualifying Course

Royal Navy - Diver 1 - Professional Qualifying Course

Royal Navy – Able Seaman Diver (AB(D)) - Professional Qualifying Course

Army - Army Diving Course

Army - Advanced Diver Course

Army - Diving Course Module 2

Army - Diver Class 1

Australia

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 3 - Restricted⁽¹⁰⁾ - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]⁽¹¹⁾

Belgium

Operator Van Onderwaterwerken/Operateur de Travaux Subaquatiques - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Finland

Ammattisukeltajan Ammattitutkinto - [Professional Diver] - [Surface Supplied & SCUBA]

Ireland

Commercial Surface Supplied Diving - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Irish Naval Diving Surface Supplied [Surface Supplied]

Italy

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo Specializzato [SCUBA and Surface Supplied]

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo Ed Iperbarico [SCUBA and Surface Supplied]

Netherlands

NDC Registratie Instelling B50R – [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

⁹ Certificate includes the text:

The Royal Navy or Army [title of the course] has been incorporated into the Health and Safety Executive List of Approved Qualifications under Regulation 14(1) of the Diving at Work regulations 1997.

Note: Some of the course names have minor text variations.

¹⁰ ADAS Part 3 - Restricted certification means the holder has not completed the ADAS wet bell, hot water suit and tool skill modules.

¹¹ Not all ADAS divers will have received dry suit training. Diving contractors should check for relevant dry suit competency/experience.

Poland

Dyplom Nurka II Klasy – Diver 2nd Class Certificate [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]
Dyplom Nurka I Klasy – Diver 1st Class Certificate [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Portugal

Professional divers (mergulhadores profissionais) and the equivalent category (categorias) naval qualifications (mergulhadores da Armada):
Mergulhador - Chefe - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 60m]
Mergulhador - 1^a Classe - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 60m]
Mergulhador Especialista (Surface Supplied Offshore)
Mergulhador Técnico (Surface Supplied Inshore)

Spain¹²

Buceador de Segunda Clase o de media profundidad - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]
Buceador/A 2a Clase - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]
Busejador/A 2A. Classe - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]
Buceador Profesional de Media Profunidad [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Sweden

Certifikat B50 - [Surface Supplied to 50m]

¹² HSE approved Spanish qualifications prior to 01 January 2025. There will be some divers who hold HSE Top Up qualifications based on their Spanish qualifications. With effect from 01 January 2025 HSE will only recognise Spanish qualifications if the diver also holds an HSE Top Up qualification.

Schedule 2

Inland/Inshore Diving

The class of Inland/Inshore Diving⁽¹³⁾ is defined as diving in support of civil engineering or marine-related projects and fish farming:

- (a) inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽¹⁴⁾; or
- (b) inland in Great Britain including in docks, harbours, rivers, culverts, canals, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and tanks other than (c) below; or
- (c) inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming, diving or use as an aquarium;

but does not include diving:

- (a) deeper than 50 metres; or
- (b) at sea off, or in connection with, offshore installations and pipeline works within the 12-mile limit; or
- (c) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used; or
- (d) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning;

for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Inland/Inshore Diving.

All those qualifications listed for Offshore Diving, plus:

Great Britain

HSE Surface Supplied Diving
HSE Part III
Transitional Part III (issued between 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981)
HSE Part III (Restricted - Tank)
HSE SCUBA Diving
HSE Part IV
Transitional Part IV (issued between 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981)
HSE Part IV (Restricted - Tank)

¹³ See also Commercial diving projects inland/inshore: Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice.

