

## Technical Requirements for Adding Technical Diving Activities to Dive Centers and Safari Yachts

Technical diving activities may be added to a dive center or safari yacht that holds a valid license from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, based on a request from the center's technical manager. The inspection must be initiated after submitting all required documents according to the approved protocol.

### **1. Services Offered by Dive Centers and Safari Yachts for Technical Diving:**

- Daily technical diving trips.
- Safari technical diving trips (on safari yachts licensed by the MOTA).
- Rental of technical diving equipment.
- Mixing and selling technical diving gas blends to facilities licensed by the MOTA.
- Organizing technical diving and instructor training courses.

### **2. Facility Requirements:**

- The technical diving center must be affiliated with a licensed dive center or safari yacht and meet all technical requirements approved by the MOTA and the Chamber of Diving and Watersports (CDWS). The facility must include:
  - Instruction board in a visible location (including both general and technical diving instructions)
  - List of technical diving courses
  - Environmental guidelines, regulations, and risk notices related to technical diving
  - Gas mixing unit or contract with a licensed gas filling station
  - Depth level chart for technical diving
  - Storage area for technical diving equipment Separated from recreational diving equipment

### **3. Depth Levels for Technical Diving Activities:**

- **Level 1:**
  - Advanced Enriched Air Diver OR Equivalent – Max depth: 40 m
  - Decompression Procedures Diver OR Equivalent – Max depth: 45 m



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- Extended Range Diver OR Equivalent – Max depth: 55 m
- **Level 2:**
  - Normoxic Trimix Diver (entry level) – Max depth: 60 m
- **Level 3:**
  - Hypoxic Trimix Diver (advanced) – Max depth: 100 m

• **In case of a desire to add rebreather diving at any of the levels mentioned above:**

– A certified Rebreather Instructor must be present, and the maximum depth is determined based on the type of device used and the certification of the technical manager or one of the instructors working at the center.

#### 4. Technical Manager Requirements:

- **Minimum requirement to add technical diving activity. The technical manager must hold an Extended Range Instructor certification or equivalent from an approved organization.**
- Have at least two years of experience teaching technical diving or have taught five different courses
- Hold an advanced gas blender certification (including air, oxygen, helium) if offering gas blending services

#### 5. Required Records and Documentation:

The technical manager must take the necessary steps to review and become familiar with the professional standards and protocols outlined in the inspection manual. This ensures the facility can demonstrate its ability to operate safely while delivering services and complying with international standards. Then, the following documents should be uploaded from the dive center technical manager's profile,

- 1- Copy of CDWS cards for the manager and staff, with a list of names, details, and copies of their TEC diving certifications including freelance staff (even if been hired for one time only)
- 2- Copy of practitioner registration document templates (templates used at the center/yacht: liability waiver / medical declaration / visitor check-in log) according to the organization's instructions and confirming the practitioner's signature on the instructions of the activity being conducted; it is acceptable for the documents to be blank (and when the



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- documents are filled in, they must include at least the full name—two parts for foreigners and at least three parts for Egyptians— Passport/I.D—date of birth, certification level, issuing organization, number of logged dives, and date of last dive)
- 3- Equipment registration and maintenance log including types, validity, and dates of technical inspections and repairs (if any), indicating the date of the last maintenance performed for each item (see the suggested templates available on the CDWS website).
  - 4- Operating and maintenance log for air compressors and gas mixing units, along with the gas blend records.
  - 5- Cylinder list showing specifications (metal type / liter capacity / serial number / production date / date of last visual inspection / date of last hydrostatic test) and validity, including medical oxygen cylinders or other gases used in gas blending. The serial number in the list must match the number on the validity certificates issued by a CDWS-approved maintenance station. All cylinders belonging to the center must be marked with the facility's name and logo, clearly displayed on the lower third behind the air outlet size 30v\*20hcm.
  - 6- Dive plans and corresponding gas blends and depths for each plan, signed by the practitioner.
  - 7- Notification form issued by CDWS and approved by the ministry, used daily by the facility to conduct shore or boat-based activities, indicating the date, guide/instructor, dive sites, visitor names, accommodation, ID verification, and services provided.
  - 8- Copy of the dive registration form, whether for shore or boat dives.
  - 9- Incident and accident log (incident and accident registration form).
  - 10- Certificate of gas blend preparation or contract with a certified station.
  - 11- A written emergency plan must be provided, containing at minimum the following information for each site where diving activities are conducted:

–Resuscitation, first aid, and evacuation procedures.

–Use of medical oxygen supply units in emergencies.

