

Training Bulletin

A Training and Education Update
for PADI Members Worldwide

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FOURTH QUARTER

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Training Bulletin Required Reading!

This update is the main communication from PADI to you. It announces important training standards and procedures changes and clarifies those that are established. It is a requirement of your membership commitment that you keep abreast of standards by reviewing the information contained in these quarterly updates. Implementation and standards mailing dates vary for members served by different PADI Offices, based, in part, on translation schedules. Check with your PADI Office for more specific information.

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New Specialty — AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation

Released in late July, PADI's newest standardized specialty — AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation — addresses ecological challenges facing coral reefs. Like the Project AWARE Specialty program, all Teaching status PADI Instructors and Assistant Instructors may offer this nondiving course. By teaching this course to snorkelers, divers and other water enthusiasts, you help educate people about the rapid decline of the world's reefs and the conservation measures needed to save this valuable resource.

To conduct the course, you must use the standardized “AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Course Instructor Outline.” The outline includes a Knowledge Review that students complete during the course. All teaching tools for the program are available on an all-inclusive CD-ROM entitled AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Instructional Materials (Product No. 70809). This disc includes the instructor outline, colorful digital lesson guides that are integrated with the *Protect the Living Reef* video (both diver and snorkeler versions), and Project AWARE clip art and brochures.

Alternatively, you can purchase the “AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Instructor Outline” (printed version, Product No. 70242) separately, or download it from the Pros area of www.padi.com. A VHS tape of the *Protect the Living Reef* video (Product No. 60163 NTSC, 63163 PAL) is also available. It includes a 9-minute snorkeler segment followed by a 13-minute segment addressing scuba divers.

The *A.W.A.R.E. – Our World, Our Water* manual (Product No. 70241) is the recommended student text. Chapter Four, Coral Reefs – Rainforests of the Sea, is specific to the specialty, however, the rest of the text is also relevant to the course.

Although the AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty does not require dives for certification, it's a good idea to integrate the program with other PADI Specialty Diver courses such as Peak Performance Buoyancy, AWARE – Fish Identification, Underwater Naturalist or Underwater Photography. Refined buoyancy skills and a deeper appreciation for the marine environment foster involvement in conservation efforts.

Even though you don't need to apply to teach this specialty, you may order an AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation instructor card and wall certificate by contacting the Member Services Department of your PADI Office.

Insert the attached AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Course pages into the “Specialty Diver Courses Instructor Guide” in your PADI *Instructor Manual*.

Download Three PADI Specialty Course Outlines

If you're a Teaching status PADI Instructor or Assistant Instructor, and don't already have the standardized outlines for the three PADI Specialty courses you can conduct without application – the new AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation, Project AWARE and Peak Performance Buoyancy – you can download them from the Pros area of padi.com. (Go to “Training and Education,” and click on the outlines you want.) These three outlines have now been added to the IDC Crew-Pak (Product No. 60034).

More Courses for PADI Junior Divers Ages 10-11

Effective immediately, PADI Junior Open Water Divers, ages 10 and 11, may further their diving adventures by enrolling in certain PADI Specialty courses and Adventure Dives. Although not all 10 and 11 year olds are candidates for continuing education enrollment, taking PADI Specialty courses can be gratifying for those who are diving oriented and have the ability to master course content and skills. This can give 10- and 11-year-old PADI Junior Open Water Divers more opportunity to dive under supervision, earn certifications, and participate in courses with family members. Factors to evaluate in assessing

readiness include maturity, diving ability and desire to learn. Please note that 10- and 11-year-old PADI Junior *Scuba Divers* may not participate in continuing education courses. Change your “Specialty Diver Courses Instructor Guide” and corresponding Specialty Course Instructor Outlines to reflect age 10 prerequisite for the following courses:

- AWARE – Fish Identification
- Boat Diver
- Equipment Specialist
- Peak Performance Buoyancy
- Underwater Naturalist
- Underwater Navigator
- Underwater Photographer

Likewise, it follows that 10- and 11-year-old PADI Junior Open Water Divers may also participate in these Adventure Dives:

- AWARE – Fish Identification
- Boat Diver
- Peak Performance Buoyancy
- Underwater Naturalist
- Underwater Navigator
- Underwater Photographer

A 10- or 11-year-old PADI Junior Open Water Diver who completes any three of these Adventure Dives may be certified as PADI Junior Adventure Diver. Amend the “Adventures In Diving Program Instructor Guide” to reflect this new age prerequisite and the dives these children may participate in.