¹⁴ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

The following UK Military Diving Qualifications⁽¹⁵⁾:

Royal Navy - Clearance Diving Officer - Professional Qualifying Course (SCUBA & Surface Supplied)

Royal Navy - Diver 1 - Professional Qualifying Course (SCUBA & Surface Supplied)

Royal Navy - Ships Diver Course (SCUBA only)

Army - Army Diving Course (SCUBA & Surface Supplied)

Army - Advanced Diver Course (Surface Supplied only)

Army - Diving Course Module 2 (Surface Supplied only)

Army - Diver Class 1 (Surface Supplied only)

Army - Compressed Air Diver Course (SCUBA only)

Army - Diving Course Module 1 (SCUBA only)

Army - Diver Class 2 (SCUBA only)

Australia⁽¹⁶⁾

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 1 - SCUBA to 30m only

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 1 - Surface Supply⁽¹⁷⁾

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 2 - to 30m only - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 30m]

Diver Accreditation Scheme - Part 2 - Restricted⁽¹⁸⁾ - to 30m only - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 30 m]

Belgium

Operator Van Onderwaterwerken/Opérateur de Travaux Subaquatiques - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Canada⁽¹⁹⁾

Restricted Surface Supplied Diver - to 30m only - [Surface Supplied to 30m]

Unrestricted SCUBA Diver - to 40m only - [SCUBA to 40m]

Restricted SCUBA Diver - to 20m only - [SCUBA to 20m]

Occupational SCUBA Diver – to 30m only – [SCUBA to 30m]

Denmark

SCUBA-Dykning - [SCUBA Diving Qualification] - [to 25m] - [SCUBA to 25m]

Surface supplied inshore air diver [Surface Supplied to 30m]

Commercial SCUBA Diver [SCUBA to 30m]

Finland

Ammattisukeltajan Ammattitutkinto – (*Professional Diver*) - [Surface Supplied & SCUBA]

¹⁵ Certificate includes the text:

The Royal Navy or Army [title of the course] has been incorporated into the Health and Safety Executive List of Approved Qualifications under Regulation 14(1) of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

Note: Some of the course names have minor text variations.

¹⁶ Not all ADAS divers will have received dry suit training. Diving contractors should check for relevant dry suit competency/experience.

¹⁷ Certificate includes the text:

Competent to perform Aquaculture operations to 30m on SSBA only.

¹⁸ ADAS Part 2 - Restricted certification means the holder has not completed the ADAS tool skill modules.

¹⁹ Surface Supplied divers can conduct dives in SCUBA, only if the reverse of the surface supplied certificate has been endorsed for SCUBA diving.

Kevytsukeltajan Tutkinto – (*Light Diver*) - [SCUBA to 30m]

France

Classe 1 mention A - [SCUBA and Surface Supply to 40m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Germany

Geprüfter Taucher/Geprüfte Taucherin – (*Inspected/Examiner/Qualified Diver*) - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Bescheinigung für Forschungstaucher - [SCUBA]

Italy

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo Specializzato [SCUBA and Surface Supplied]

Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo Ed Iperbarico [SCUBA and Surface Supplied]

Ireland

QQI Level 6 Surface Supplied Diving (Inshore) [Surface Supplied to 30m]

QQI Level 6 Commercial SCUBA Diver [SCUBA to 30m]

Commercial Surface Supplied Diving - [Surface Supplied & SCUBA]

Irish Naval Diving Surface Supplied [Surface Supplied to 50m]

Irish Naval Diving SCUBA [SCUBA to 36m]

Netherlands

Duikarbeid Categorie A - [SCUBA] (valid until 1st February 2027)

Duikarbeid Categorie A30 - [SCUBA to 30m] (valid until 1st February 2027)

Duikarbeid Categorie B30 - [Surface Supplied to 30m] (valid until 1st February 2027)

NDC Registratie Instelling B30 [SCUBA and Surface Supplied to 30m]

Northern Ireland⁽²⁰⁾

Part III - [equivalent to HSE Part III]

Part IV - [equivalent to HSE Part IV]

Norway

Dykkersertifikat Klasse III - Anleggsdykking - [Diving Certificate Class III – Advanced Underwater Work] - [Surface Supplied and SCUBA]

Portugal

Professional divers (mergulhadores profissionais) and the equivalent category (categorias) naval qualifications (mergulhadores da Armada):

Mergulhador - 2^a Classe - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 40m]

Mergulhador - 3^a Classe - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 20m]

Mergulhador-Intermédio (Surface Supplied Inshore - limited) – [Surface Supplied to 40m]

Mergulhador-inicial (SCUBA + Surface Supplied) – [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 20m]

²⁰ Issued by the Department of Economic Development, Northern Ireland

South Africa

- Class III - Surface-Supplied Nitrox Diver - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 30m]
- Class III - Surface-Supplied Air Diver - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied to 30m]
- Class IV - SCUBA Nitrox Diver - [SCUBA to 30m]
- Class IV - SCUBA Air Diver - [SCUBA to 30m]

Sweden

- Certifikat S30 - [SCUBA to 30m]

HSE approves the following additional qualifications for the class of Inland/Inshore Diving.

