

The DCBC mission is to provide a national Canadian diving certification scheme for professional diving and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) personnel, based on a single national standard of competencies, in order to enhance industry safety by demonstrating personal competency. In this regard the definition of a competent person is one who has a combination of training, education and experience to do the required work.

DCBC certificates are a clear indication of an individual's qualification and competence; they are certificates of competency which indicate that the holder has demonstrated, through training or assessment, the competencies detailed in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Competency Standard for Diving, Hyperbaric Chamber and Remotely Operated Vehicle Operations (CAN/CSA-Z275.4) for the various categories of diver, tender, supervisor and other diving related personnel.

CAN/CSA-Z275.4 is the nationally recognized standard for diver competencies in Canada. It was established originally to provide the diving industry with a uniform minimum level of competency necessary for the various levels of diver techniques. The standard has been expanded progressively to describe the competencies required for diving physicians, hyperbaric chamber operator, life support technicians and supervisors, as well as ROV pilots and technicians.

The DCBC certificate may be relied upon to show that the holder, at some point in their career, completed formal training, or was deemed to be competent by the accredited diver training school that supervised a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process, to the standard required by CAN/CSA-Z275.4.

In addition the DCBC requires periodic renewal of certificates every 5 years (per CAN/CSA-Z275.4) in order to ensure that each individual in possession of a DCBC certificate has not only achieved but also maintained a minimum level of recent experience at his/her current level of certification. In order to retain/renew a DCBC certificate of competency relating to occupational diving, the applicant must demonstrate continued proficiency based on recent documented practical experience at the level being sought. This key requirement for currency supports and strengthens the standing of the DCBC certification process and the holder's continued proficiency.

An employer can rely on possession of a valid DCBC certificate to demonstrate that any diving or ROV personnel he/she has employed are competent to perform work at each individual's current level of certification in accordance with CAN/CSA-Z275.4.

If additional education or training, or a certain level of experience, is required of an individual for a specific job or task then the employer is legally responsible to ensure that the individual meets these additional criteria. DCBC certificates do not guarantee that all possible job specific criteria are met: this is something that the employer must determine through a process of due diligence (e.g. by reviewing the CV of the diver). However, the existence of a DCBC certificate provides clear support and a solid foundation for this process by proving that the holder has a minimum level of competency. Often this may in itself be sufficient but that is ultimately a decision for the authority having jurisdiction.

In summary, a DCBC certificate:

- i. Provides proof that the holder is qualified to, and has demonstrated, the minimum competencies detailed in CAN/CSA-Z275.4; and
- ii. Provides proof that the holder, by meeting the DCBC requirement for periodic renewal based on continued proficiency, is presently competent to these same levels; and
- iii. May be used to support the process of determining that the holder meets specific job criteria.