

Important Information for Canadians Wishing To Attend A Commercial Diver Training Establishment Overseas.

The Diver Certification Board of Canada (DCBC) has important relationships and in some cases signed mutual agreements with diving regulators overseas. We are active participants in the International Diving Regulators and Certifiers Forum (IDRCF) which involves Australia, Canada, France, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA). Through these relationships we recognise that some foreign certificates testify to diver competencies which are substantially equivalent to those described in the Canadian Standards Association's Competency Standard for Diving Operations (CAN/CSA Z275.4), i.e. the standard to which DCBC certifies.

In spite of these relationships, and our acceptance of some foreign certificates held by experienced commercial divers, Canadians who intend to go overseas to attend commercial diver training establishment should be aware that not all overseas initial diver training meets Canadian standards. The CSA Occupational Diver Training Standard (CSA Z275.5) describes the training necessary to achieve the competency standards described in CSA Z275.4. In particular it specifies the time required to complete the appropriate training for a given level of competency, and the bottom times required for practical aspects of diver training. For example, for Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver (HSE Part 1) certification the candidate must offer proof of 50 hours bottom time including one hour at 50 metres.

Many overseas diver training establishments offer diver training courses which are shorter than the time specified in CSA Z275.5 and offer sometimes significantly less bottom time than that required by CSA Z275.5.

Canadians whose initial training does not substantially meet the requirements of CSA Z275.5 will not be eligible for DCBC certification.

In order to be certified by DCBC, divers returning from an overseas diver training course may be required to undergo further training to ensure that they meet Canadian standards.

Some overseas diver training establishments may offer extra training to Canadians who wish to train overseas but who need to meet the Canadian standards. Canadians approaching overseas training establishments should make the establishment aware of their specific needs for certification.

David G. Parkes
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