

English version

**Recreational diving services - Requirements for recreational
scuba diving service providers**

This draft European Standard is submitted to CEN members for enquiry. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 329.

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Foreword

This document (prEN 14467) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 329 "Tourism services", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

Introduction

The European Standards relating to recreational diving services have been prepared by CEN/TC 329/WG 3 "Recreational Diving Services", with the aim of establishing safe practices in the provision of services.

Therefore these standards define:

- necessary levels of experience and competency of scuba divers and scuba instructors,
- safe practices and requirements for recreational scuba diving service providers appropriate to the different diving levels.

In any case, they cannot substitute for nor impose upon legal requirements, the alteration of which is outside the competence of the CEN/CENELEC members.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies requirements for providers of in the field of recreational scuba diving.

It defines three areas of service provision:

- training and education,
- organised and guided diving for certified divers,
- rental of diving equipment.

Service providers may offer one or more of these services. This European Standard defines the nature and quality of the services to the client and applies only to contractual provision of those services.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

prEN 14153-1:2001, Recreational Diving Services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 1: Level 1

prEN 14153-2:2001, Recreational Diving Services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 2: Level 2

prEN 14153-3:2001, Recreational Diving Services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers - Part 3: Level 3

prEN 14413-1:2002, Recreational Diving Services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba instructors - Part 1: Instructor

prEN 14413-2:2002, Recreational Diving Services - Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational scuba instructors - Part 2: Instructor

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this European Standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

3.1

service provider

entity (individual or organisation) which offers one or more of the following services:

- training and education,
- organised and guided diving for certified divers,
- rental of diving equipment.

3.2

client

individual signing a contract with a service provider for services for his own use

3.3

group

two or more persons receiving services from the service provider led by a dive leader

3.4

diving equipment

equipment consisting of the following items:

- fins,
- mask,
- snorkel,
- cylinder,
- demand regulator,
- alternative breathing gas source,
- cylinder-support-system and buoyancy control device including (if appropriate) a quick release weight system,
- submersible pressure gauge (breathing gas pressure monitor),
- means to measure depth and time and to safely limit exposure to inert gas,
- diving suit (if appropriate).

Note: Specific environments may require appropriate additional equipment (e.g. an underwater navigational aid, knife/cutting device).

3.5

confined water

swimming pool with a depth appropriate to the activity or body of water that offers similar conditions

3.6

open water

body of water significantly larger than a swimming pool offering conditions typical of a natural body of water encountered in the region

3.7

scuba instructor

individual qualified according to prEN 14413-1 or prEN 14413-2 respectively

3.8

dive leader

individual qualified according to prEN 14153-3

3.9

organised dive

service offered by a service provider where divers already at a qualification and experience level suitable for the diving activity are taken to a dive site

3.10

guided dive

organised dive where clients are also accompanied underwater by an individual appointed by the service provider

3.11

risk assessment

identification of hazards and who may be harmed by them in order to adopt procedures to ensure that the risk is controlled as far as is reasonably possible

4 Common requirements

The following requirements apply to all services laid down in clauses 5 and 6 regardless of the specific kind of service.

4.1 Information to be provided

4.1.1 Information prior to provision of the service

The service provider shall provide the following information to the client.

- contractual issues incl. conditions bearing on the signature, delivery and termination of the contract,
- prerequisites and qualification requirements in order to obtain the service (e.g. medical certification),
- equipment requirements,
- costs and insurance according to national regulations,
- local environmental considerations,
- diving related legislation and legal requirements concerned with the specific kind of service.

If the service provided involves training the following additional information shall be provided:

- limitations of eventual qualification,

- scope of the training course,
- course procedures,
- means and methods for assessment, criteria for successful completion,
- that records will be kept of their personal data and these records may be passed on to a training organisation.

In the case of guided dives or organised dives the following additional information shall be provided:

- information concerning the dive site, in particular hazards which could affect the safety of the dive (e.g. underwater obstructions),
- arrangements concerning buddy teams and group size,
- depth and/or time limitations.

4.1.2 Information during service provision

Prior to each dive or training session, clients shall have important safety procedures identified to them, e.g.:

- supervisory staff,
- emergency procedures,
- buddy/group assignments.

4.2 Risk Assessment

The service provider shall conduct a risk assessment for all diving sites used for the service. The following factors shall be considered as part of this assessment:

- water movement,
- depth,
- underwater visibility,
- pollution,
- entry/exit methods,
- restricted zones,
- suitability of the site for planned activities,
- emergency action plan,
- capability of participants.

The service provider shall have the right to prevent any client from taking part in the activity if following a risk assessment this is deemed to be in the best interest of the client and/or of other clients.

4.3 Equipment requirements

4.3.1 Emergency equipment

For all locations where diving activities take place the service provider shall ensure the availability of:

- a first aid kit suitable for the planned diving activities,
- an emergency oxygen unit with a capacity of delivering at least 15 litres/min. of pure oxygen for at least 20 min,
- a communication system suitable for alerting emergency services.

At each dive site where diving activities take place an emergency plan comprising of at least the following information shall be available:

- procedures for casualty recovery, resuscitation and evacuation,
- use of the emergency oxygen supply,
- information about the nearest medical resources (including data about the availability of a hyperbaric recompression chamber).

4.3.2 Diving Equipment

Individuals instructing during open water dives or leading dives on behalf of the service provider shall at least be equipped with diving equipment according to clause 3.4.

If equipment is provided to the client for use in training, guided or organised diving, this shall be considered a separate service and thus clause 7 shall apply.

