

ENTRY LEVEL INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

ACUC - ENTRY LEVEL
INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS
V0422

Special consideration points

- *This is an optional professional level of the ACUC training ladder*
- *Candidates must already be at least Divemasters*
- *A Civil Liability insurance covering the activities which the candidate will be performing is required.*



Foreword

The ACUC Entry Level Instructor course is an **optional** level. This course can be taught by any ACUC Advanced Instructor or higher level but must be evaluated and certified by an ACUC Instructor Trainer or higher level. The main characteristics of this course is that besides doing the same as an ACUC Divemaster, the students that successfully complete the course, can also teach, evaluate and certify, the Scuba Diver and the ACUC Open Water Diver courses. This course can be taken as a “hands on” learning type of course or as a course with a fix content.

This is an ACUC International standard and therefore is always subject to the different national or local legislation. In cases where legislation exists that differs from this standard, the ACUC country or area delegation if it exist, must request in writing to the ACUC main office, a “**Deviation**” from this standard to satisfy the legislation of the area, supporting their request with the appropriate documentation. Deviations, if requested, to be considered valid, must appear at the end of each specific standard document.

In cases where the local or national legislation is more restrictive than the ACUC Standard, then the local legislation will prevail, but if the ACUC Standard is more restrictive, then the ACUC Standard will prevail, because by complying with the more restrictive ACUC Standard, logically the local legislation will be also complied with.

Regarding required training hours, none are specified because these could vary depending on many factors (number of students, diving environment, etc), therefore the training hours needed are dependant on the fulfillment of learning objectives. In the ACUC manuals and documents where hours are specified, these are only to be considered recommendations.

1. Scope

This Standard specifies safety related minimum competencies to be achieved in recreational scuba training at the ACUC Entry Level Instructor level. This Standard applies only to contractual training and certification in recreational scuba diving.

2. Definitions

For definitions, please see this [page](#)

3. Competencies of a certified, recreational ACUC Entry Level Instructor

An ACUC Entry Level Instructor shall be trained to have sufficient competencies by knowledge, skill and experience to, in addition of what a Divemaster must know, teach, evaluate and certify, the ACUC Scuba Diver and the ACUC Open Water Diver courses.

ACUC Entry Level Instructors shall dive within the following parameters

- Dive and lead divers to a maximum depth of 40 meters / 130 feet
- Dive and ensure that others dive only when appropriate support is available at the surface,
- Dive and ensure that others dive under conditions that are equal or better than the conditions where they were trained.
- Assist certified divers in new environments which the Entry Level Instructor is familiar with.



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If accompanied by an ACUC instructor of superior level, certified ACUC Entry Level Instructors may gain progressive experience beyond these parameters (except depth) and develop competency in managing more challenging diving conditions designed to lead to higher qualifications. Where further instruction or experience is required this can only be provided by a suitably qualified ACUC instructor.

4 Prerequisites for training

In order to qualify for enrolment in a course according to this Standard the student shall meet the following prerequisites:

- 4.1 **Minimum age:** To start training: 18 years. (see also point 10, Assessment and Certification requirements)
- 4.2 **Health requirements:** Students shall be medically screened as suitable for recreational diving by means of an appropriate medical examination. Students shall be advised of the importance of appropriate regular medical examinations.
- 4.3 **Previous Certification:** ACUC Divemaster or similar from other organisations recognized by ACUC, with at least 41 hours bottom time experience (see also point 10, Assessment and Certification requirements)

5 Instructor:Student Ratios during training

- **Theory (classroom or pool):** No limit
- **Confined Water:** 10 students per Instructor, with an additional 4 students per Divemaster, with an absolute maximum of 20 students.
- **Open Water:** 8 students per Instructor, with an additional 2 students per Divemaster, with an absolute maximum of 12 students.

6 Introductory information

The following information shall be made available to the students prior to, or during the first class meeting.

- Prerequisites according to 4,
- Limitations of eventual qualification,
- Scope of course,
- Course procedures,
- Costs, insurance and contractual issues according to national regulations,
- Equipment requirements,
- Certification requirements according to 10,
- Diving related legislation and legal requirements.

