

COMMUNICATIONS KIT

- RECREATIONAL DIVING, RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL DIVING AND SNORKELLING CODE OF PRACTICE 2024
- SAFETY IN RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES REGULATION 2024



ABOUT THE REGULATION

The [Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024](#) (the Regulation) describes what must be done to prevent or control certain hazards which can cause injury, illness or death when providing recreational diving, recreational technical diving and recreational snorkelling.

The Regulation commences on 1 August 2024 and replaces the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011.

ABOUT THE CODE

The [Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024](#) (the Code) provides practical guidance to dive operators on how to comply with their health and safety duties under the Regulation.

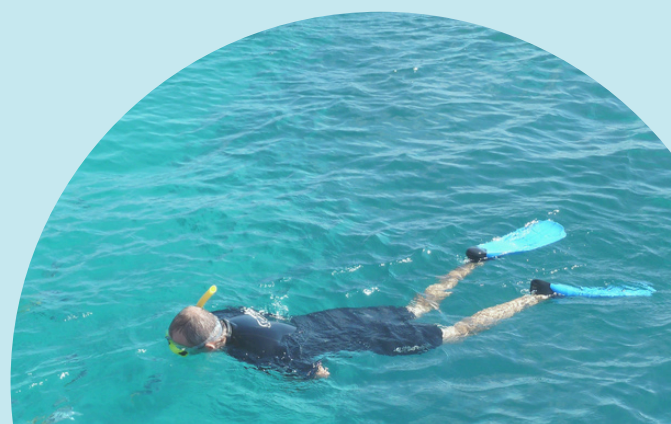
The code commences on 1 August 2024 and replaces the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2018.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

We've developed this communication kit to share information about the new Regulation and Code. You can also use this kit to promote and raise awareness about the updated Regulation and Code.

In this easy-to-use kit you will find:

- key messages
- table outlining a summary of changes
- social media posts for sharing



SAFETY IN RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES REGULATION 2024

KEY MESSAGES

Ensuring safe recreational diving and snorkelling

The Regulation provides clear requirements to ensure:

- all persons aboard the boat are counted
- entry-level certificate divers and non-certified divers complete a medical declaration
- entry-level certificate divers provide a medical certificate where required
- snorkellers are given advice about medical conditions which may impact their ability to snorkel safely and are advised to tell the dive operator about any medical conditions they have
- lookouts (and/or guides for snorkellers), rescuers and first aid equipment are provided
- non-certified divers are adequately supervised
- a dive safety log is kept.

Key changes:

- A restructure for simplicity and reduced duplication.
- Updated terminology and standards to match current practices.
- Updated medical requirements for entry-level certificate divers based on current evidence-based medical guidance.
- Clarified requirements for snorkellers to advise dive workers about **any** medical conditions to allow dive operators to better assess the risk of the activity for the snorkeller.

Improving medical safety measures

The Regulation now requires a medical declaration in the approved form for entry-level certificate diving. The approved form is the [Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society \(UHMS\) Diver Participant Questionnaire](#). The use of this document has been supported by UHMS. This change was incorporated based on feedback from industry members that the previous criteria was outdated. The change allows entry-level certificate divers to be more accurately assessed based on more updated medical information.

Snorkellers must also now let dive operators know about any medical conditions, providing better disclosure for dive operators to properly assess the risk of the activity and put in place appropriate measures. This also acknowledges that the snorkeller may not be best placed to determine what medical conditions are relevant to the activity.

Maintaining safety and supporting industry

These updates recognise the importance of this industry to Queensland and the need to maintain high safety standards for participants.

Industry consultation

We have worked closely with recreational diving and snorkelling industry representatives, medical experts and training associations to ensure the Regulation meets the needs of industry and maintains the industry's high safety standards.

Effective date: The Regulation commences on 1 August, 2024.

SAFETY IN RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES REGULATION 2024