4.4 Documentation

4.4.1 Staff

The service provider shall maintain documentation on all individuals delivering services as follows:

- name and date of birth,
- training/certification, experience and medical certification,
- competencies of the individual staff member.

The service provider shall be able to prove that all staff members hold relevant and current qualifications for their duties. Proof of qualifications shall be made available to clients upon request.

4.4.2 Clients

In the case of training services, the service provider shall ensure that appropriate records concerning the progress and the completion of the course are kept for the duration of the training course.

5 Training and education

5.1 General requirements

The service provider shall ensure that the client fulfils the prerequisites to take part in the training course envisaged.

The service provider shall ensure that the size of the group and the proficiency of the individual dive teams are appropriate to enable all diving activities to be carried out safely.

5.2 Specific requirements for training courses covered by European Standards

When conducting a training course leading to a certification in accordance with prEN 14153-1, prEN 14153-2 and prEN 14153-3 all the provisions according to these European Standards shall be met.

5.3 Training locations

5.3.1 Theory teaching facilities

The service provider shall have access to a suitable learning environment such as a dedicated classroom. This shall provide clients with working facilities (e.g. writing surfaces, reference materials, computer, visual or audio training aids) as appropriate.

The place of training shall be suitable to the activity and shall not pose a danger to the health of the clients.

5.3.2 Dive sites

The service provider shall have access to training sites for confined water training and/or open water training that are representative of the local environment.

5.4 Personnel

The service provider shall assign the responsibilities of all personnel involved in training activities.

The training of recreational scuba divers up to level 3 according to prEN 14153-1 to -3 shall be conducted by scuba instructors taking into account the limitations specified in clause 4 of prEN 14413-1 and clause 4 of prEN 14413-2.

Service providers shall appoint an experienced scuba instructor of at least level 2 qualification who shall have overall responsibility for all such training and education. This scuba instructor shall have sufficient knowledge of the procedures and working processes implemented and applied by the service provider. This scuba instructor shall be able to organise the services according to these criteria.

Training courses involving more demanding operational parameters not automatically covered by a scuba instructor's previous training or experience such as:

- night dives,
- limited visibility dives,
- deep dives,
- wreck dives,
- dry suit dives,
- drift dives

shall only be conducted by level 2 scuba instructors who have appropriate additional qualifications.

Service providers may use dive leaders to help control clients and improve safety but not to assess or to teach any skills or knowledge to clients.

6 Organised and guided diving for certified divers

6.1 Provision of services to groups

A group may include scuba instructors or dive leaders who may take on some or all of the duties for providing proper supervision of members of the group in accordance with these European Standards. Any such arrangement between the service provider and the group shall be agreed in advance of any underwater activities by both parties.

6.2 Organised dive

The service provider shall conduct a risk assessment, identify operational parameters and ensure an emergency support procedure is in place. They shall also ensure that a safety briefing prior to each dive is provided.

In order to be entitled to purchase the service of an organised dive the client shall be certified at least at level 2 scuba diver according to prEN 14153-2. The certification and the client's personal dive log shall be checked by the service provider prior to the dive.

Organised dives which require specific qualifications, e.g. night diving, wreck diving etc. may only be carried out if the client has appropriate qualifications (speciality certification) or equivalent experience.

6.3 Guided dive

The service provider shall provide a safety briefing, conduct a risk assessment, assign buddies, identify operational parameters and ensure an emergency support procedure is in place.

In order to be entitled to purchase the service of a guided dive the client shall be certified at least at level 1 scuba diver according to prEN 14153-1. The certification and the client's personal dive log shall be checked by the service provider prior to the dive.

Guided dives which require specific qualification, e.g. night diving, wreck diving etc. may only be carried out if the client has appropriate qualifications (speciality certification) or equivalent experience.

Guided dives requiring specific qualifications or equivalent experience, for which the client cannot provide proof of such qualifications or experience, shall be considered to be training dives and may only be conducted by a suitably qualified scuba instructor. For the provision of this service clause 5 shall apply.

6.4 Locations

The service provider shall have an understanding of the features and hazards of the intended diving locality and shall ensure that the site at which the diving is to be carried out is suitable for the divers and the envisaged activity.

6.5 Personnel

The contracted services in the framework of guided dives or organised dives shall be provided by an individual of at least dive leader qualification.

If a dive requires specific skills beyond the qualifications of a dive leader, the individual leading the dive shall have received relevant specialised training or have equivalent experience.

7 Rental of diving equipment

7.1 Service

The service comprises rental of diving equipment according to 3.4 to scuba divers who may use such equipment both for supervised and unsupervised diving activities.

The service provider shall assist and advise the client in choosing the proper diving equipment taking into account the envisaged diving activity and the qualification and needs of the client (e.g. the proper fit of buoyancy control devices and suits).

Diving equipment provided to the client shall be subjected to an appropriate inspection by the service provider prior to delivery in order to ascertain that it is in a serviceable condition.

Clients renting equipment shall be informed that use of the equipment requires specific training.

7.2 Diving equipment

Diving equipment rented to clients shall comply with the requirements of European Standards (if applicable) and with respective European and/or national legislation. The service provider shall maintain appropriate documentation according to the manufacturers' recommendations.

Diving equipment rented to clients shall be in properly serviced condition and shall be maintained according to legal requirements and/or manufacturer's specifications. The service provider shall establish an appropriate written service schedule which identifies all individual items of rental equipment and documents all maintenance work carried out.

7.3 Personnel

The service provider shall ensure that the personnel understands the characteristics and function of the diving equipment rented to the client.

They shall be qualified to advise the client about the proper fit and use of the diving equipment in specific diving activities.