



ABOUT ACUC'S SPECIALTIES

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ACUC classifies its specialties in two ways: the first according to the level of safety and the second as restricted or unrestricted. The level of safety refers to the risk or knowledge that this specialty entails. There are four levels: SL0; SL1; SL2 and SL3. "SL" stands for "Safety Level". The higher the SL, the higher the level of risk or special knowledge that specialty entails.

The **SL0** specialties can be done by anyone, even if they are not a diver. The **SL1** can be done by people with a minimum Open Water Diver certification; the **SL2** from Advanced Diver and the **SL3** from Rescue Diver.

If the specialties are restricted or not refers to the requirements that the Instructor must meet before being able to give courses in those specialties. The "Non-restricted" (NR) specialties are those in which the Instructor does not have to meet any specific requirement, apart of course, of being a Diving Instructor. The "Non-restricted" specialties are in turn divided into three types:

- **NR1:** The Instructor does not need to take any action and is automatically an Instructor of that specialty
- **NR2:** The Instructor does not need to take any specific Instructor course for said specialty, since they are sufficiently prepared as instructors, but to give the specific course, they must request from ACUC to be an Instructor for that specialty and purchase the corresponding Instructor kit.
- **NR3:** The instructor needs to meet a specific requirement to be an instructor of that specialty or to be able to do any type of specialized diving with students who do not have that specialty.

The "Restricted" (**R**) specialties are those in which the Instructor must complete some type of course or specific training, before being able to teach said specialty or be able to do any type of diving with students who do not have that specialty.

Therefore, for example, a code "SL2-R" means that it is a specialty that can be done by any diver, who is at least Advanced Diver and can be taught by a Diving Instructor, who also had to complete a course or special program to teach said specialty or be able to do any type of dives with students who do not have that specialty

The ACUC specialties are listed below, along with their current code.

SPECIALTIES SL0-NR1

- **Surface Controller** (SL0-NR1). It can be given even to non-divers but they must have the specialties of Diving Emergency Responder (DER) and O2 Emergency Responder (O2ER). Any Open Water Instructor or higher level can teach it.

SPECIALTIES SL0-NR2

- **Equipment Maintenance** (SL0-NR2). No need to be a diver. The Instructor must request ACUC to be an Equipment Maintenance Instructor

SPECIALTIES SL0-R

- **First Aid Provider** (SL0-R). It can be given even to non-divers. The Instructor must complete a specific First Aid Instructor course. This course includes general First Aid.

- **Diving Emergency Responder (SL0-R)**. It can be given even to non-divers. The Instructor must complete a specific Diving Emergency Instructor course. This course includes specific First Aid for Divers, Basic Life Support (BLS) and Semiautomatic External Defibrillator (SAED).
- **O² Emergency Responder (SL0-R)**. It can be given even to non-divers. The Instructor must complete a specific O₂ Emergency Instructor course.
- **Nitrox Mixing (SL0-R)**. It can be given even to non-divers. The Instructor must take a specific Nitrox Instructor course

SPECIALTIES SL1-NR1

- **Rescue Specialist (SL1-NR1)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. Any Open Water Instructor or higher level can teach it. **Note: Not to be confused with the main Rescue Diver course**

SPECIALTIES SL1-NR2

(Note: the instructor of any NR2 specialty may be required to take an exam before obtaining the category of instructor of that specialty)

- **Deep Diving 40m/130f (SL1-NR2)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a Deep Diving Instructor.
- **Non Penetration Wreck Diving (SL1-NR2)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a Wreck Diving Instructor.
- **Night Diving (SL1-NR2)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a Night Diving Instructor.
- **Drift Diving (SL1-NR2)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a Drift Diving Instructor.
- **U/W Orientation (SL1-NR2)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a U / W Orientation Instructor.

SPECIALTIES SL1-NR3

(Note: the instructor of any NR3 specialty may be required to take an exam before obtaining the category of instructor of that specialty)

- **Altitude Diver (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must be an Altitude Diver and apply to ACUC to be an Altitude Diving Instructor
- **Dry Suit Diving (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must be a Dry Suit Diver and apply to ACUC to be a Dry Suit Diving Instructor.
- **DPV Pilot Diver (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must be a DPV Pilot and apply to ACUC to be a DPV Instructor.
- **U/W Biology (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must be a biologist. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be a U / W Biology Instructor
- **U/W Digital Photography (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. Instructor must be an U/W Digital Photographer. The Instructor must apply to ACUC to be an U/W Digital Photography Instructor.
- **Nitrox 40 Diver (SL1-NR3)**. The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must be a Nitrox Diver and apply to ACUC to be a Nitrox 40 Instructor.

SPECIALTIES SL1-R

- **Sidemount Diver (SL1-R)**: The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must complete a specific Sidemount Instructor course.
- **Tek Nitrox Diver (SL1-R)**. Diver must be at least OWD. The Instructor must take a specific Nitrox Tek Instructor course.
- **Rebreather Diver (SL1-R)**. The diver must be at least Nitrox 40 Diver. The Instructor must complete a specific Rebreather Instructor course

- **Intro to Cave (SL1-R).** The diver must be at least an Open Water Diver. The Instructor must complete a specific Cave Diving Instructor course.