TABLE OF CHANGES

	Changes	Section
	The Regulation is now structured by requirement, instead of activity.	
Definitions and terminology	<i>Duty holder</i> has been replaced with <i>dive operator</i> to use plain language.	5
	The definition of <i>recreational diving</i> has been simplified and the reference to being photographed, filmed or videoed is no longer needed to differentiate between recreational diving and a person being filmed or photographed for profit or gain in a diving work situation.	6
	<i>Resort dive</i> has been replaced with <i>non-certified dive</i> to reflect that this activity often occurs outside a resort context. The change of term away from 'resort dive' was also a recommendation from the Bethany Farrell coronial inquest.	9
	<i>Entry-level certificate dive</i> is clarified with a definition of an <i>initial training course</i> to ensure the term is more easily understood by industry.	8
	<i>Recreational snorkelling</i> is clarified to include free diving which can be undertaken without a snorkel but otherwise is consistent with the activity of recreational snorkelling.	6
	<i>Certified diver</i> is defined to clarify what constitutes an <i>entry-level certificate dive</i> and a <i>non-certified dive</i> , particularly in situations where certified divers may participate during an <i>entry-level certificate dive</i> or <i>non-certified dive</i> .	7
	The definition for <i>first aid</i> has been updated to reflect modern practice.	20
	A definition has been added for <i>unique identifier</i> as something for a person or document, meaning a particular code, letter, number, mark or combination of those things, used to identify the person or document, including in an electronic form. This addition rectifies the error that this definition was not in the previous <i>Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2011</i> .	Schedule Dictionary
	The timeframe for keeping records is now consistent throughout the Regulation.	10, 11, 17, 22
Reference to the withdrawn Australian Standard (AS 4005.1) is replaced with the AS ISO 24801 series, which outlines similar requirements for the certification of recreational divers through documented training procedures.	8, Schedule Dictionary	
Part 2 - Medical fitness and conditions	Amendments were made to replace outdated medical criteria for entry-level certificate diving which triggers a requirement to provide a medical certificate. The medical criteria was replaced with a medical declaration in the approved form which indicates whether a medical certificate is required based on the individual's answers in the form. The medical declaration will allow the Regulator flexibility to update medical declarations based on the latest medical information. With the support of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), this approved form will link to one of their questionnaire documents.	10, 11

SAFETY IN RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES REGULATION 2024

TABLE OF CHANGES (CONTINUED)

	<p>Amendments were made to include that dive operators must advise snorkellers to tell a worker if they have <i>any</i> medical condition. This wording was amended from a medical condition a snorkeller was <i>concerned about</i>. This allows the dive operator to properly assess the risks for each snorkeller and acknowledges that the snorkeller may not be aware of what medical conditions are relevant when undertaking the activity.</p>	12
Part 3 – Duties relating to transport by boat	<p>The requirement of counting persons aboard a vessel to ensure no one is left behind includes comparing counts to ensure both counts agree and there is no discrepancy. The counting of persons has been updated to refer to active counts and headcounts, whereas previously referred to as active and passive.</p> <p>Amendments were made to clearly set out what steps need to be taken if the counts do not agree and provides a definition of emergency plan. For consistency, the meaning of emergency plan has been clarified referred to as the requirement of an emergency plan under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.</p>	16
Part 6 - Dive safety log	<p>Clarification is provided of a requirement to document divers in a group using a unique identifier (previously referred to as buddy system).</p> <p>A number of technical amendments have been clarified and amended in this Part.</p>	

Download the [Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024](#).



RECREATIONAL DIVING, RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL DIVING AND SNORKELLING CODE OF PRACTICE 2024

KEY MESSAGES

Enhanced safety measures

The Code has been updated to address coronial recommendations, focusing on improved risk assessments and enhanced supervision of non-certified divers.

These updates aim to maintain Queensland's high safety standards, improve the health and safety of recreational diving and snorkelling and support this important industry.

Consultation: The Code was updated in consultation with dive operators, industry representatives, medical experts, training organisations and relevant government departments.

Key changes:

- The Code has been updated and is now more streamlined, with less duplication.
- It includes further guidance on ways to identify a search area and reduce the response time for a missing diver.
- An updated risk assessment process has been included.
- Guidance on how to determine whether non-certified diver to dive instructor ratios need to be reduced, or the dive modified, or cancelled.
- Updated guidance to ensure adequate supervision.
- Inclusion of more comprehensive basic skills to be taught to non-certified divers
- Modernised terminology and practices.
- Guidance on minimising the risk of a shark bite incident.
- Inclusion of information on Immersion Pulmonary Oedema (IPO).
- Consequential changes from the commencement of the new Regulation.

Effective date: The Code will commence on August 1, 2024.

Download the [Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024](#).

Visit [worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling](https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling) for helpful industry resources.

RECREATIONAL DIVING, RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL DIVING AND SNORKELLING CODE OF PRACTICE 2024

