

INSTRUCTOR TRAINER EVALUATOR STANDARDS

v1123



Points of special consideration

*This is the highest professional level within ACUC
The ITE must have an excellent knowledge of ACUC's standards and procedures.
The ITE must have exclusive dedication to ACUC regarding dive training
This is an honorary certification
It exceeds the ISO 24802-2 requirements*

Foreword

The ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator (ITE) is the highest professional level that can be obtained within ACUC. It can be obtained by those ACUC Advanced Instructors or Instructor Trainers (IT) who fulfil a series of prerequisites. The main characteristic of this certification is that besides doing the same as an ACUC Advanced Instructor or Instructor Trainer, the candidate who obtains this level, can also teach, evaluate and certify, all levels of ACUC divers, including those diving specialties for which he holds the specialty instructor level. The requirements to obtain this level are the same as for the Instructor Trainer level. The only difference is that the Instructor Trainer Evaluator must have exclusivity with ACUC regarding dive training, for those dive programs which ACUC has available, and therefore, cannot teach those programs with other agencies, unless authorized by ACUC management in writing.

Also, the ITE level is an honorary level, therefore it must always be proposed and pre-approved by ACUC Management. There is no equivalent RSTC or ISO standard for this level.

If the candidate is an Advanced Diver, rather than an Instructor Trainer (we must remember that the IT level is an optional certification), he or she must fulfil all the requirements for the IT level first. The training and preparation of the candidates can be made by only one Instructor Trainer Evaluator, however, most of the evaluations, theory as well as skills, must be made by a team of at least 2 Instructor Trainer Evaluators. These Instructor Trainer Evaluators will be designated by ACUC Management.

This is an ACUC International standard and therefore is always subject to the different national or local legislations. In cases where legislations exist that differ from this standard, the ACUC country or area delegation if it exists, 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 legislations are 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.

1. Scope

This Standard specifies safety related minimum competencies to be achieved in **recreational scuba training** at the ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator 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 Instructor Trainer Evaluator

An ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator shall be trained to have sufficient competencies by knowledge, skill and experience to, in addition of what an Advanced Instructor must know, teach, evaluate and certify all levels of ACUC courses. ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluators 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 Instructor Trainer Evaluator is familiar with.

ACUC ITEs cannot teach with other organizations, they must have exclusive dedication, with regard to teaching diving courses of any level, to ACUC, as long as ACUC has those programs available.

4. Prerequisites for training

To qualify for training, according to this Standard the student shall meet the following prerequisites:

4.1 Minimum age: 22 years old

4.2 Health requirements: Candidates shall be medically screened as suitable for recreational diving by means of an appropriate medical examination.

4.3 Previous Certification: ACUC Advanced Instructor or Instructor Trainer. Also, must be an ACUC specialty instructor in at least 7 specialties, two of which must be Diving Emergency Responder (DER) and Oxygen Emergency Responder (O2ER).

4.4 Courses taught: to have at least 150 credits obtained in the last 24 months before the date when evaluation takes place; credits are obtained the following way:

- Preparing and presenting for evaluation, and that they satisfactorily pass it, **at least 1** Entry Level instructor (25 credits per ELI) and
- Certifying **at least 2** new Divemasters (10 credits per Divemaster) and
- Certifying new divers (1 credit per diver), any level including specialties.

4.5 Diving experience: 100 hours bottom time (200 dives)

4.6 ACUC Management pre-approval

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, which includes, as a minimum: fins, mask, snorkel, tank and valve, buoyancy control device with low pressure inflator, regulator, alternate air source, (for example, octopus system), weight ballast system, exposure suit (if appropriate), submersible pressure gauge, timing device and depth gauge (or computer which does at least those 3 functions), knife (unless prohibited by law or regulation at the dive site), ACUC dive tables, compass and emergency signalling device
- 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 an Advanced Instructor, plus:

7.1 Teaching Techniques:

Students shall have an advanced knowledge of teaching and evaluating all ACUC standard diving courses, up to and including, the Open Water Instructor program.

Also, the candidate shall demonstrate to at least a team of 2 qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluators, Instructor Trainer quality lesson preparation, planning and delivery of lectures in confined and open water teaching presentations, as well as demonstrations of simulated CPR. For the evaluation of these lectures, the evaluator must use the ACUC "Lecture presentation evaluation" forms.

8. Course content relating to scuba skills

8.1 Confined water scuba skills:

Besides the already acquired skills of an Advanced Instructor, 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 all ACUC standard diving courses, up to an including the Open Water Instructor course

Also, the candidate shall satisfactorily demonstrate to a team made up of at least 2 qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluators, Instructor trainer quality confined water skills. For the evaluation of these skills, the ACUC “Water practices evaluation” form must be used.

