

Table of changes Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024 (Regulation)

	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Reference to the withdrawn Australian Standard (AS 4005.1) is replaced with the AS ISO 24801 series, which outlines similar requirements for the certification of recreational divers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Part 2 - Medical fitness and conditions	Amendments were made to replace outdated medical criteria for entry-level certificate diving which triggers a requirement to provide a medical certificate.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

	<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
<p>Part 3 – Duties relating to transport by boat</p>	<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
<p>Part 6 - Dive safety log</p>	<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>	