

Possibility to act in case of corona due to missing dives to maintain the licence "Certified Research Diver / European Scientific Diver".

Due to the Corona pandemic, many companies and institutes have been unable to offer scientific diving since February/March 2020. At present, scientific diving operations are resuming in some companies, other companies are still closed. Many companies and institutes are now facing the problem that their scientific divers cannot prove that they have completed the 12 dives of at least 300 minutes under water as required by DGUV R 010-023, as they have not been able to enter the water since March 2020. To solve this problem in-house, the KFT and representatives of the responsible professional associations have agreed on possible alternative procedures.

In principle, however, the procedure for regaining diving qualification as specified in the DGUV R 101-023, paragraph 5.5.4, of the rules and regulations of the employers' liability insurance association applies.

"Every research diver must carry out 12 dives within 12 months, 6 of which must be dives under operating conditions, with a total diving time of at least 300 minutes, and must have this confirmed in the diving service logbook. If the research diver does not meet these requirements, a recognised training organisation (see Appendix 3) shall verify that the research diver possesses the necessary practical skills before reassignment. The verification shall be confirmed in the diving service logbook".

The objective of this section of the regulation is to ensure that research divers maintain their skills for safe diving.

Alternative:

In the absence of a maximum of 6 dives and a maximum of 150 minutes of diving to maintain diving competence in the period from October 2019 - September 2020, measures should be taken. The goals stated in the DGUV rule are considered standard, but can be compensated by an equivalent measure. What does this mean for the risk assessment of those responsible? There is a risk that if the requested dives are not completed, the practice will be lost and the divers will be endangered on their next assignment.

The KFT recommends a possible procedure in consultation with the BG BAU:

One measure could be dives and corresponding underwater times which reproduce regular operation. For example, dives which realistically represent the operating conditions, but are carried out under special conditions. During the training dives, simple science-like training units should be carried out. The training dives shall be logged in the logbook with a note. For example, "Dives to maintain operational capability (in-house due to Corona)".

As of 25.07.2020 (Research Diving Commission Germany - the Speakers' Council)