8.2 Open water scuba skills (including rescue skills):

Besides the already acquired skills of an Advanced Instructor, students shall be able to perform the following skills in conditions typical of the local environment: Teaching and evaluating all ACUC standard diving courses, up to an including the Open Water Instructor course

Also, the candidate shall satisfactorily demonstrate to a team made up of at least 2 qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluators, Instructor Trainer quality simulated diver rescue skills by completing at least one open water rescue. For the evaluation of these skills, the ACUC “Water practical skills of Rescue and First Aid evaluation” form must be used, as well as the ACUC “Water practical skills” form

9. Practical training parameters

9.1 All skills shall be introduced, directly supervised and evaluated by an ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator, who shall be in the water during each session. The Instructor Trainer Evaluator shall be in direct control of students throughout all sessions.

9.2 When open water dives are involved, 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 point 6 above.

9.6 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.

9.7 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.

9.8 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.

9.9 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 test¹ supplied by ACUC, knowledge of scuba diving theory according to 7 and knowledge of skills according to 8.

10.2 Training hours: The candidate shall complete at least 100 hours of specialized training/evaluation and is to include the topics outlined in point 10.3 below, under the direction of a qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluator.

10.3 Teaching Techniques: The student shall demonstrate to a team made up of at least 2 Instructor Trainer Evaluators, by means of at least 2 classroom presentations, knowledge of teaching techniques, acting as Instructor Trainer, according to 7 and 8. Candidates must give/participate in at least 4 theory presentations. They must give at least 2 presentations, one of a topic selected by them and another of a topic selected by the evaluators.

¹ If for some reason, the student cannot 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.

They also must participate in at least another two presentations acting as evaluators, working along and under the supervision of the Instructor Trainer Evaluators. The topics can be any of the topics given in the courses from Open Water Diver to Open Water Instructor (see below some examples); Candidates must follow the guidelines established in the ACUC document "Presentation Evaluation Sheets". In this guideline, the points and criteria to evaluate presentations are clearly defined. Example of topics:

- Equipment
- Diving Physics
- Medical problems related to diving
- Use of ACUC diving tables, decompression theory, dive computers
- Dive environment
- Dive planning
 - Planning and preparation, with emphasis on the prevention of out-of-air situations and emergencies
 - Emergency procedures
 - Accident management/prevention
- Communications, both underwater and on the surface
- Diver assistance (self/buddy)
- Recommended safe diving practices (as per ACUC document about this matter)
- Instructor Trainer level regarding:
 - Continuing education and how to obtain higher ACUC levels
 - Diving industry overview (other training organisations, CMAS, ISO, RSTC, etc...)
 - Continuing education courses (specialties) overview
 - Theory lessons planning
 - Confined water skills lesson planning
 - Open water skills lesson planning
 - ACUC Standards and procedures
 - ACUC quality assurance

10.4 Scuba Skills: The student shall satisfactorily demonstrate to an evaluation team composed of at least 2 ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluators, the scuba skills according to 8.

10.4.1 Confined water: The candidate shall demonstrate to a team made up of at least 2 qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluators, Instructor Trainer quality personal diving skills, in addition to Instructor Trainer quality lesson preparation, planning and delivery (including briefing and debriefing), group control and supervision and problem solving for at least two confined water skills teaching presentations from the course topics below. Candidates shall also evaluate at least two teaching presentations on topics listed below and practice instructor counselling:

- Diving system assembly and disassembly
- Entries and exits
- Proper weighting
- Mouthpiece clearing (snorkel and regulator)
- Regulator retrieval (underwater)
- Controlled descents and ascents
- Underwater swimming (several styles)
- Buoyancy control exercises (including pivotal method)
- Mask removal and replacement (underwater)
- Buddy system techniques
- Surface snorkel swimming with full diving system
- Weight/ballast system removal and replacement
- Scuba system removal and replacement (underwater)
- Out of air emergency exercises (including buddy breathing and octopus breathing)

10.4.2 Open Water: The candidate, wearing full equipment, shall demonstrate to a team made up of at least 2 qualified Instructor Trainer Evaluators, Instructor Trainer quality lesson preparation, planning and delivery (including briefing and debriefing), group control and supervision, and problem solving for at least two open water skills teaching presentations as outlined in this section. The candidate shall also evaluate at least two presentations from topics outlined in this section and practice instructor counselling techniques for these presentations. Topics could be:

- Equipment inspection
- Entries and exits
- Proper weighting
- Mouthpiece clearing (snorkel and regulator)
- Regulator retrieval (underwater)
- Controlled descents and ascents
- Underwater swimming (several styles)

- Mask removal and replacement (underwater)
- Buoyancy control exercises
- Diver assistance techniques
- Weight/ballast system removal and replacement
- Scuba system removal and replacement (in the water)
- Out of air emergency exercises (including buddy breathing and octopus breathing)

10.5 Additional requirements: Advanced Instructors could also be expected (although not mandatory) to:

- Prepare at least 2 Entry Level Instructors, that must pass the evaluation done by an Instructor Trainer Evaluator with the active participation of the candidate Advanced Instructor
- Participate as an observer in at least 2 full Open Water Instructor courses

11. Training Dives

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

12. Deviations

None requested