TABLE OF CHANGES

Changes *this is not an exhaustive list	Comment
The code is now shorter in length with more streamlined content.	This reflects the new structure of the Regulation.
Definitions have been updated in line with the new Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024 (the Regulation).	See the table of changes for the Regulation. Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
A more streamlined section includes control measures for all activities rather than duplicating control measures that are common to both diving and snorkelling.	See 2. Control measures that apply to all activities This reflects the new structure of the Regulation.
The counting of persons has been updated to refer to active counts and headcounts, whereas previously referred to as active and passive. What steps need to be taken if the counts do not agree and a definition of emergency plan is provided.	See 2.1 Ensuring no people are left behind and the table of changes for the Regulation. Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
The requirements for lookouts, guides and rescuers for diving and snorkelling has been consolidated and content updated.	See 2.2.1 Lookouts, guides and rescuers. Consequential changes to reflect the Regulation.
Risk assessments for diving and snorkelling have been consolidated and updated into the following risk assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general dive and snorkel • determining number of lookouts, and number and location of supervisory personnel • environmental dive site. The environmental dive site risk assessment should be confirmed in-water. Examples of risk assessments can be found in Appendices 4, 5 and 6 of the code and downloadable word versions of these risk assessments can now be found on the WorkSafe website: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling	See 2.2.2 Risk assessments for recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling. This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.
The code states that a first aid kit should include a pulse oximeter following feedback from subject matter experts.	See 2.5 First aid. This has been included to address feedback from the WHSQ Dive Unit.
Amendments were made to the Regulation to replace outdated medical criteria for entry-level certificate diving which triggered a requirement to provide a medical certificate. The medical criteria (over 45 years old, body mass index, gender, waist circumference) was replaced with a medical declaration in the approved form which indicates whether a medical certificate is required based on the individual's answers in the form. The code now refers to the WorkSafe website to access the approved form/medical declaration. The medical declaration is the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) Diver Medical Participant	See 3.1 Medical fitness. See the table of changes for the Regulation. This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.



THE RECREATIONAL DIVING, RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL DIVING AND SNORKELLING CODE OF PRACTICE 2024

TABLE OF CHANGES (CONTINUED)

<p>Questionnaire which is already used by industry. This will remove some additional paperwork and align medical screening in Queensland with the rest of the world.</p>	
<p>To accurately assess conditions at the time of the dive, an in-water dive site risk assessment is included in the code. The in-water risk assessment should be performed by the dive instructor or competent person within an hour before the dive starts and if there is a significant change in conditions during the dive.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This section addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>To address the risk of confusion of multiple non-certified dive groups at the same dive site the code now states the dive site risk assessment should include the risk of dive group interaction underwater.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>To ensure commercial pressures do not influence the decision about whether to cancel or modify a dive, the code now states that the dive instructor or a competent person should have the authority to decide whether a non-certified dive should be cancelled or modified.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Additional guidance is included to address when the non-certified divers to dive instructor ratios should be reduced and guidance on maintaining physical contact.</p>	<p>See 3.2 Supervision of divers in open water. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Following feedback from industry highlighting the importance of dive instructor competence, the dive code now states that the dive operator should implement a system to regularly review a diver worker's knowledge, skills and abilities.</p>	<p>See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addressed feedback from industry about the importance of dive instructor competency.</p>
<p>For non-certified dives, the code includes further information on basic skills. The dive operator should ensure the dive instructor assesses the knowledge, skills and abilities of potential divers and provides the necessary information and instruction to minimise the risks to the person's health and safety. A list of basic skills taught underwater is provided.</p> <p>This section also now refers to non-certified divers being instructed and/or informed about a quick release mechanism for their weight system.</p>	<p>See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Further guidance is provided about identification and the search area and timely response for locating a missing diver.</p> <p>Further guidance on how to manage the group of divers if there is a separated or panicked diver. This includes the dive instructor to use a controlled ascent procedure with and return all other divers in the group to the surface ascending with all divers.</p>	<p>See 2.4 Rescue of a person diving or snorkelling. See 3.3 Appropriate skills and knowledge. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>The code now includes a charter vessel operation section in response to coronial recommendations.</p>	<p>See 2.11 charter vessel operation. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>
<p>Further guidance is included on diving equipment such as fins being correctly fitted and remedies if the fins do not fit.</p>	<p>See 3.4 Equipment for diving. This addition addresses coronial recommendations in consultation with industry.</p>

THE RECREATIONAL DIVING, RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL DIVING AND SNORKELLING CODE OF PRACTICE 2024

TABLE OF CHANGES (CONTINUED)

