

11.8 Legal Requirements for Diving Work

1. POLICY / LEGISLATION SUPPORTED

- NSW Work Health & Safety Regulations 2019 – Part 4.8 Diving Work
- Victoria – Recommendations apply in addition to the General Duties of an Employer. See safety alert: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/occupational-diving>

Overview: The duties of a PCBU include ensuring:

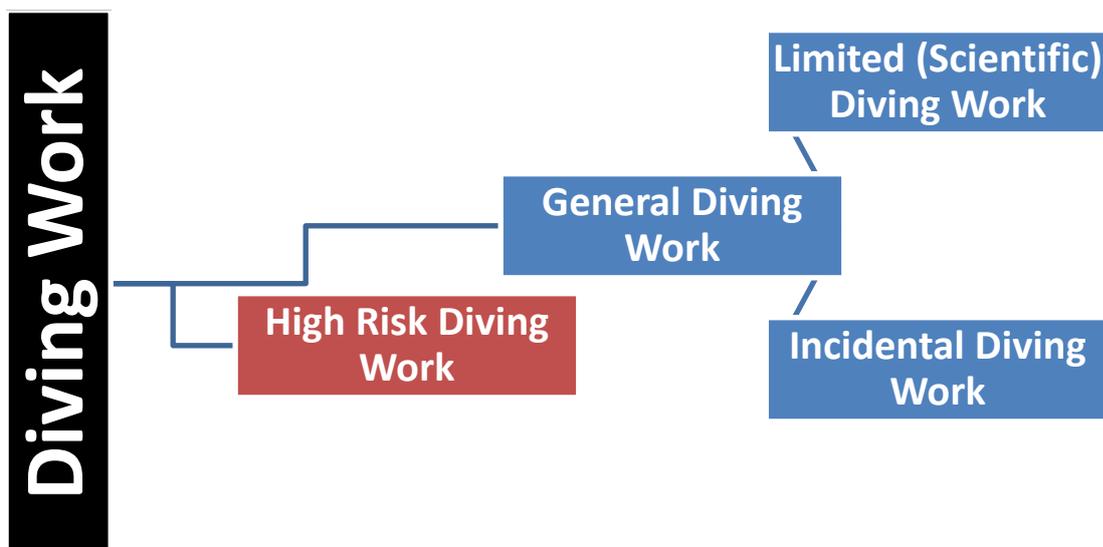
- divers are medically fit and are competent through qualifications and/or experience for the type of diving work being undertaken
- a dive supervisor who has the required level of competence is appointed to supervise workers carrying out general diving work
- a dive plan is prepared by the dive supervisor, and
- a dive safety log is prepared.

Additional requirements in relation to high risk diving work include ensuring the fitness and competence of the divers and that high risk diving work is carried out in accordance with the AS/NZS: 2299.1 - 2015 Occupational diving operations – Standard operational practice

2. IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES

NSW

Categorisation of Diving Work:



Limited Diving Work: 30metres maximum, no decompression stops, not underneath boats or structures (*not diving beneath anything that would require the diver to move sideways before being able to ascend*), not using tools that have power at surface; diving for more than 28 days during a period of 6 months.

Limited Scientific: As per above but for scientific purposes

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Incidental Diving Work: Linked to work, such as underwater acting, supervised, and has same limitations as Limited Diving

General Diving Work: Diving work that is not High Risk and includes Limited / Incidental

High Risk Diving Work: Involves construction work, inspection work (to determine construction work is necessary), or recovery or salvage of a large structure or plant item (e.g. Vessel) for commercial purposes. High Risk does NOT include minor work in a Marina that involves cleaning, inspecting, maintaining, or searching for a vessel or mooring

AS 4005.2 – 2000 Recreational SCUBA dive supervisor (withdrawn) but focusses on Training and certification of recreational SCUBA divers at a Supervisory level

Certificate of Medical Fitness must be issued by a medical practitioner with appropriate training in underwater medicine, and state whether or not the person is medically fit to carry out diving work

DIVING WORK				
Regulatory Requirements	High Risk Diving Work	General Diving Work	Incidental Diving Work	Limited (Scientific) Diving Work
FITNESS				
A: Certificate of medical fitness		REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
Fitness in compliance with AS/NZS 2299.1 - 2015	REQUIRED			
Regulatory Requirements	High Risk Diving Work	General Diving Work	Incidental Diving Work	Limited (Scientific) Diving Work
COMPETENCE				
B: A certificate for general diving work, issued by a training organisation that demonstrates that the person has acquired the relevant competencies for that type of general diving work. Meaning AS/NZS 2815 (Training and certification of occupational divers)		REQUIRED for DIVER & SUPERVISOR		
C: Training, qualification or experience, sound knowledge and skill in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving physics • Use, inspection & maintenance of diving equipment • Use of decompression tables • Dive planning • Communication with another diver and surface • How to safely carry out general diving work • Diving physiology and first aid 		REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
D: Relevant diving experience of at least 15hours logged , or which 8hours & 20minutes were at the depth of work to be undertaken??			REQUIRED	
E: Relevant diving experience of at least 60hours logged , or which 8hours				REQUIRED

& 20minutes were at the depth of work to be undertaken??				
F: Experience in the type of Diving Work to be supervised		REQUIRED by SUPERVISOR	REQUIRED by SUPERVISOR	REQUIRED by SUPERVISOR
G: PCBU to <u>observe</u> evidence of COMPETENCE prior to allowing General Diving Work		REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
H: PCBU to <u>keep</u> written evidence for 12months of General Diving Work		REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
Competence in compliance with AS/NZS 2299.1 - 2015	REQUIRED			
Regulatory Requirements	High Risk Diving Work	General Diving Work	Incidental Diving Work	Limited (Scientific) Diving Work
RISK MANAGEMENT				
Written risk assessment		REQUIRED		
Competent Person to supervise General Diving work		REQUIRED		
Dive Plan to be prepared & complied with		REQUIRED		
Dive Safety Log to be kept, used & records kept for 12months		REQUIRED		
Conduct of work in compliance with AS/NZS 2299.1 - 2015	REQUIRED			