The PADI Advanced Open Water Diver course minimum age remains 12. One significant reason for this is because of the 12 metre/40-foot maximum depth restriction, 10 and 11 year olds are not eligible to complete the Deep Adventure Dive required for this certification.

Supervision Reminders: When conducting PADI continuing education courses that include 10 and 11 year olds, the dives must be directly supervised by a Teaching-status PADI Instructor or Assistant Instructor.

Remember that the maximum diver-to-instructor ratios for open water training dives with children ages 10-11 is 4:1 or fewer. No more than two children aged 10-11 may be included in the group of four student divers, and this ratio may not be increased with the use of certified assistants. All required documents must be completed and signed by the student and a parent/guardian at the beginning of each course. (See the Fourth Quarter 2000 *Training Bulletin* regarding the Youth Diving: Responsibility and Risks materials.)

Also remember that even after certification as Adventure Divers or PADI Specialty Divers, 10 and 11 year old children must continue to dive with either a parent or PADI professional until age 12 (at which time they must dive with a certified adult).

Underwater Navigation on Dives 2, 3 or 4

The intent of PADI Open Water Diver Course Dive 1 is to give student divers an underwater tour to practice naturally occurring dive skills. Conducting underwater navigation compass swim skill on Dive 1 is inconsistent with this goal. One of several dive flexible skills, underwater navigation may be conducted on either Dives 2, 3 or 4.

Consider conducting this skill after student divers have completed the surface compass navigation skill, so they will already have practice using the compass before applying it the underwater environment.

Note this in the Underwater Navigation with Compass segment of section Four: Open Water Dives of the “Open Water Diver Course Instructor Guide,” as well as on the Dive Flexible Skills slate in the Open Water Aquatic Cue Cards.

Crossover Information at padi.com

More and more divers from around the world visit padi.com everyday. Some are not PADI-certified, and would like to be. To help them figure out which PADI course they may qualify to take, they can find crossover information at www.padi.com. Interested divers can locate their certification from a general list of other diver training organization courses, then determine where they can start in the PADI System. Though PADI does not issue certification cards on the basis of equivalency alone, we want to recognize the diver's experience and training by accepting him into the next level higher PADI course. When the diver successfully completes the PADI course, he becomes PADI-certified and is eligible for PADI continuing education courses.

These divers are directed to the PADI Dive Center and Resort listing on the site. Not only does this provide a service to divers who want to cross over, it sends new customers to you. Access the site and find out for yourself how it works.

Go to padi.com. Click on Courses at the top of the page, then click on Crossing Over to PADI in the green box. You'll then be directed to the Course Flowchart for a list of equivalency certifications for individual PADI courses. You can also link to the equivalency lists when browsing the individual course pages. If you have questions about certifications not listed, contact your PADI Office Training Department.

As you welcome these divers, please remember that for all levels of certification beyond Open Water Diver, you must preassess the divers to make sure they meet the prerequisites and have the knowledge and skill-level necessary to enter the PADI course.

Is Your File Up to Date?

Without accurate member contact information, PADI cannot get member benefits and important standards-related information to you. Be sure to contact PADI every time your postal and email address, and phone or fax numbers change.

You can view the contact information PADI has on file for you by accessing the Pros area of padi.com (go to Members' Toolbox and click on My PADI Information). If anything is missing or inaccurate, contact the Member Services Department of your PADI Office (as listed on the site) with the corrections.

Write Your Own PADI Seal Team AquaMission

Have a fun idea for a new PADI Seal Team AquaMission? Write your own.

This option is especially important if your PADI Seal Team Members are getting close to completing (or have already completed) all 15 AquaMissions. Remember that new AquaMissions must be within the parameters of PADI Seal Team standards, including being appropriate for children aged 8 to 11 and conducted in a swimming pool to a maximum depth of 2-4 meters/6-12 feet.

To expand the program by developing your own AquaMissions, use the PADI Seal Team Specialty AquaMission Application (Product No. 10611). Both PADI Instructors and Assistant Instructors qualify to apply. You can download the PADI Seal Team Specialty AquaMission Application from the Pros area of padi.com, or get it from your PADI Office. Contact your PADI Office for application fees and further information.