<p>Divers with the condition 'patent foramen ovale' has been added to factors which can contribute to development of decompression illness.</p>	<p>See 6. Additional guidance on certain matters. This addition addresses feedback from subject matter experts.</p>
<p>Following an e-safe alert and feedback from subject matter experts about Immersion Pulmonary Oedema (IPO) being not well understood and potentially fatal, the code now includes a section on IPO. This section includes what IPO is, symptoms and action required by dive operators if someone presents with IPO symptoms.</p>	<p>See 6.5 Immersion Pulmonary Oedema. This addition addresses feedback from subject matter experts.</p>
<p>Following feedback, additional information has been added on marine stingers and that dive operators should supply protective swimwear if there is a risk of marine stingers.</p> <p>The code now refers to the Australian Resuscitation Council and New Zealand Resuscitation Council website for the latest information on symptoms and treatment for marine stings.</p>	<p>See section 2.9 Marine jellyfish stings. See section 6.6 Marine stingers</p>
<p>Following a number of shark bite incidents, the code now includes a section on sharks which was developed in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.</p>	<p>See section 6.7 Sharks</p>
<p>The following appendices to the code will now also be available in a downloadable word version on the WorkSafe website. https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • example record for count of persons • sample method of providing advice about medical conditions to prospective recreational snorkellers • sample declaration form for a person who is identified as an at risk snorkeller • example of environmental dive site and in-water risk assessment • example risk assessment to determine lookouts and supervision • example combined dive/snorkel site lookout and supervision. <p>The following documents have been removed from the code but will be available alongside the code on the WorkSafe website in a downloadable word version:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling compliance checklist • recreational snorkelling compliance checklist • medical declaration for non-certified diving • medical declaration for entry-level certificate diving (this will be a link to the UHMS website and the questionnaire). 	<p>See Appendices.</p> <p>This change addresses feedback from industry about the usability of forms and that examples are helpful, particularly when they can be modified to account for the specific dive operation.</p> <p>The medical declarations will no longer sit within the code which allows the regulator to update them in line with the latest medical evidence. This also allows the medical declaration for entry-level certificate diving to be linked to the latest version of the Underwater Hyperbaric Medical Society questionnaire.</p> <p>See WorkSafe website https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling</p>



SOCIAL MEDIA

You are welcome to use the below posts on your own channels or share one of ours!

Facebook: [@WorkSafeQueensland](#)

LinkedIn: [worksafe-q-8622b470/](#)

Instagram: [@worksafeqld](#)

YouTube: [@WorkSafeQueensland](#)

OUR
SOCIALS



POST 1

With over a million people participating in recreational diving and snorkelling activities each year in Queensland, it's essential we maintain high safety standards.

To help achieve this, the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024 and the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024 have been updated.

So, what's new?

Key updates in the Code address coronial recommendations about risk assessments and supervision of divers and includes feedback from the industry and changes from the remade Regulation.

Changes to the Regulation include:

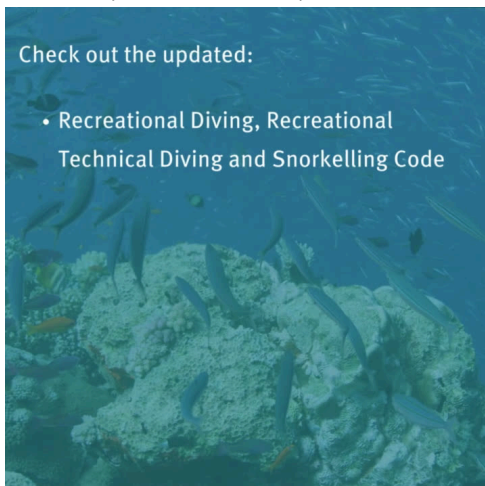
- a restructure for simplicity and reduced duplication
- updated definitions, and terminology to reflect modern practices
- the replacement of outdated medical requirements with current evidence-based medical information.

Learn more about the new Code and Regulation at

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling>

Check out the updated:

- Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code



SOCIAL MEDIA

You are welcome to use the below posts on your own channels or share one of ours!

POST 2

The Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving, and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024 and the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulations come into effect from 1 August 2024. 🐟🌟

The Code offers practical guidance for dive operators to comply with the new Regulation. Here's what's new:

- ✓ Reflects modern terminology and industry practices
- ✓ Ensures high safety standards for Queensland's diving and snorkelling industry
- ✓ Updates outdated medical requirements for entry-level certificate diving.

Stay informed and dive safe! 🇺🇸

#DivingSafety #Snorkelling #RecreationalDiving #QueenslandDiving #Dive2024

Learn more about the new Code and Regulation at:

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling>



SOCIAL MEDIA

You are welcome to use the below posts on your own channels or share one of ours!

POST 3

If your business offers snorkelling and diving, then you need to comply with Queensland's safety in recreational water activities laws—as well as work health and safety laws! 🗨️🗨️🗨️

To support this, we've updated the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving, and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024 and the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024.

A special thank you to all who contributed during the consultation process in developing these important updates.

Some key changes include updated risk assessment processes, guidance to ensure adequate supervision, modernised terminology and practices, information on Immersion Pulmonary Oedema (IPO) and more comprehensive basic skills training for non-certified divers.

To learn more about the updates, visit the link below and checkout the handy communications kit.

worksafe.qld.gov.au/your-industry/diving-and-snorkelling