SPECIALTIES SL2-NR1

- **Teaching Assistant (SL2-NR1).** The diver must be at least an Advanced Diver. Any Open Water Instructor or higher level can teach it. The dry portion of this Teaching Techniques course can be offered to anyone, even if they are not a diver. **Note: Not to be confused with the professional level course of Assistant Instructor**

SPECIALTIES SL2-R

- **Ice Diver (SL2-R).** The diver must be at least an Advanced Diver. The Instructor must complete a specific Ice Diving Instructor course.
- **Tek Cave Diver (SL2-R):** The diver must be at least an Advanced Diver. The instructor must complete a specific Tek Cave Diving Instructor course.
- **Intro to Tek (SL2-R):** The diver must be at least an Advanced Diver. The instructor must complete a specific Tek Diving Instructor course
- **Normoxic Trimix (SL2-R):** Diver must be at least Advanced Diver, Intro to Tek Diver and NX40 Diver. The instructor must complete a specific Trimix Instructor course
- **Full Face Mask and Communications (SL2-R):** The diver must be at least an Advanced Diver. The instructor must complete a specific Full Face Mask and Communications Instructor course.

SPECIALTIES SL3-NR1

- **U/W Guide (SL3-NR1).** The diver must be at least a Rescue Diver, with the specialties of Diving Emergency Responder and O2 Emergency Responder. Any Open Water Instructor or higher level can teach it. **Note: Not to be confused with the professional level Divemaster course**

For any other specialty, check with the ACUC main office. Some specialties (photosub, biology, etc.) can be taught by divers (not necessarily instructors) who have completed the Teaching Techniques specialty. In these cases, the “diver-instructor”, if the course requires practice in water, he must have assisting personnel with a Divemaster certification or similar or higher, who will be in charge of the underwater safety of the students while the “diver- instructor” is teaching. In **no case** can a “diver-instructor”, who is not a Diving Instructor, give practical classes in water without having said support staff.

On occasion, ACUC instructors may request ACUC to offer specialty courses not listed here. This is possible as long as the Instructor submits a course program and standards to ACUC for approval. If approved by ACUC, then ACUC will issue a specialty certification card to the Instructor and to students who pass the course, however, that specialty will not be publicly advertised as an "ACUC specialty" until it meets all ACUC requirements. to be considered an "ACUC Specialty". These requirements are mainly:

- Standards for the course
- An instructor guide to the course
- An instructor exam for the course
- A manual for the course
- A diver exam for the course

The above documents must be made available to ACUC in at least one of the following languages: English; Spanish; French or Italian.

In the following pages the summarized standards for these specialties are shown

SEE TABLE OF SUMMARIZED STANDARDS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

SUMMARIZED STANDARDS			
Specialty	Training Ratios	Minimum Age	MTBT¹
SPECIALTIES SL0-NR1			
Surface Controller	No limit. No water training	16	None
SPECIALTIES SL0-NR2			
Equipment Maintenance	No limit. No water training	16	None
SPECIALTIES SL0-R			
First Aid Provider	No limit. No water training	12	None
Diving Emergency Responder	No limit. No water training (Training SAED mandatory)	12	None
O2 Emergency Responder	No limit. No water training	12	None
Nitrox Mixer	No limit. No water training	16	None
SPECIALTIES SL1-NR1			
Rescue Specialist	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 10:1; 14:2; Max: 20 Open water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 12	16	60' (40' in cold water)
SPECIALTIES SL1-NR2			
Deep Diving to 40 metres	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 8:2; Max: 16 Open water: 2:1; 4:2; Max: 4	18	20'
Wreck Diving (exit always visible)	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	12	60' (40' in cold water)
Night Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 8:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 8	12	60' (40' in cold water)
Drift Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	12	60' (40' in cold water)
U/W Orientation	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 10:1; 4:1; Max: 20 Open water: 6:1; 2:1; Max: 10	12	60' (40' in cold water)
SPECIALTIES SL1-NR3			
Altitude Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	12	30' (20' in cold water)
Dry Suit Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8 Open water: 2:1; 3:2; Max: 4	16	40'
DPV Pilot	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 6 Open water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 6	12	15'
U/W Biology	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 6:1; 10:2; Max: 14	12	60' (40' in cold water)
U/W Digital Photography	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 6:1; 10:2; Max: 14	12	30' (20' in cold water)
Nitrox 40 Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	14	60' (40' in cold water) ²
SPECIALTIES SL1-R			
Sidemount	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 2:1; 4:2; Max: 4	16	80'

¹Minimum **Training** Bottom Time required in open water

² Not mandatory although highly recommended

Specialty	Training Ratios	Minimum Age	MTBT
SPECIALTIES SL1-R (Continued)			
Nitrox Tek	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	16	60' (40' in cold water) ³
Rebreather Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	16	120' (80' in cold water)
Intro to Cave	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 6 Open water: 4:1; 2:1; Max: 6 Cuevas: 2:1	16	20'
SPECIALTIES SL2-NR1			
Teaching Assistant	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	16	60' (40' in cold water)
SPECIALTIES SL2-R			
Ice Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 1:1 per ice hole	16	30'
Tek Cave Diving	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 4:1; 4:2; Max: 6 Open water: 2:1; 2:1; Max: 4 Cuevas: 2:1	18	180' open water and 150' in caves
Intro to Tek Diving	Classroom: No limit Open water: 2:1; 2:1; Max: 4	16	390'
Normoxic Trimix	Classroom: No limit Open water: 2:1; 2:1; Max: 4	18	60'
Full Face Mask and Communications	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 4:1; 2:1; Max: 6 Open water: 4:2:1; 2:1; Max: 6	16	90'
SPECIALTIES SL3-NR1			
U/W Guide	Classroom: No limit Confined water: 8:1; 12:2; Max: 16 Open water: 4:1; 6:2; Max: 8	16	80' (60' in cold water)

³ Not mandatory although highly recommended