Similar to the format outlined in the PADI Seal Team Instructor Guide, specialty AquaMission components must include title, goals, a brief challenge (knowledge development) and pool skills, as well as a brief description of special materials used and Set Up for the AquaMission. After your PADI Office approves your application, you can incorporate your new AquaMission into the PADI Seal Team program. Have PADI Seal Team members log this new AquaMission in their AquaMission Log Book and award a Distinctive Specialty AquaMission sticker for their activity book.

PICs Online Creates New Temp Card with Diver Photo

A new version of the PADI temporary certification card will soon begin appearing in some diver's wallets. This is due to PADI's exclusive PIC Online processing service available to PADI Americas and PADI Canada-served International Resort and Retailer Associations' Members.

One of the PIC Online features is that it automatically issues a photo identification temporary card (8 1/2 x 11 inch size) that is printed out by the PADI Member. As pictured here, this card has only one side.

PIC Online has the advantage of shorter turnaround time because it doesn't rely on traditional mail systems. Future programming will include other PADI Offices as well as access for instructors not affiliated with a PADI Resort or Dive Center.



New BCD Design Works in PADI Courses

A new style of BCD (the Mares Airtrim, and Dacor H.U.B.) is on the market, and you've asked about its use within the PADI Open Water Diver Course. These two BCDs have a few significant differences from traditional BCD models:

- The inflator is located on the lower left side of the BCD;
- BCD deflation is regulated by two dump valves on the upper and lower back side of the BCD which is controlled by a pneumatic system that lets the air escape through the best possible dump valve;
- The oral inflation system is a small hose just above the left side pocket;
- Regulators (primary second stage and alternate air source octopus) are stowed in the side pockets of the BCD.

How does this affect PADI Courses and the PADI Open Water course in particular?

Not that much. There are no changes to performance requirements necessary, however some adaptations should be considered when conducting some skills. The main considerations are listed below:

Confined Water Dive 1

Inflate/Deflate BCD at the surface – The only change here is that for deflating the BCD you do not need to bring the inflator in higher position, you just push the deflation button. There is one manual dump valve with a cord that allows for manual deflation. Both options should be explained to the student divers.

Regulator recovery – As the primary second stage hose comes out of the side pocket from the right side, the regulator falls naturally just in front of the diver when kneeling on the bottom. When throwing it behind the shoulder/back it can be also recovered through the arm sweep method. It might be advisable to do a reverse arm sweep, which makes locating the regulator slightly easier. This technique is also recommended when the regulator hose is below the shoulder and arm.

Alternate Air Source Use – The skill can be performed the same way as with traditional equipment. The only thing to emphasize with H.U.B. or Airtrim users is to locate the octopus in the pocket.

Confined Water Dive 2

Disconnect Low Pressure Inflator – This can be performed as with more traditional inflators, however, it is slightly more difficult to reach the valve. The system for disconnecting the hose is the same. However, the diver should be careful that the hose end does not disappear underneath the pocket.

BCD Oral Inflation/Deflation at the Surface – Oral inflation is performed using the small hose for oral inflation found just above the left pocket. It is stowed in the BCD but can be pulled out to allow for easy oral inflation. Manual deflation is possible through the dump valve described before.

Confined Water Dive 3

Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascent – The only change is that only one hand (instead of both) is held overhead, and the other hand is on the inflator system or the manual dump valve cord to allow for deflation of the BCD as necessary upon ascent.

There are some other skills such as neutral buoyancy/fin pivot with oral inflation that will require similar adaptations. However, since these are simply techniques to meet the performance requirements, there is no problem in using this type of BCD in PADI courses. As is always the case when using equipment different from the usual used by divers, show and inform student divers about more traditional forms of equipment configurations they are likely to encounter.

Online Course Evaluation Questionnaires

In addition to mailing Course Evaluation Questionnaires, PADI Americas and PADI Canada are using email to survey select divers completing PADI courses.

This will streamline the process, reduce cost and cut time delays usually experienced using mail systems exclusively. The survey questions and Quality Management follow-up remain unchanged, however, using email provides an additional means to monitor and improve PADI courses and programs.

This proactive approach to monitoring programs sets PADI apart in the diving community in terms of ensuring a consistent level of service and quality control in PADI courses worldwide.

