

**MEMORANDUM OF PRINCIPLE AND RATIONALE**  
**Supplementary of the Ministerial Regulation on Prescribing**  
**the Standards of Administration and Management of**  
**Occupational Safety, Health and Environment**  
**in Relation to Diving Work B.E. 2548 (2005)**

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**PRINCIPLE**

To define the standard for the administration and management of the occupational safety, health and environment in relation to diving work.

**RATIONALE**

Whereas certain category of the place of business requires its employees to work underwater under the environment which may be harmful to health of the employees; it is expedient that the employees be protected from dangers resulting from performing of the work; together with Section 103 of the Labor Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998); which empower the Minister of Labor to issue a ministerial regulation prescribing the standards with which the employer shall comply in the course of administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment. Hence, for the sake of safety of the employees who are working in relation to the diving work, it is imperative necessity to issue this Ministerial Regulation.

**CHAPTER 1**  
**DIVING WORK**

**Clause 2**

This Ministerial Regulation is applicable to the diving work, which is performed underwater at the depth from 10 feet; but not exceeding three hundred feet deep.

**Clause 3**

The employer who requires an employee to perform diving work at any particular place or change the place of performing diving work shall report such place to the Director-General or to the persons designated by the Director-General in advance and not less than seven days before performing the work by using the report form as prescribed and announced by the Director-General.

**Clause 4**

The employer must provide physical examination regularly at scheduled time for the employee who performs diving work; and provide the employee health check up cards according to the criteria as prescribed by the Director-General.

**Clause 5**

The employee who is assigned by the employer to perform diving work;

- (1) Must not be under eighteen years of age;
- (2) Must be of sound health with strong physical body and not be infected with diseases as prescribed by the Director-General;
- (3) Must possess knowledge, ability and working experience in the Diving work; and successfully pass a test according to the course prescribed and announced by the Director-General.

## Clause 6

The employee who is assigned by the employer to perform diving work shall do as follows:

### (1) Head of divers:

- (a) Produce a work plan and control the diving including the work plan for communications between employees who work under the water and those who work on the water surface;
- (b) Produce a plan for prevention of dangers that may arise from the diving work;
- (c) Clarify and assign the duty of each diver, and of each employee according to the work plan; including the method of performing diving work; the prevention of dangers that may arise from performing diving work; and to ensure that every diver checks his respective diving tools, instruments and equipment to be in ready condition for performing diving work.
- (1) (d) Check the readiness of the divers, tools, instruments and equipment before diving, before doing the diving work and check the quantity of air supply in the diving tank before and after performing diving work;
- (d) Control the time of working underwater from the start of diving, the time spent under the water; and to the time of going up to the water surface; and the time of rest at various levels of depth, and the break time before starting further work under water including a period of next diving;
- (e) Be present and control at all time throughout the course of performing diving work.

### (2) Diver Escort:

- (a) Thoroughly study and make clear understanding in the assigned work plan;
- (a) (b) Discuss for better understanding of the work plan, the communication plan; and the plan for prevention of dangers that may happen to the divers;
- (b) Check diving equipments and assist dressing of the diving gear for the divers and the Ready-to-Dive Divers;
- (c) Record the quantity of air-supply in the air tank before and after diving, and report every record to the Head of Diver;

### (3) Divers:

- (a) Thoroughly study and make clear understanding in the assigned work plan;
- (b) Check diving tools, instruments and equipments to be in a ready condition for performing diving work;
- (c) Strictly comply with the work plan, rules and criteria of diving and safety measures in diving; in particular, the surface rising plan; by having safety stops at various levels of depth as to the defined time.

### (4) Ready-to-Dive Divers:

- (a) Get ready to provide help to divers according to the instructions of the Head of Divers;
- (b) Check diving equipments to ensure that it is in ready condition for diving.

### (5) Controller of air supply and communication:

- (a) Check and control the system of air supplying to divers in different depth;
- (b) Communicate between divers and the Head of Divers.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **SAFETY PROTECTION IN DIVING**

#### **Clause 7**

In performing diving work, the employer shall manage to ensure that the employees work in compliance with the Table of Diving and Decompression Standard, including a break for reconditioning the physical body before performing the next diving, according to the criteria prescribed and announced by the Director-General.