- 1. In Benign Pools, Tanks or Aquariums⁽²¹⁾**, which is defined as diving inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming or diving or use as an aquarium, where the diver is in full view from the surface at all times, and where no entanglement or entrapment hazards are present:

Recreational

Qualifications that meet EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3⁽²²⁾

CMAS 3*

CMAS 3* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

CMAS 2*

CMAS 2* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

- 2. In support of Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET)⁽²³⁾⁽²⁴⁾**, which is defined as inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming or diving, and for standby and rescue purposes in connection with helicopter underwater escape trainers and modular egress training simulators (HUET/METS):

Recreational

Qualifications that meet EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3⁽²⁵⁾

CMAS 3*

²¹ See also HSE Information Sheet: [Diving Information Sheet No. 8: Diving in benign conditions, and in pools, tanks, aquariums, and helicopter underwater escape training.](#)

²² EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 Recreational diving services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3 – "Dive Leader"

²³ Candidates undergoing training in the use of compressed air emergency breathing systems (CA-EBS) at an Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation (OPITO) approved training provider, do not need to hold an HSE approved diving qualification. However, the diving project plan should address what additional measures may be needed in order to protect their health and safety.

²⁴ See also HSE Information Sheet: [Diving Information Sheet No. 8: Diving in benign conditions, and in pools, tanks, aquariums, and helicopter underwater escape training.](#)

²⁵ EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 Recreational diving services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3 – "Dive Leader"

CMAS 3* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

CMAS 2*⁽²⁶⁾

CMAS 2*⁽²⁷⁾ equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

3. In the preparation of underwater locations for Media purposes that require engineering and construction skills or the handling or use of explosives:

Great Britain

Diving Experience under The Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981 exemption DOW/2/81 (General)⁽²⁸⁾⁽²⁹⁾

4. In support of Hyperbaric Chamber Diving for the purposes of Familiarisation and Training:

Chamber Attendant / Medical Attendant⁽³⁰⁾

5. In support of diver training in the use of specialist military diving equipment by overseas military divers not covered by Schedule 8, qualifications issued by the following manufacturers:

Subsea Craft Ltd.

The approved qualifications issued by these manufactures are limited to those which form part of their submission to HSE.

²⁶ CMAS 2* - only if diver additionally holds the OPITO HUET/METS qualification certificate.

²⁷ CMAS 2* - only if diver additionally holds the OPITO HUET/METS qualification certificate.

²⁸ This qualification was issued for a limited period on the introduction of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

²⁹ Only if the diver is also competent to carry out the appropriate work skills.

³⁰ Trained to meet the requirements set out in the British Hyperbaric Association publication - Health & Safety for Therapeutic Hyperbaric Facilities - A Code of Practice.

Schedule 3

Shellfish Diving

The class of Shellfish Diving⁽³¹⁾ is defined as diving for shellfish:

- (a) inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽³²⁾;
- (b) inland in Great Britain including in rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs;

but does not include diving:

- (a) deeper than 50 metres;
- (b) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used;
- (c) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning;

for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Shellfish Diving.

All those qualifications listed under Offshore and Inland/Inshore Diving, plus:

Great Britain

HSE Shellfish Diving⁽³³⁾

Recreational³⁴

Certificate of approval for shellfish diving

France

Classe 1 mention B, sous classe 1A - [SCUBA to 12m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 1 mention B - [SCUBA to 40m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 2 mention B - [SCUBA to 60m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

³¹ See [guidance](#).

³² S.I. 2013 No. 240.