7. Course content relating to theory knowledge

Candidates must already have the knowledge of a Divemaster, plus:

- 7.1 **Teaching Techniques:** Students shall have an advanced knowledge of:
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course

8 Course content relating to scuba skills

- 8.1 **Confined water scuba skills:** Besides the already acquired skills of a Divemaster, students shall be able to perform the following skills. Each skill shall be mastered in confined water before that skill is performed in open water.
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course
- 8.2 **Open water scuba skills:** Besides the already acquired skills of a Divemaster, students shall be able to perform the following skills in conditions typical of the local environment.
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
 - Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course



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9 Practical training parameters

- 9.1 All underwater skills in confined water shall be introduced, directly supervised and evaluated by an ACUC instructor, who shall be in the water during each session. The scuba instructor shall be in direct control of students throughout all sessions.
- 9.2 Before participating in open water dives a student shall have demonstrated sufficient theoretical knowledge and scuba skills in confined water to be able to perform the open water dives in the prevailing conditions.
- 9.3 The maximum depth during training dives shall not exceed 25 meters / 80 feet
- 9.4 All training open water dives shall be conducted during daylight hours in water that allows direct vertical access to the surface. Open water dives therefore shall not be conducted in underwater caves or below ice.
- 9.5 During open water dives the student shall at least be equipped with diving equipment according to 2.9. (see [Definitions](#))
- 9.6 All under-water skills in open water shall be introduced, directly supervised and evaluated by an ACUC instructor. The scuba instructor shall be in the water and in charge of each open water dive.
- 9.7 As per clause 5, the absolute maximum number of students per scuba instructor in ideal conditions for supervision and escorting under water is eight. The maximum number of students per qualified assistant for supervision and escorting under water is two. At no time shall a student in or under water be left without supervision.
- 9.8 Prior to open water dives the scuba instructor shall prepare an “emergency plan”. In the immediate vicinity of the dive site there shall be:
- A suitable first aid kit
 - An emergency oxygen unit with a capacity of delivering at least 15 l/min. for at least 20 min.
 - Communication system suitable for alerting emergency services.
- 9.9 The scuba instructor shall cancel or abort the open water dive if environmental conditions or a student’s physical or mental condition make this necessary.
- 9.10 A maximum of 3 daily training dives will be allowed

10. Assessment and certification requirements

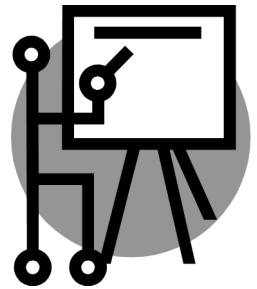
- 10.1 **Knowledge:** The student shall demonstrate, by means of the written test (**) supplied by ACUC, knowledge of scuba diving theory according to 7 and knowledge of skills according to 8.
- 10.2 **Scuba Skills:** The student shall satisfactorily demonstrate to an ACUC instructor, the scuba skills according to 8.
- 10.3 **Minimum Dives:** The student must have at least 50 hours of bottom time before obtaining the certification
- 10.4 **Minimum Participation in Training Courses:** The student must show proof in the Divemaster Training Log-Book, that he has participated as a Divemaster or Entry Level Instructor-in-training, during at least 20 hours of theory classes and 20 hours of water classes before obtaining the certification.
- 10.5 **Minimum Age:** To Obtain the certification: 19 years.

(**) If for some reason, the student can not do a written test, then the Instructor can do an oral examination to the student based on the written test provided by ACUC and if this is the case, the Instructor will transfer the student’s oral answers to the written test. Whatever the case, the written test must be completed, either directly by the student or indirectly by the Instructor, using the student’s oral answers. Instructors can, if they wish, offer additional tests to the student, however, the ACUC provided test must be done.

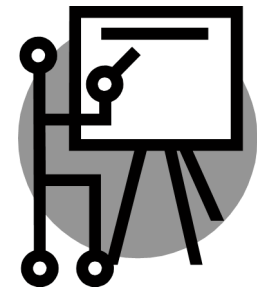
11 Training Dives

No additional training dives, except those in which the student participates as a Divemaster or Entry Level Instructor-in-training, are required for this level.

- 12 **Deviations:** None requested



“Minimum age is 18 years old”



“All skills must be evaluated by, at least, an ACUC Instructor Trainer or higher level, who must be with the candidate in each session”