- Contact information for emergency medical consultation (such as the diving emergency hotline) and nearby medical centers (including details on the availability of a recompression chamber in case of recreational diving activities).

**Note: Due to the mandatory minimum equipment requirements and required periodic maintenance, the center/yacht must notify CDWS with an updated statement in case of adding or removing any equipment, including the date of last maintenance or the date the new equipment was put into service, to avoid violating licensing conditions**



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and approved technical standards.

## 6. General Requirements for Technical Dive Centers:

- Certified technical diving instructors holding a valid professional license issued by the Chamber and approved by the Ministry must be used for training/guiding underwater at the same level or higher than the diving activity designated for the practitioners.
- Gas blending technicians must obtain a valid gas blending certification from one of the organizations approved by the Ministry and the Chamber, which is divided into:
  - 1- Gas blending certificate if providing enriched air or oxygen mixtures.
  - 2- Advanced gas blending certificate if providing multiple mixtures based on helium gas.
  - 3- Technical diving gas blending methods may be by partial pressure, continuous flow, or a combination of both.
- Compliance with safety standards, international standards, and regulations set by the Ministry and the Chamber is required, as well as adherence to the guidelines and instructions issued by training agencies regarding gas mixtures and appropriate depth for the activity performed.
- A surface support diver must be present at the site during dives deeper than 60 meters. This diver does not need to be a technical instructor but must be capable of executing the emergency plan procedures after reviewing them with the technical manager and the instructor conducting the technical dive.
- All technical diving cylinders must be clearly labeled with the maximum operating depth (MOD), the percentage of the gas mixture inside the cylinder, and the diver's name.
- Use regulators and cylinders specifically designed and prepared for oxygen use and certified as O2 clean for oxygen concentrations above 40%.
- Follow the instructor-to-student ratios as defined by the training agency.
- Ensuring that for all technical diving operations, each diver must be equipped with at least one standard surface marker buoy (SMB) and emergency SMB of different colors (minimum of two)



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## 7. Technical Diving Training Organizations:

Please refer to the approved technical diving training organizations listed at the following link:

<https://www.cdws.travel/diving-associations>

These include but are not limited to:

TDI, IANTD, PADI, GUE, ANDI, IART, BSAC, SSI XR

2- Other training agencies must submit a request along with their training materials and standards to the Chamber of Diving and Watersports for review and approval.

3- Facilities may organize technical diving activities only up to the approved level as mentioned above.

## 8. Equipment Required for Licensing Technical Diving Activities:

- Gas blending unit suitable for the licensed activity level.
- Minimum 4 twin-cylinder sets with isolation valves and lift devices.
- Minimum 8 oxygen-clean cylinders with proper mounting.
- Minimum 2 oxygen analyzers.
- Minimum 1 helium analyzer (for Trimix/Heliox levels).
- Minimum 8 balanced regulators.
- Minimum 8 oxygen- O2 compatible.
- Minimum 2 dive computers or timers with dive planning charts.
- Technical dive planning software (e.g., Deco Planner, GAP, V-Planner).
- Minimum 4 buoyancy compensators suitable for technical diving.
- Minimum 8 SMBs with different colors or markings.
- Minimum 1 emergency oxygen cylinder with continuous flow for **30 minutes at 15 L/min, and it must operate using a continuous flow and on-demand system.**
- First aid kit appropriate for the activity and location,
- (If rebreather diving is added) Minimum 2 rebreather units and 4 associated cylinders



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## 9. General Requirements and Notes:

- Note: For all technical diving activities, the maximum PPO<sub>2</sub> for diving with gas mixtures is 1.4 ATA, and the maximum PPO<sub>2</sub> during decompression stops with mixtures is 1.6 ATA.
- **Warning:** CDWS does not recommend or support any diving activities deeper than the depths specified above for each level.
- For any technical diving activity deeper than the limits mentioned above—whether using open-circuit systems or closed-circuit rebreathers—divers and the technical manager of the dive center bear full responsibility for their activities, personal safety, and the safety of others.
- In all cases of conducting technical diving activities, the following must be prepared, reviewed, and approved by the technical manager before the activity is carried out:
  - 1- Date of the activity
  - 2- Diver training qualifications
  - 3- Record of previous dives and diver experience
  - 4- Dive plan and gas mixture
  - 5- Dive site
  - 6- Proof of training qualifications for the support team (if involved).
  - 7- List of emergency equipment available on site and the emergency plan.
  - 8- Proof of dive insurance covering the team to the maximum planned depth.



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