³³ This qualification was issued for a limited period on the introduction of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

³⁴ HSE no longer approves recreational qualifications for this class of diving. A limited number of certificates for approval were issued to individuals based on their experience in this sector prior to individuals based on their experience in this sector prior to November 2022.

Schedule 4

Scientific and Archaeological Diving

The class of Scientific and Archaeological Diving⁽³⁵⁾ is defined as diving inland in Great Britain and inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽³⁶⁾, in support of:

- (a) archaeology including:
 - (i) investigation of sites of historic interest; or
 - (ii) investigation of the analysis of physical remains; or
 - (iii) the recovery from such sites of articles for preservation and further analysis⁽³⁷⁾; or
 - (iv) education instruction;
- (b) scientific research or scientific educational instruction;

but does not include diving:

- (a) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used; or
- (b) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning;

for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Scientific and Archaeological Diving.

All those qualifications listed under Offshore and Inland/Inshore Diving, plus:

Diving Experience under The Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981 exemption DOW/1/81 (General)⁽³⁸⁾

Recreational

Qualifications that meet EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3³⁹
CMAS 3*

³⁵ See also Scientific and archaeological diving projects: Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice.

³⁶ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

³⁷ The recovery of items other than for scientific or archaeological purposes is likely to be covered by the class of Inland/Inshore Diving.

³⁸ This qualification was issued for a limited period on the introduction of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

³⁹ EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 Recreational diving services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3 – "Dive Leader"

CMAS 3* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

European

European Scientific Diver (ESD) - SCUBA only

Advanced European Scientific Diver (AESD) - SCUBA only

France

Classe 1 mention B, sous classe 1A - [SCUBA to 12m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 1 mention B - [SCUBA to 40m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 2 mention B - [SCUBA to 60m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

International

Qualifications that meet BS EN ISO 8804-2⁽⁴⁰⁾

HSE approves the following additional qualifications for the class of Scientific and Archaeological Diving:

In Benign Pools, Tanks or Aquariums⁽⁴¹⁾, which is defined as diving inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming or diving or use as an aquarium, where the diver is in full view from the surface at all times, and where no entanglement or entrapment hazards are present:

Recreational

CMAS 2*

CMAS 2* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

⁴⁰ Requirements for the training of scientific divers. Advanced scientific divers

⁴¹ See also HSE Information Sheet: [Diving Information Sheet No. 8](#): Diving in benign conditions, and in pools, tanks, aquariums, and helicopter underwater escape training.

Schedule 5

Media Diving

The class of Media Diving⁽⁴²⁾ is defined as diving inland in Great Britain and inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽⁴³⁾ in support of underwater work by media divers⁽⁴⁴⁾ but does not include diving:

- (a) to prepare underwater locations that require engineering and construction skills or the handling or use of explosives, for which a qualification for the class of Inshore/Inland Diving is required;
- (b) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are to be used, for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required;
- (c) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning, for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Media Diving.

All those qualifications listed under Offshore and Inland/Inshore Diving, plus:

Great Britain

Diving Experience under The Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981 exemption DOW/2/81 (General)⁽⁴⁵⁾

France

Classe 1 mention B, sous classe 1A - [SCUBA to 12m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 1 mention B - [SCUBA to 40m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

Classe 2 mention B - [SCUBA to 60m] (issued on or before 14 June 2024)

⁴² See also Media diving projects: Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice.

⁴³ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

⁴⁴ The term "media divers" includes: stunt people, journalists, presenters, photographers, camera operators, sound and lighting technicians, and the unit crew.

⁴⁵ This qualification was issued for a limited period on the introduction of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

HSE approves the following additional qualifications for the class of Media Diving.

