CSA GROUP™

CSA Z275.2:20
National Standard of Canada

Occupational safety code for diving operations

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Contents

Preface

This is the seventh edition of CSA Z275.2, *Occupational safety code for diving operations*. It supersedes the previous editions published in 2015, 2011, 2004, 1992, 1982, and 1974. It is part of a series of Standards on diving and caisson systems covering hyperbaric facilities, occupational diving, and construction work in compressed air environments.

The significant changes to this edition include the following:

a) new provisions for SCUBA diving, combining "restricted" and "unrestricted" categories into one "occupational SCUBA" category;
b) clarification of crew size requirements for SCUBA diving, including a new requirement to conduct a dive site risk assessment in order to determine appropriate crew size (Clause 7.5);
c) incorporation of updated crew size requirements for surface-supplied diving (Clause 8.2) as published in the 2018 Amendment to Z275.2-15;
d) expanded references to IMCA guidelines for offshore diving (Clauses 9.2 and 9.3);
e) clarification of requirements for four categories of contaminated diving (Clause 11 and Table 8);
f) provision of further guidance on nitrox diving, along with new definitions (Clause 12); and
g) addition of a new Annex (K) on "diver rescue methods".

This Standard has also been harmonized with regulations, standards, guidelines, and codes developed by the Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration (COGLA), the Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), and NORSOK.

This Standard is not intended to supersede the requirements of applicable occupational safety and health regulations. Criteria in this Standard have been written in a manner that allows the user to comply both with the Standard and applicable legislated requirements throughout Canada.

This Standard is not intended for use as a diving or procedure manual. It is designed to be inflexible in those matters that experience has shown to be critical to the safety of the diver, and yet flexible in those areas where the responsibility and considered judgment of operators provide the highest degree of safety in specialized operations.

Specific exposure tables and decompression schedules are not included in this Standard in view of the fact that a number of well-tested and authoritative tables are available for use by divers and for adoption by the regulatory authorities.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of the Canadian government departments responsible for occupational health and safety for the development of this edition, the Diver Certification Board of Canada, the Canadian Association of Diving Contractors, and several commercial diving companies.

This Standard is considered suitable for use for conformity assessment within the stated scope of the Standard.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Diving Operations, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Occupational Diving and Hyperbaric Environments and the Strategic Steering Committee on Occupational Health and Safety, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

Notes:

1) *Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.*
2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by* CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization *as "substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity". It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
4) *To submit a request for interpretation of this Standard, please send the following information to* ***inquiries@csagroup.org*** *and include "Request for interpretation" in the subject line:*
   a) *define the problem, making reference to the specific clause, and, where appropriate, include an illustrative sketch;*
   b) *provide an explanation of circumstances surrounding the actual field condition; and*
   c) *where possible, phrase the request in such a way that a specific "yes" or "no" answer will address the issue.*

   Committee interpretations are processed in accordance with the CSA Directives and guidelines governing standardization *and are available on the* Current Standards Activities *page at* ***standardsactivities.csa.ca****.*
5) *This Standard is subject to review within five years from the date of publication. Suggestions for its improvement will be referred to the appropriate committee. To submit a proposal for change, please send the following information to* ***inquiries@csagroup.org*** *and include "Proposal for change" in the subject line:*
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   c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
   d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA Z275.2:20
Occupational safety code for diving operations

1 Scope

1.1 General

1.1.1
This Standard applies to occupational diving operations conducted in connection with all types of work and employment, and describes the requirements for occupational safety.

Note: *It is recognized that certain underwater tasks might require specialized standards of practice and/or operational techniques that differ from the requirements of this Standard yet may be acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. Users should consult applicable provincial and federal occupational safety and health regulations to determine whether they impose safety requirements additional to or more stringent than those of this Standard.*

1.1.2
This Standard addresses equipment requirements and operational procedures for the following diving systems:

a) SCUBA diving systems (see Clause 7);
b) surface-supplied diving systems (see Clauses 8 and 9);
c) deep diving systems (see Clause 9);
d) one-atmosphere diving systems (see Clause 10); and
e) diving in contaminated environments (see Clause 11).

1.2 Limitations

1.2.1
This Standard does not apply to scientific diving as defined in Clause 3.

1.2.2
This Standard does not apply to diving operations performed solely for sport or recreation.

1.2.3
This Standard does not include work techniques associated with underwater diving operations.

1.3 Terminology
In this Standard, “shall” is used to express a requirement, i.e., a provision that the user is obliged to satisfy in order to comply with the Standard; “should” is used to express a recommendation or that which is advised but not required; and “may” is used to express an option or that which is permissible within the limits of the Standard.