#### **Clause 8**

The employer shall arrange for the availability of underwater medical nurse, underwater medical doctor; and equipment related to the performance of diving work as prescribed in the Table annexed to this Ministerial Regulation.

#### **Clause 9**

The employer shall arrange for the availability of first-aid services and a hundred percent of oxygen supply, together with an oxygen mask, to help the diver throughout the course of diving.

#### **Clause 10**

The employee whose work is in relation to diving may refuse to dive at any time if it is deemed that the diving may pose dangers to life, physical injury, or harms to health of the diver.

#### **Clause 11**

The employer and the Head of Divers shall issue an order to an employee to stop or quit the diving in the following circumstances:

- (1) When the Diver Escort and the diver are unable to communicate with each other;
- (2) When the diver is necessary to use the reserved air-supply from the oxygen tank or the emergency air-supply;
- (3) When the employer or the Head of Divers considers that diving in such area is not safe.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **EQUIPMENT FOR DIVING WORK**

#### **Clause 12**

The employer shall arrange diving equipment as follows:

- (1) Scuba diving equipment at least consists of the followings:
  - (a) Air tank;
  - (b) Weight belt
  - (c) Regulator
  - (d) Dept gauge
  - (e) Pressure gauge
  - (f) Diving suit
  - (g) Life preserver or Buoyancy compensator;

- (h) Life line
- (i) Fins
- (j) Submersible wrist watch
- (k) Dive knife
- (l) Octopus
- (m) Mask

(2) Scuba diving equipment using surface air supply at least consists of the followings:

- (a) Emergency gas supply
- (b) Compressor
- (c) Diving suit
- (d) Harness
- (e) Weight
- (f) Fins or Boots
- (g) Control console assembly
- (h) Air bank
- (i) Dive knife
- (j) Umbilicals
- (k) Helmet or mask

The diving equipment for diving work pursuant to Paragraph One shall be of the standard as prescribed and announced by the Director-General.

**Clause 13**

The employer shall maintain and inspect the diving equipment as prescribed in the manual of the manufacturer of each type of the diving equipment.

Given on this 8th day of March 2005

(Mrs. Uraivan Thienthong)

Minister of Labor

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**TABLE PRESCRIBING THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES,  
UNDERWATER MEDICINE NURSE AND DOCTOR,  
AND DIVING EQUIPMENT**

| No. | Diving depth                                   | Apparatus used for diving work                                                                           | Number of Persons Involved |               |       |                      |                                             |                          |                           |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|     |                                                |                                                                                                          | Head of Divers             | Diver Escorts | Diver | Ready-to-Dive Divers | Controller of Air Supply and Communications | Underwater Medical Nurse | Underwater Medical Doctor |
| 1   | From 10 feet but not exceeding 20 feet         |                                                                                                          | 1                          | -             | 1     | -                    | -                                           | -                        | -                         |
| 2   | Exceeding 20 feet but not exceeding 40 feet    | Scuba tank                                                                                               | 1                          | 1             | 2     | 1                    | -                                           | -                        | -                         |
| 3   | Exceeding 40 feet but not exceeding 190 feet   | A. Scuba tank, or                                                                                        | 1                          | 1             | 2     | 1                    | 1                                           | -                        | -                         |
|     |                                                | B. surface supply                                                                                        | 1                          | 1             | 2     | 1                    | 1                                           | -                        | -                         |
| 4   | Exceeding 130 feet; but not exceeding 190 feet | A. Scuba tank, or                                                                                        | 1                          | 2             | 2     | 1                    | 1                                           | 1                        | -                         |
|     |                                                | B. surface supply, and<br>C. Pressure tank                                                               | 1                          | 2             | 2     | 1                    | 1                                           | 1                        | -                         |
| 5   | Exceeding 190 feet; but not exceeding 300 feet | A. A bottle-type scuba-Scuba tank diving equipment, or<br>B. Surface Air Supply, and<br>C. Pressure tank | 1                          | 2             | 2     | 1                    | 1                                           | 1                        | 1                         |

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