

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Occupational diving operations

Part 4: Film and photographic diving



AS/NZS 2299.4:2005

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-017, Occupational Diving. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 August 2005 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 2 September 2005.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-017:

Association of Diving Contractors, New Zealand
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Dive Council
Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme
Australian Diving Contractors Association
Australian Industry Group
Australian Marine Sciences Association
Australian Medical Association
Australian Seafood Industry Council
CSIRO Marine Research
Department for Administrative and Information Services, South Australia
Department of Defence (Australia)
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Dive Queensland
Diving Industry Training Organization (New Zealand)
Hyperbaric Engineering Industry Forum
Maritime Union of Australia
National Association of Occupational Diver Training Establishments (Australia)
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-017, Occupational Diving.

This Standard is Part of a series of Standards for the conduct of occupational diving operations. Diving operations that fall into the scope of this sector-specific Standard may be conducted using either this Standard or AS/NZS 2299.1, *Occupational diving operations, Part 1: Standard operational practice*.

This Standard is based on a February 1998 draft prepared by the Underwater Visual Producers Association of Australia. Earlier versions of the draft were prepared with input from various State and Australian film, media and arts organizations.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendices to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

Diving is a skill undertaken by many professionals from a wide variety of industries. Within the film, television and stills photography industries, it is undertaken as an adjunct to the main aim of a production, i.e. to capture images.

When operating in an underwater environment on a film set or other location, the safety of all crew is dependent on early planning of the production.

Aspects to be considered for a production involving diving are outlined in this Standard and, although the Standard does not always specify requirements for addressing particular aspects, recommendations are provided which should be followed when no equivalent or better plan exists. This Standard provides information to dive supervisors so that they can organize safe working environments for the duration of shoots.

This Standard has been prepared specifically for diving work in the film and photographic industry as other Standards and drafts were considered inappropriate and did not supply requirements and guidance relevant for producers, contractors and employees. The Standard is intended to assist in addressing the 'duty of care' with respect to diving placed on employers (such as producers) and employees under occupational health and safety legislation to take care of both themselves and others within the workplace. It should not be assumed that compliance with this Standard means that all aspects of occupational health and safety legislation or all legal obligations are being fulfilled. This Standard only covers aspects of occupational health and safety legislation that relate to diving.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard Occupational diving operations

Part 4: Film and photographic diving

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the personnel, equipment and procedures used in occupational underwater operations associated with the production, for commercial purposes, of feature films, television, natural history visuals, corporate videos and photographic stills.

This Standard is applicable to all persons involved in the production, including producers, directors, cinematographers, gaffers and department personnel, set construction personnel, underwater technicians, safety divers, stunt people, actors and stills photographers, including self-employed and freelance operators.

This Standard applies to diving in water to depths not exceeding 30 m.

This Standard does not apply to film and photographic work carried out as part of diving operations conducted in accordance with other Parts of the AS/NZS 2299 series, i.e. AS/NZS 2299.1 applies for construction inspection activities, AS/NZS 2299.2 applies for film and photographic work as part of professional scientific research and natural resource management activities and AS/NZS 2299.3 applies for the filming and photographing of recreational diving.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide persons engaged in, or connected with, occupational diving for film and photographic productions with a set of requirements to ensure, and promote uniformity of practice in relation to, the occupational health and safety of divers.

1.3 APPLICATION

This Standard applies to persons directly involved in the film or photographic diving operation and industries either employing those persons or supplying equipment for use in connection with the diving operation.

This Standard is intended to be used in conjunction with AS/NZS 2299.1. Requirements in this Standard cover matters specific to film and photographic diving operations, along with procedures that may be applied as alternatives to those in AS/NZS 2299.1 for this type of diving. Where this Standard does not specify any requirements, it is intended that AS/NZS 2299.1 be applied.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 2030 The verification, filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of cylinders for storage and transport of compressed gases
- 2030.1 Part 1: Cylinders for compressed gases other than acetylene
- 2815 Training and certification of occupational divers
- 2815.1 Part 1: SCUBA diving to 30 m
- 2815.2 Part 2: Air diving to 30 m
- 4005 Training and certification of recreational divers
- 4005.1 Part 1: Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving
- 4005.2 Part 2: Recreational SCUBA dive supervisor

AS/NZS

- 2299 Occupational diving operations
- 2299.1 Part 1: Standard operational practice
- 2299.2 Part 2: Scientific diving
- 2299.3 Part 3: Recreational industry diving and snorkelling operations

1.5 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions in AS/NZS 2299.1 and the one below apply.

1.5.1 Production

An operation in which a team of professionals, each allocated individual tasks, complete these tasks to produce the desired end result. Productions may involve one team or multiple units (parts of the team) operating at different locations or times.

SECTION 2 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

2.1 ORGANIZATION

A dive supervisor, appointed in writing, shall organize and monitor diving activities for a production, taking into consideration relevant occupational health and safety legislation.

Consultation shall be undertaken to inform all persons involved in the diving activity of details of the diving activities prior to commencement. The dive supervisor shall obtain the agreement of all personnel involved in diving-related activities in the production before the commencement of any activities. Divers or actors shall not participate in any way or undertake activities with which they are not in agreement.

2.2 OPERATIONS MANUAL, DIVE PLANS AND LOG BOOKS

2.2.1 General

A dive supervisor shall maintain a general diving operations manual and prepare a dive plan for each underwater shoot.

2.2.2 Operations manual

A diving operations manual shall be provided at the dive site, and all persons involved in a diving operation shall be trained and instructed in, and have access to, the diving operations manual.

The diving operations manual shall document procedures for the planning and conduct of diving operations, including (but not limited to) the following:

- (a) Responsibilities, duties and competency of persons involved in the diving operation.
- (b) Operation of plant used in the diving operation.
- (c) Decompression procedures.
- (d) Emergency response plans.

NOTE: Appendix A lists the recommended content for an operations manual.

2.2.3 Dive plan and risk assessment

For each dive involved in a production, the dive supervisor shall prepare a dive plan after conducting a risk assessment. The dive plan shall include—

- (a) the dive team involved;
- (b) the duties of each member of the dive team;
- (c) the dive profiles for each diver;
- (d) any specific hazards and how they are addressed; and
- (e) emergency procedures.

The dive plan shall be recorded.

NOTE: Appendix B provides examples of major and minor productions and photographic shoots and suggestions for when to use a separate dive plan or log book.

2.2.4 Diver's log book

All divers shall maintain a permanent record of all diving undertaken for the duration of the diver's working life.

This permanent record of diving shall include—