Reminder

Deep Diver Specialty Course Supervision

The supervisory requirements of the PADI Deep Diver Specialty course Dive One mirror those of the PADI Deep Adventure Dive. Update PADI Deep Diver Specialty Course Instructor Outlines (dated prior to October 2000) to reflect the following:

Student-to-instructor ratio: 8:1, to certified assistant: 4:1. During deep dives, students are to be accompanied by the course instructor or a certified assistant (PADI Instructor, PADI Assistant Instructor or PADI Divemaster). During Open Water Training Dive One, the instructor must be in the water directly supervising the diving activities.

Prior to the introduction of the PADI Adventure Diver course, a PADI Deep Diver Specialty course prerequisite was PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification (or equivalent). This prerequisite ensured that divers enrolled in the specialty had been deep diving under supervision at least once. Since the PADI Deep Diver Specialty course prerequisites have changed to PADI Adventure Diver certification or equivalent, and because the Deep Adventure Dive is optional in the Adventure Diver program, Dive One of the Deep Diver Specialty could be a student diver's first deep diving experience. Therefore, it must be directly supervised by the instructor.

Common Questions

- Q.** *May I take divers through a short swim through or archway during training dives?*
- A.** Yes, there are circumstances when it is OK to do this during PADI training dives. Although the “General Standards and Procedures Instructor Guide” states, “Do not conduct open water training dives or Discover Scuba Diving experience dives in caves, caverns, under ice or any situation where direct vertical access to the surface is not possible,” it’s within reason to swim with divers under archways or coral/rock formations that are short, very easy to swim through, well lit, open and pose only a very brief overhead obstruction — as might be the case when directing an ascent from a dive with a moored boat overhead.

When deciding whether or not to take divers through such an area, weigh these factors and make conservative judgments: 1) While many lava tubes and coral swim throughs are large, short (in distance) and open on each end, some are not. These lava tubes and coral formations may be of sufficient length to be classified as a cavern and even a cave. They present the same hazards of both environments and require specialized training. 2) Are your divers Discover Scuba Diving participants or maybe Rescue Course student divers? Consider diver experience and training when selecting your dive site and whether or not you’ll take them under an archway or through a rock formation. 3) Consider how conditions can affect the swim through—is there a lot of silt or debris that could kick up and block vision? Is there a strong surge or surf overhead that could push divers into sharp marine growth? 4) In your briefing, determine whether or not the divers are comfortable making a dive that involves a swim through. Ask the divers in a way that allows them to decline without fear of embarrassment if they are uncomfortable with the dive.

- Q.** *May I conduct Dive Flexible Surface Skills during any PADI Open Water Diver course open water dive?*

- A.** Yes, provided students have mastered the skills during the confined water dives prior to applying them in open water. If you choose to incorporate dive flexible surface skills in Dive 1, conduct them at the conclusion of the dive, if possible, so they don’t detract from the dive’s fun and excitement. Dive flexible skills give you and your students several options and allow you to take advantage of individual dive logistics. For specific suggestions, see the “Dive Flexible Skills” segment in Section Four of the “Open Water Diver Course Instructor Guide.”

The two underwater dive flexible skills, Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascent and Underwater Compass Navigation may be conducted on Dives 2, 3 or 4 only.

- Q.** *Is a PADI Scuba Review program participant required to sign a PADI Medical Statement?*

- A.** Yes. Noncertified divers participating in a PADI Scuba Review program must complete and sign the PADI Medical Statement, as well as the PADI Liability Release (Certificate of Understanding) and Express Assumption of Risk form and PADI Safe Diving Practices Statement of Understanding before entering the water (parent or guardian signature required for participants younger than legal age).

Certified divers must complete and sign the Certified Diver Experience Programs Liability Release and Assumption of Risk form, and the PADI Medical Statement. Certified divers taking Scuba Review may have been away from diving for awhile, and this offers another opportunity to reevaluate diving fitness. Any “yes” answers on the medical statement indicate the diver must be referred to a physician for examination.

- Q.** *Are tours for fun and experience required on each dive in the PADI Open Water Diver Course?*

- A.** Yes. Open Water Diver Course Dive 1 is essentially a tour in which student divers acclimate to the local open water environment. After this first relaxed exposure to the

underwater world, divers are ready for additional dives, motivated to do well and expecting to have more fun. The tour portion of the remaining dives enriches the overall experience by giving new divers more time to explore and learn about the local environment. It also gives them more practice with the essential skills of adjusting their buoyancy, swimming and maintaining buddy contact under real diving conditions.

