

2. Leadership Course Standards

These standards apply to all SDI Leadership Courses.

2.1 *Administrative*

Instructors and instructor trainers must ensure that all students complete the following forms – for each and every leadership course and leadership specialty the student participates in. They are:

1. SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form
2. *SDI Medical* Release Form

For SDI Leadership courses, candidates are required to provide a medical questionnaire signed by a licensed physician approving the candidate for diving prior to starting the course. Medical approval must be current when submitting paperwork for leadership certification. A physician-signed medical is valid for up to 12 months with no change in medical condition unless a longer valid term is indicated on a specific medical form.

The appropriate *SDI Dive Leader Registration Form*, along with the final exam* for the leadership level rating requested, and the medical release signed by the physician, must be submitted to SDI Headquarters for processing of leadership credentials. Any new member must submit a signed Membership Agreement with leadership level registration documents.

Divemaster registrations must also be accompanied by verification of the minimum number of dives/hours required for graduation. All Leadership level registrations, including upgrades and crossovers, are not complete until SDI/TDI/ERDI Headquarters has verified and processed the individual's documentation and credentials. An individual may not function at the level(s) being registered until they have received verification of their certification level(s) from the SDI/TDI/ERDI Headquarters. Verification can be achieved by checking online profile, email or verbal notification from SDI/TDI/ERDI Headquarters.

A copy of the SDI Dive Leader form must be retained for a minimum of 7 years.

* **Note:** All leadership level final exams require an 80 percent or better score, and 100 percent remediation.

- All SDI instructors are required to have their own *SDI Standards and Procedures*.
- Copies of examinations completed online need not be submitted to SDI Headquarters, with the exception of the student signature page.
- When SDI Leadership level courses are conducted consecutively, such as, divemaster followed by assistant instructor, and then instructor, or any combination, instructors, or instructor trainers, must ensure that registration forms, *for each level of training* are submitted, and approval is received *before* the next phase of training is commenced. This ensures that the leadership certification prerequisites for each level are met.

2.2 Accidents/Incident

Hopefully a member will never have to do this; if the member was involved in an accident or simply witnessed an accident, the SDI Accident Report Form must be completed, and faxed or emailed to SDI Headquarters immediately after the accident occurred. Please refer to the SDI Standards,

Part 1, section 6.4.8.

2.3 Definitions

Assistant or Assisted by = A person who is assisting a primary and certified instructor, Course Director or instructor trainer for a course that they, the "assistant", is not certified to teach. Assistants can be used for the purposes of additional supervision and to increase ratios where standards and environmental conditions allow. Assistants listed on registrations will receive experience credits for courses they have assisted with only if listed on the initial registration form.

Co-Teach or 2nd Instructor = A person who is certified to teach the course taking place and is working together with an also certified instructor, Course Director or instructor trainer. The 2nd instructor will receive equal credit for the course if listed on the initial registration form.

Student Prerequisites = conditions that must be met by students prior to beginning a course. These cannot be completed during the course unless specifically outlined in the standard. Conditions listed here cannot be waived by the instructor. Written standards waivers for prerequisites may be issued by the HQ training department depending on the course, dive site, and the specific prior experience of course participants.

2.4 Equipment

A personal dive computer (PDC) must be used during all confined and open-water training sessions on SDI courses.

2.5 Confined Water Training

Confined water training must be conducted in a swimming pool or a confined body of water with the following conditions:

1. A minimum of approximately 3 Metres/10 Feet horizontal visibility.
2. Calm surface conditions.
3. Easy access to depths that allow students to stand with their head above water.

4. Depths that allow skills, as defined in the confined water lesson guide, to be adequately demonstrated.
5. Equipment that is appropriate for the training site.
6. Confined water training sites, other than pools, must be approved by SDI Headquarters.

2.6 Open Water Training

The instructor, with the following considerations, must carefully choose an open water training site:

1. Body of water similar to the regional diving conditions; ocean, lake, etc.
2. Swimming pools are not considered an open water environment.
3. Water clarity.
4. Temperature above and below the water.
5. Weather conditions.
6. Water access.
7. Equipment adequate for the conditions.
8. Thermal protection appropriate for the condition.
9. No dives are to require a decompression stop.
10. No dives will be conducted in an overhead environment.
11. A complete briefing that includes:
 - a. The dive site.
 - b. Water conditions.
 - c. Skills to be performed.
 - d. Entry/Exit to be used.
 - e. Emergency procedures
12. A complete debriefing that includes:
 - a. Performance of divers as a whole.
 - b. Areas that need improvement.
 - c. Environmental observations.
 - d. Question and answers.

2.7 Student – Minimum Equipment Requirements

The students must have the following equipment:

1. Mask, fins, and snorkel.
2. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with a low-pressure power inflator.
3. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge.
4. Alternate air sources.
5. Weight system.
6. Personal dive computer (PDC).
7. Exposure suit appropriate for the training conditions.
8. Compressed gas cylinder.
9. Compass; during navigation skills.
10. Knife or cutting device.
11. Rescue signal.

Note: Students wearing air integrated hose-less computers are not required to carry a submersible pressure gauge.

2.8 Required Equipment for All Dive Leaders

Unless otherwise noted, the minimum equipment requirements for training by an instructor, assistant instructor and divemaster is as follows:

1. Mask, fins and snorkel
2. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with a low-pressure power inflator.
3. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge.
4. Alternate air sources.
5. Weight system.
6. Personal dive computer.
7. Exposure suit adequate for the training conditions.
8. Compressed gas cylinder.
9. Compass.
10. Cutting device.
11. Rescue signal.

12. A dive flag must be carried in accordance with local laws or regulations for all open water locations.

Note: Instructors wearing air integrated hose-less computers are not required to carry a submersible pressure gauge.

Note: Cylinder capacities used in the SDI Standards are based on manufacturer values or generalized conversions and are NOT exact conversions from metric to imperial due to variance in cylinder volume and working pressures. If you use metric cylinders, please use the metric size cylinder listed; likewise, if you use imperial cylinders, please use the imperial size cylinder listed, I.E., 3 litres/18 cubic ft.

Note: Both instructor and students must be wearing a single cylinder back mount configuration for the following courses: Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor.

2.9 Temporary Certification Cards

No temporary cards will be available for leadership courses.