

Scientific Diving Summary Policy

General

The purpose of the University of Maine Scientific Diving Program is to ensure that all scientific diving under the auspices of the University of Maine is conducted in a manner that will maximize protection of scientific divers from accidental injury and/or illness, and to set forth standards for training and certification.

The University of Maine is a recognized Organizational Member of the AAUS and follows AAUS policies, procedures, and recommendations for the conduct of scientific diver training and scientific diving operations.

Regulatory Guidance

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.401 (Subpart T); Commercial Diving Operations
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.401, Appendix B; Guidelines for Scientific Diving

Requirements

All individuals who dive as a part of a scientific, research or educational activities under the jurisdiction or sanction of the University of Maine are covered by this program, which includes the following:

- 1) The UMAINE Scientific Diving Program is governed by a Diving Control Board and a Diving Safety Manual (UMAINE Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs).
- 2) The Diving Control Board consists of a majority of active scientific divers who provide oversight for The University of Maine scientific diving program's operations.
- 3) The purpose of the project using scientific diving is the advancement of science; therefore, information and data resulting from the project are non-proprietary.
- 4) The tasks of a scientific diver are those of an observer and data gatherer. Construction and trouble-shooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving are not included within scientific diving.
- 5) Scientific divers use scientific expertise in studying the underwater environment and, therefore, are scientists or scientists in training.

Responsibilities

Employees, Students, and Supervisors are responsible for:

- Notifying the University Diving Safety Officer of all existing and proposed diving operations.
- Following all UMAINE policies and procedures concerning scientific diving.

The **Diving Safety Officer** is responsible for:

- Implementing and administering the UMAINE Scientific Diving Program.
- Conducting scientific diver training.
- Approving/ supervising scientific diving operations.
- Acting as a liaison between scientific divers, the Diving Control Board and other pertinent University entities.

The **Diving Control Board** is composed of voting members appointed by the President of the University of Maine. The board is responsible for:

- Maintaining compliance with AAUS recommendations for scientific diving. Recommending changes in policy and amendments to the UMAINE scientific diving manual, as needed.
- Acting as a board of investigation to inquire into the nature and cause of diving accidents or violations of the UMAINE scientific diving manual.

Acting as a board of appeal to consider diver-related problems.

For Additional Information

- Contact your Department Safety Coordinator or Safety and Environmental Management at (207) 581-4055.
- *Standards For Scientific Diving Certification and Operation Of Scientific Diving Programs* (MF07420)
- Compressed Gas for Scuba Diving (MF07425)
- Air Compressor Operating Log (MF07426)
- Air Station Training Roster (MF07427)
- Cascade Station Cylinder Fill Log (MF07428)
- Compressor Maintenance Record (MF07429)

Document History

Date originally published: 01/24/96