- 1. Where the divers are actors and performers and their associated safety divers⁽⁴⁶⁾ (including stunt divers and presenters) who regularly dive as part of their work, and who are taking part in a live performance or the recording of a performance⁽⁴⁷⁾:**

Recreational

Qualifications that meet EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3⁴⁸

CMAS 3*

CMAS 3* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

- 2. In Benign Pools, Tanks or Aquariums⁽⁴⁹⁾, which is defined as inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming or diving or use as an aquarium, where the diver is in full view from the surface at all times, where no entanglement or entrapment hazards are present, with no interference from other activities, no scenery or set, and **where the diver does not have any specially adapted diving equipment and/or specialist production equipment rigged on them whilst diving (the specialist production equipment rigged on the diver includes sound, lights and cameras):****

Recreational

CMAS 2*

CMAS 2* equivalent in a recreational agency/organisation whose qualifications are approved by HSE for the class of Recreational Diving

⁴⁶ These are in addition to, the standby diver(s) to the unit crew, and are not to be substituted for them (see Media ACoP paragraphs 44-51).

⁴⁷ Actors and performing artists whose main work activity does not normally involve diving, and who are taking part in a live performance or the recording of a performance, do not need to hold an HSE approved qualification. However, they must be competent to perform the task required under water (see Media ACoP paragraph 101), and the diving project plan should address what additional measures may be needed in order to protect their health and safety (see Media ACoP paragraph 48).

⁴⁸ EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 Recreational diving services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3 – "Dive Leader".

⁴⁹ See also HSE Information Sheet: Diving Information Sheet No. 8: Diving in benign conditions, and in pools, tanks, aquariums, and helicopter underwater escape training.

Schedule 6

Recreational Diving

The class of Recreational Diving⁽⁵⁰⁾ is defined as diving inland in Great Britain and inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽⁵¹⁾ where the equipment and techniques are confined to free swimming using SCUBA in support of:

- (a) the instruction and/or guidance of persons diving for recreational diving, that is diving carried out by a person for recreational purposes whilst not at work⁽⁵²⁾;
- (b) recreational journalism undertaken for commissions and producing articles, including stills photography, for the recreational diving press only;

but does not include diving:

- (a) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used;
- (b) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning;

for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

HSE approves qualifications issued by the following Recreational Agencies/Organisations for divers wishing to undertake duties as a supervisor, diver, and person engaged in a diving project who dives, which duties are set out in regulations 10, 12, and 13 of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 respectively:

American Nitrox Divers International UK Ltd - (ANDI);

Avon Protection (Avon Polymer Products Limited);

British Sub-Aqua Club - (BSAC);

Diveisc Ltd - (ISC);

DMT NASE UK;

Global Underwater Explorers (UK) Ltd - (GUE);

International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers UK - (IANTD);

International Association of Rebreather Trainers - (IART);

International Technical Diving Agency - (ITDA);

⁵⁰ See also Recreational diving projects: Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice.

⁵¹ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

⁵² There may be circumstances where the students on a recreational diver training course are at work.

International Technical Diving Association - (ITDA);
Microdive Ltd;
National Association of Underwater Instructors UK - (NAUI);
Professional Association of Diving Instructors International Ltd - (PADI);
Professional SCUBA Association International (Europe) - (PSAI);
Rebreather Association of International Divers AB - (RAID AB);
Sub-Aqua Association - (SAA);
Scottish Sub-Aqua Club - (SSAC);
SCUBA Diving International (UK) - (SDI);
SCUBA Schools International UK Ltd - (SSI);
Technical Diving International (UK) - (TDI);
Underwater Ecosystems Ltd.

The approved qualifications issued by the listed Recreational Agencies/Organisations are limited to those, which have been notified to HSE prior to the date of this list.

HSE approves the following additional qualifications for the class of Recreational Diving.

In support of Hyperbaric Chamber Diving for the purposes of Familiarization and Training:

Chamber Attendant / Medical Attendant⁽⁵³⁾

⁵³ Trained to meet the requirements set out in the British Hyperbaric Association publication - Health & Safety for Therapeutic Hyperbaric Facilities - A Code of Practice.

Schedule 7

Police Diving

The class of Police Diving is defined as diving inland in Great Britain and inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽⁵⁴⁾ in support of:

- (a) diving projects undertaken by constables and civilian employees of a Police Authority in connection with investigations under its statutory undertaking;
- (b) diving projects undertaken by constables and civilian employees of a Police Authority on behalf of Crown Agents, HM Customs and Excise and any other agencies in connection with investigations under their statutory undertakings;

but does not include diving:

- (a) deeper than 50 metres;
- (b) where closed bell or saturation diving techniques are used;
- (c) from vessels maintaining station by the use of dynamic positioning;

for which a qualification for the class of Offshore Diving is required.

