



Australian Government

SISOSCB003 SCUBA dive at night

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to prepare for and complete SCUBA dives using techniques and equipment that are specific to diving at night.

It applies to dive leaders, usually known as divemasters, or instructors and to assistant instructors who use these skills when leading participants in SCUBA diving activities. Leadership skills are provided in complementary units.

This unit applies to any type of organisation that delivers SCUBA diving activities and dive instruction including commercial, not-for-profit and government organisations.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

SISOSCB001 SCUBA dive in open water to a maximum depth of 18 metres

Competency Field

SCUBA Diving

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Select site and prepare for night dives.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1. Select suitable night dive site according to previous daytime diving experience of self or other party members.
- 1.2. Determine optimum conditions for night dive site and select appropriate time.
- 1.3. Confirm activity safety and emergency response procedures to ensure compliance during activities.

- 1.4. Confirm protocols for communications between divers, buddy and crew.
2. Select and prepare night diving equipment.
 - 2.1. Select exposure suit and accessories suitable for night dive conditions, and check for safe working condition.
 - 2.2. Select personal diver lights according to need, complete safety and serviceability checks and attach back-ups to equipment.
 - 2.3. Select and secure diver marker lights to self to assist identification above and below water.
 - 2.4. Select and secure marker lights to boats, buoys and lines, as appropriate to type of dive, to assist exit from water.
 - 2.5. Utilise other lights appropriate for conditions and ensure security.
3. Complete night dives.
 - 3.1. Enter and exit water utilising lighting equipment and lit reference points to orientate position.
 - 3.2. Maintain contact with buddy and use lit reference lines, as available, for descents and ascents to orientate position.
 - 3.3. Utilise personal diver lights to illuminate path of travel, and highlight points of interest.
 - 3.4. Maintain communication and close visual contact with buddy using lights.
 - 3.5. Ensure use of lights does not adversely affect buddy, other divers, support crew or marine animals.
 - 3.6. Use lighting equipment to safely approach and negotiate obstacles and hazards throughout all diving activities.
 - 3.7. Use compass navigation techniques to avoid disorientation.
 - 3.8. Utilise lights to identify underwater features to fix position and maintain direction and course.
4. Respond to problems.
 - 4.1. Change to back up light in cases of primary light failure or flooding, and resurface.
 - 4.2. Orientate body position through use of air bubble travel when reference points are lost.
 - 4.3. Surface if necessary to verify location and reset direction of travel utilising reference lights.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS**DESCRIPTION**

Reading skills to:	• interpret detailed and familiar organisational safety and emergency response procedures.
Oral communication skills to:	• use clear and unambiguous verbal and non-verbal communications to make intent known.
Teamwork skills to:	• work in harmony with support crew, buddy diver and other divers to safely complete night dives.
Planning and organising skills to:	• manage own timing to complete activities within planned timeframes.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>

Assessment Requirements for SISOSCB003 SCUBA dive at night

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- complete three night dives
- during each dive consistently:
 - follow safety procedures and safely negotiate hazards utilising lights
 - communicate effectively with buddy, other divers and support crew using a combination of these night dive specific communication methods:
 - hand signals
 - light signals
 - use of slates
 - whistles
 - use effective techniques, personal diver lights and lit reference points to maintain orientation throughout diving activities
- participate in one simulation to respond to a personal diver light failure.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for night dive activities
- reasons for selecting known sites for night diving activities
- optimum conditions for night dives and conditions that make diving at night unsuitable
- communication protocols, particular to night dives, used between divers, buddies and crew members:
 - hand signals
 - light signals
 - use of slates
 - whistles
- exposure suits, gloves and booties suitable for night dive activities and reasons for wearing regardless of water temperature:
 - greater chance of exposure to scrapes and marine animal stings
 - prevention of pre and post-dive hypothermia in cooler ambient air temperatures at night

- features and operation of buoyancy control devices with low-pressure inflators and reasons for use during night dives
- features, functions and operation of diver lights, advantages and disadvantages of different types:
 - primary lights, narrow and wide beam
 - back up lights
 - reflectors
 - bulbs of different types, light output, power usage and bulb life ratings
 - disposable and rechargeable batteries
- features and functions of individual diver marker lights, where and how to attach to self
- features and functions of marker lights used by divers to identify position of boats, buoys, descent and ascent lines
- features and functions of other types of lights utilised for night diving, where to place and how to attach:
 - strobe lights
 - surface support lights
- techniques specific to night dives:
 - entering, exiting, descending and ascending the water from the shore using sloping bottom and diver lights for orientation
 - entering and exiting the water from boats using lit reference points for orientation
 - descending and ascending using personal diver lights and lit lines for orientation
 - using personal diver lights at appropriate angles and heights to:
 - illuminate path of travel and to identify natural features for navigation
 - avoid adverse effects on buddy, other divers, support crew and marine animals
 - managing stress and disorientation
 - negotiating marine animals attracted to lights.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in an open water site between sunset and sunrise. Dives can be completed from either a boat or from the shore.

During assessment:

- direct vertical access to the surface must be possible; aquatic plants are not considered an overhead obstruction
- the following resources must be available to replicate industry conditions of operation:
 - first aid equipment
 - oxygen equipment
 - communication equipment for emergency response
 - diver flags of a type and size that meet local maritime regulator requirements.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a diving buddy with whom the candidate can dive
- fins
- masks
- snorkels
- cylinders and valves
- buoyancy control devices with low-pressure inflators
- regulators with submersible pressure gauges
- alternative air source
- weight ballast systems
- exposure suits, gloves and booties suitable for conditions
- timing devices (luminous or electrically lit)
- depth gauges (luminous or electrically lit)
- underwater compasses (luminous or electrically lit)
- surface lighting systems - lights, strobes or beacons to mark entry and exit location
- strobe or marker lights to mark descent and ascent line location (for boat dives)
- dive lights and back up lights for individual divers
- marker lights to mark and identify individual divers.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- be an individual who is currently certified and sanctioned by an industry authorised organisation to teach and assess night diving.

Links

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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>