

ADAS MUTUAL RECOGNITION POLICY

- It is the policy of the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) that the competency of commercial diving personnel certificated by ADAS will meet the standards described in AS/NZS Standard 2815 Parts 1 – 4 or an equivalent combination of training and experience.
- A certificate issued by a foreign jurisdiction may represent a combination of training and experience which gives the holder a competency equivalent to that described in the appropriate section of AS/NZS Standard 2815 Parts 1 – 4.
- The decision that a specific certificate issued by a foreign jurisdiction represents a combination of training and experience which gives the holder a competency equivalent to that described in the appropriate section of AS/NZS Standard 2815 Parts 1 – 4 shall be made by the Executive Director of ADAS.
- After a certificate has been accepted as equivalent to an ADAS certificate, the Executive Director will obtain assurance from the jurisdiction which issued the certificate that they will advise ADAS if the requirements to obtain the certificate are changed in any way.
- Holders of a foreign certificate which has been accepted by the Board of Directors as equivalent to an ADAS certificate are eligible to apply for the equivalent certificate issued by ADAS.
- Equivalent certificates issued by ADAS shall be issued for five years, regardless of the period of validity of the equivalent foreign certificate
- ADAS accepts that certificates issued by the Health and Safety Executive of the United Kingdom (HSE) before 1998 represented a combination of training and experience which gave the holder a competency equivalent to that described in the appropriate section of AS/NZS Standard 2815 Parts 1 – 4. Holders of HSE certificates issued after 1998 must demonstrate that they have achieved the bottom times required by the AS/NZS Standard 2815 Parts 1 – 4 before they can be certified by ADAS.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AUSTRALIANS WISHING TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING AT A COMMERCIAL DIVER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT OVERSEAS.

The Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) has important relationships and in some cases signed mutual agreements with diving regulators overseas. We are active participants in the International Diving Regulators Forum (IDRF) which involves the national certification bodies of Australia, Canada, France, Norway, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Through these relationships we recognise that some foreign certificates testify to diver competencies which are substantially equivalent to those described in the Standards Australia Standard AS 2815 Parts 1 – 4 - *Training and certification of occupational divers* (i.e., the standard to which ADAS certifies divers).

In spite of these relationships, and our acceptance of some foreign certificates held by experienced commercial divers, Australians who intend to go overseas to attend commercial diver training establishment should be aware that not all overseas initial diver training meets Australian standards. The Australian Standard AS 2815 specifies the time required to complete the appropriate training for a given level of competency, and the bottom times required for practical aspects of diver training. For example, for AS 2815 Part 3 (equivalent to HSE Part 1), the candidate must offer proof of 30 hours bottom time conducted over a minimum of 12 weeks.

Many overseas diver training establishments offer diver training courses which are shorter than the time specified in AS 2815 Parts 1 – 4 and offer sometimes significantly less bottom time than that required by AS 2815.

Australians whose initial training does not substantially meet the requirements of AS 2815 will not be eligible for ADAS certification. In order to be certified by ADAS, divers returning from an overseas diver training course may be required to undergo further training to ensure that they meet Australian standards.

Australians approaching overseas training establishments should make the establishment aware of their specific needs for certification.

If you have any concerns or questions about whether a particular dive course meets the requirements of ADAS, don't hesitate to contact the ADAS office at:

Email enquiries@adas.org.au
Phone +61 2 6689 5656