



15. Full Face Mask Diver

15.1 Introduction

The purpose of this course is to train divers with the necessary procedures, knowledge and skills to safely dive with a full face mask.

15.2 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty

15.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of the subject matter

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

15.4 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18, 15 with parental consent

15.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

1. Two dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc. to be figured out and logged

Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

15.6 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment



3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
 - b. *SDI Medical Statement* Form

Upon successful completion of this specialty the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the SDI Diver Registration Form to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website

15.7 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual in addition to the full face mask

15.8 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:

1. Purpose
 - a. Diver safety
 - b. Communications
2. Advantages
 - a. Increased diver safety
 - i. Contaminated water
 - ii. Winter diving
 - b. Communications
 - c. Corrective lenses
3. Disadvantages
 - a. Increased air consumption
 - b. Buoyancy
 - c. Bulky
4. Types
 - a. Appropriate/Inappropriate
 - b. Scuba quick connect/disconnect
 - c. Surface supplied
5. Techniques/Procedures
 - a. Donning
 - i. In water vs. out of water
 - ii. Strap adjustment
 - iii. Skirt seal
 - b. Diving with a full face mask
 - i. Equalization



- ii. Buoyancy
 - iii. Removal and replacement underwater
 - iv. Alternate air source use
 - v. Spare mask
 - vi. Surface options
 - vii. Surface valve
6. Underwater Communications
- a. Types of communication equipment
 - i. Push-to-talk (PTT)
 - ii. Voice activated (VOX)
 - iii. Hardwire/Tether
 - iv. Battery Failure
7. User/Field Maintenance and Care
8. Authorized servicing/preventive maintenance
9. After use

15.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1
 - a. Dive plan
 - b. Equipment set up
 - c. Proper weighting
 - d. Equalization techniques
 - e. Clearing a partially flooded mask
 - f. Remove and replace full face mask underwater
 - g. Ascent and exit
 - h. Log dive
2. Open Water Dive 2
 - a. Dive plan
 - b. Remove mask and utilization of alternate air source
 - c. Alternate air source ascent
 - d. Ascent and exit
 - e. Log dive
 - f. Proper donning and adjustment
 - g. Establish buoyancy and demonstration of buoyancy control
 - h. Successfully switch to a back up mask
 - i. On the surface switching from open to close
 - j. Free Flowing Full Face Mask