How much time you devote to tours depends upon air consumption, depth, water temperature, etc. Some instructors prefer to integrate tours and skill practice. Careful planning makes it possible to conduct a short tour between each skill while showing divers a good portion of the dive site and ending up back at the ascent line to finish with ascent skills.

Student divers need dive time to gain confidence, experience and increase skill level. This is why you also have the option of conducting excursion dives during the Open Water Diver Course. (See the Special Issue January 2000 *Training Bulletin* for more information.)



Any training related questions regarding PADI Standards and procedures may be directed to your local PADI Office, or to these individuals at PADI Americas:

Manager, Training and Quality Management: Brad Smith, ext. 224, email brads@padi.com

Supervisor, Training and Quality Management: Steve Mortell, ext. 445, email stevem@padi.com;

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Director, Publishing and Education: John Kinsella, ext. 266, email johnk@padi.com

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AWARE - Coral Reef Conservation

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Appendix

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All standards, required activities and performance objectives found in this text appear in **boldface** print. **The boldface will assist you in easily identifying those requirements that must be adhered to when you conduct a PADI Specialty Diver course.** All supporting rationale, general recommendations and how-to information are not bolded. You'll find information concerning how to apply to become a Specialty Instructor in the General Standards and Procedures section.

Twenty Nine

AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Course

COURSE STANDARDS AND OVERVIEW

The AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course teaches divers, snorkelers and nondivers about the vital role coral reefs play in the marine environment and how these ecosystems are currently threatened. The course familiarizes participants with the current state of the world's coral reefs and explains how individuals can help protect the living reef from further decline.

The program is a nondiving course that only contains classroom presentations. You may conduct it as a stand-alone program, however, it's recommended that you offer it in conjunction with other PADI programs.

Students begin the course by reading Chapter Four of the *A.W.A.R.E – Our World, Our Water* book (if available in a language they understand.) They also watch the *Protect the Living Reef* video – diver or snorkeler version either independently or with you. You elaborate on course information using the colorful, photo-filled lesson guides. By completing and reviewing the program's Knowledge Review, students may earn the AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty certification

Prerequisites

To enroll in the AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course, participants need only have an interest in the aquatic world. There is no minimum age or experience requirement.

Instructor Supervision

The AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course may be conducted by all Teaching status PADI Assistant Instructors (certified/upgraded since 1995) and PADI Instructors. **When conducting the course, the instructor must use the standardized AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Course Instructor Outline.**

The maximum student-to-instructor is limited only by the instructor's discretion and facility size.

Considerations for Training

There are no training dives or skill requirements to complete this course, however, it's highly recommended that you conduct this course in conjunction with other PADI Specialty Diver course such as Peak Performance Buoyancy, AWARE – Fish Identification, Underwater Naturalist, Underwater Photography and other programs such as Discover Snorkeling, Skin Diver course, etc. These programs provide the skills practice and practical application of environmentally-sound diving and snorkeling techniques.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course covers information about coral reef distribution, diversity, formation and ecology. It also reveals factors that threaten reefs and discusses conservation measures to protect these living resources. **To conduct the AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course, include the following:**

1. **An introduction to Project AWARE.**
2. **The importance of coral reefs to marine ecosystems and coastal areas.**
3. **Coral reef and reef inhabitant biology, association and competition.**
4. **The status of the world's coral reefs and detrimental land-based and ocean-based activities that put reefs in peril.**
5. **Suggestions and information about actions that may help to protect reefs, including responsible diving and snorkeling practices.**

RECOGNITION PROCEDURES

Students may receive either AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty certification card or a Project AWARE Certificate of Recognition or both.

To obtain a certification card from PADI, the certifying instructor submits a completed, signed PIC envelope to the appropriate PADI Office. It's recommended that you encourage students to obtain a colorful Project AWARE card (rather than the standard certification card) by submitting a donation to the Project AWARE Foundation.

When issuing a Project AWARE Certificate of Recognition, the instructor signs the certificate and fills in the appropriate information including the student's name, accomplishment and date.

KEY STANDARDS

Prerequisite Certification: None

Minimum Age: None

Recommended Minimum Course Duration: 2 hours

Student-to-Instructor ratio: Not applicable

Minimum Open Water Training: None required

Minimum Instructor Rating: Teaching status PADI Assistant Instructor*

***Note:** All Teaching status PADI Assistant Instructors and Instructors with a higher rating may conduct the AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course without applying for approval or obtaining an AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Instructor certification.