If it is decided to use divers other than constables and civilian employees of a Police Authority, then the qualifications of such divers are to be those of the relevant approved class of diving.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Police Diving.

All those qualifications listed under Offshore and Inland/Inshore Diving, plus:

Great Britain

UK Police Diving Qualification:
Police Surface Supplied Diver

⁵⁴ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

Schedule 8

Military Diving

The class of Military Diving is defined as diving inland in Great Britain and inshore within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain (generally 12 nautical miles from the low water line) which are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013⁽⁵⁵⁾ in support of operations in which members of the armed forces of the Crown or of a visiting force are engaged.

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Military Diving.

All members of the armed forces of the Crown and visiting forces authorised to dive in accordance with BR 2806 - UK Military Diving Manual - or equivalent for visiting forces.

⁵⁵ S.I. 2013 No. 240.

Schedule 9

Commercial Acquaint Diving

This class of Commercial Acquaint Diving is defined as Surface Supplied Diving for educational purposes to a maximum depth of 5 metres, accompanied by a diver holding a qualification listed in Schedule 2. The diving must only be carried out:

- a) in Benign Pools, Tanks or Aquariums⁵⁶, which is defined as inland in Great Britain in a tank or pool artificially constructed for the purpose of swimming or diving or use as an aquarium, where the diver is in full view from the surface at all times and where no entanglement or entrapment hazards are present.
- b) by Diving Contractors who have written permission from HSE to conduct such dives or at HSE Diver Competence Assessment Organisations that have been approved to carry out Surface Supplied training and assessment.⁵⁷

HSE approves the following qualifications for the class of Commercial Acquaint Diving.

Commercial Acquaint Diver

⁵⁶ See also HSE Information Sheet: [Diving Information Sheet No. 8](#): Diving in benign conditions, and in pools, tanks, aquariums, and helicopter underwater escape training.

⁵⁷ A list of HSE Diver Competence Assessment Organisations can be found [here](#).

Table of Changes

Publication Date	Changes
01 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Spanish qualifications under Schedules 1 and 2 • Addition of validity date for French qualifications under Schedules 1, 2, 4 and 5 • Addition of training provider under Schedule 2.5
01 January 2026	<p>Under Schedule 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove “Netherlands Duikarbeid Categorie C - [Closed Bell]” • Remove “Sweden Certifikat C - [Closed Bell]” • Add comment “ADAS qualifications do not include dry suit or nitrox training unless specified” • Add expiry date to “Netherlands Duikarbeid Categorie B50 - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]” • Add “Netherlands NDC Registratie Instelling B50 - [SCUBA, Surface Supplied & Surface Supplied (Top-Up)]” • Add Royal Navy – Mine Clearance Diving Officer (MCDO) - Professional Qualifying Course • Add Royal Navy – Able Seaman Diver (AB(D)) - Professional Qualifying Course • Remove “Germany Geprüfter Taucher/Geprüfte Taucherin – [Inspected/Examiner/Qualified Diver] - [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]” • Add “Netherlands NDC Registratie Instelling B50R – [SCUBA & Surface Supplied]” <p>Under Schedule 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add comment “Not all ADAS divers will have received dry suit training. Diving contractors should check for relevant dry suit competency/experience.” • Add expiry date to “Netherlands Duikarbeid Categorie A - [SCUBA], Duikarbeid Categorie A30 - [SCUBA to 30m] and Duikarbeid Categorie B30 - [Surface Supplied to 30m]” • Add “Netherlands NDC Registratie Instelling B30 [SCUBA and Surface Supplied to 30m]” • Add “Sweden Certifikat S30 - [SCUBA to 30m]”

	<p>Under Schedule 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add “International Qualifications that meet BS EN ISO 8804-2” • Remove “Norway Dykkersertifikat Klasse S – Lettere dykkeraktivitet (SCUBA) – (Diving Certificate Class S – Light diving activity) - [SCUBA to 30m]”