

15. Equipment Specialist

15.1 Introduction

This course is designed to give a more in-depth look at how dive equipment works. It will cover general repairs and maintenance of various types of exposure suits, BCD's, regulators, and other accessories.

15.2 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor or Assistant Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty.

15.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facilities, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions):

1. N/A.

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river, or estuary):

1. N/A.

15.4 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent.

15.5 Course Structure and Duration

1. No Open Water dives are required.
2. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

15.6 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students.

2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment.
3. Communicate the schedule to the students.
4. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *SDI Non-Scuba General Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the *SDI Diver Registration Form* to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website.

15.7 Required Equipment

Different equipment must be available for demonstration purposes.

15.8 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics.

The following topics must be covered.

1. Exposure Suits:
 - a. Dry suit:
 - i. How they work.
 - ii. Types of materials they are made of.
 - iii. Features.
 - iv. Basic repairs.
 - v. Care and maintenance.
 - vi. Choosing a dry suit is best for you.
 - b. Wetsuit:
 - i. How it works.
 - ii. Types of materials they are made of.
 - iii. Features.
 - iv. Wet suit accessories i.e., gloves, hood.
 - v. Basic repairs.
 - vi. Care and maintenance.
 - vii. Choosing a wet suit best for you.

2. Buoyancy Compensator Devices:
 - a. How they work.
 - b. Types of materials they are made of.
 - c. Features.
 - d. Basic repairs.
 - e. Care and maintenance.
 - f. Choosing a BCD that is best for you.
3. Regulators and Alternate Air Sources:
 - a. How they work.
 - b. Types of materials they are made of.
 - c. Features.
 - d. Basic repairs.
 - e. Care and maintenance.
 - f. Choosing a regulator that is best for you.
4. Cylinders:
 - a. How they work.
 - b. Types of materials they are made of.
 - c. Features.
 - d. Basic repairs.
 - e. Care and maintenance.
 - f. Transportation.
 - g. Choosing a cylinder that is best for you.
5. Weight Systems:
 - a. How they work.
 - b. Types of materials they are made of.
 - c. Features.
 - d. Basic repairs.
 - e. Care and maintenance.
 - f. Transportation.
 - g. Choosing a weight system that is best for you.
6. Computers and other Instruments:

- a. How they work.
 - b. Features.
 - c. Basic repairs.
 - d. Care and maintenance.
 - e. Transportation.
 - f. Choosing a computer that is best for you.
7. Accessories:
- a. Knives and cutting devices.
 - b. How to use one.
 - c. Features.
 - d. Basic repairs.
 - e. Care and maintenance.
 - f. Transportation.
8. Various Equipment Carrying Devices:
- a. Types.
 - b. Features.
 - c. Basic repairs.
 - d. Care and Maintenance.
 - e. Transportation.

15.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Pass an exam the instructor has developed to check the learning by the student and how well the student has comprehended the material.