



Comhairle F6-Thuinn
Irish Underwater Council

Course & Tests Procedure: 403



Diver Grades

Diver Equivalence Booklet

Version: 2.0

An explanatory booklet for divers
certified by other federations
who wish to register
to dive with Comhairle F6-Thuinn



Document Control

This document has been prepared to explain fully the structure and prerequisites of the Comhairle F6-Thuinn diving grades.

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|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
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| 12 Feb 2008 | 1.1.0 | DR 2615 | Updates from Technical Commission |
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Section 1 Introduction

This booklet introduces incoming divers who have completed all or most of their diver certification with other federations to the Comhairle F6-Thuinn Diver Equivalences Policy

It also introduces the Equivalent Knowledge Sessions and how to progress your diving career within the Comhairle F6-Thuinn club and certification structure. As a certified diver, your current certification will be offered equivalence at one of the following levels:

| Supervised Diver (Trainee Diver) | Autonomous Diver (Club Diver) | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) |
|--|---|--|
| you may only dive under the guidance of a more qualified diver | you may dive with another diver of the same grade or higher | you may lead any other grade of diver |
| you may operate as if certified at Trainee Diver | you may operate as if certified at Club Diver | you may operate as if certified at Leading Diver |

1.1 Scope

The scope of this booklet is:

- Incoming divers who have never been members of Comhairle F6-Thuinn
- Divers whose membership has been interrupted by at least one year during which time they have received training from another federation
- All non instructor diving grades

1.2 Exceptions to this policy

Any diver presenting to a club and claiming equivalence for a grade that falls outside this policy should submit a copy of an up to date logbook and certification record to the Club Diving Officer who will contact the National Diving Officer for clarification.

1.3 Federations

Federations covered are:

- British Sub Aqua Club BSAC
- Professional Association of Dive Instructors PADI
- National Association of Underwater Instructors NAUI
- Sub Aqua Association SAA
- International Training SDI / TDI / ERDI
- International Association of Nitrox & Technical Divers IANTD
- International Technical Diving Agency ITDA



- Scuba Schools International

SSI



Section 2 How to apply for CFT Membership

2.1 Registration

All divers must register with Comhairle F6-Thuinn each year.

2.1.1 First Time Registration

You need to complete a **“Registration Form for Divers”** with full details of your diving career to date.

You need to provide evidence of your current certifications. Please show your certifications and your log book to your Club Diving Officer and provide copies of both that can be certified and submitted for registration.

All divers must undergo a “Fitness to dive” medical examination as directed by the Medical Commission.

Initially you will be registered as an “Initial Supervised Member” until completion of the Equivalent Knowledge Sessions

2.1.2 Equivalence Certification

On completion of the Equivalent Knowledge Sessions your Club Diving Officer will submit a certificate request form to head office. A “Certificate of Alternate Training” will be issued for your logbook to confirm your operating level. This certificate should be fixed on the page for that grade level – i.e. the Autonomous Diver on the Club Diver page ...

Where you are claiming a recognised grade, your Club Diving Officer will include this on the Equivalence form and it will be processed at the same time. The claimed certificate will be issued with the “Certificate of Alternate Training”. It should be fixed in the appropriate page of the logbook.

2.1.3 CMAS Brevet

A CMAS brevet is issued to divers who complete a Comhairle F6-Thuinn brevet course and examination successfully. A CMAS brevet is not issued to recognise Diver Equivalences.

The Comhairle F6-Thuinn brevet courses are:

- Trainee Diver, CMAS One Star
- Club Diver, CMAS Two Stars
- Leading Diver, CMAS Three Stars
- National Diver. CMAS Four Stars



2.2 Active Diver Certificate

All divers must adhere to the Fitness to Dive recommendation and maintain an up to date Active Diver Certificate as defined below.

2.2.1 Reference: Technical Commission Rules and Recommendations

Section A – Fitness to Dive

- 1 Dives to depths greater than 20 metres should only be carried out by Active Divers.
- 2 A diver is not considered to be an Active Diver if he/she has been laid off from diving for 13 weeks (90 days) or more.
- 3 Where a lay off from diving of 13 weeks or more has occurred, 3 other snorkels (minimum 30 minutes duration) should be carried out prior to Scuba diving. The first 3 Scuba dives should be limited to a maximum depth of 20 metres.

2.3 Progression after Equivalence is Granted

Having joined a club you may wish to progress your dive training. We fully endorse this and encourage your progression. In all cases, the full published pre-requisites must be adhered to. Progression is defined as follows:

| Supervised Diver (Trainee Diver) | Autonomous Diver (Club Diver) | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁴ |
|--|---|---|
| Club Diver programme ⁶ Continue your diving career according to published guidelines | Boat Handling; Rescue Diver; Nitrox Diver; Extended Range Diver; Gas Blender; Advanced Club Diver, Leading Diver ⁵ You must be 17 years old | Nitrox Diver; Extended Range Diver; Gas Blender. Instructor Development Programme ⁷ |

While CFT encourages all divers to upgrade their skills, no further training is required – you may continue to dive at this level indefinitely



Section 3 Preparing to Dive with Comhairle F6-Thuinn

On joining the Comhairle F6-Thuinn club structure from another federation, it will be necessary for you to complete a number of Equivalent Knowledge Sessions to ensure that you are operating according to the same standards as the divers within your club.

On registration, you will receive a membership card at “Initial Supervised Diver” grade. You will then need to attend up to six Equivalent Knowledge Sessions and complete at least three workup dives within your own club. For Dive Leader equivalence, some additional requirements are listed below. Once these are complete, your Diving Officer will re-submit your registration form for final registration. This will reassign your grade equivalence and will allow you to join Comhairle F6-Thuinn courses.

3.1 Equivalent Knowledge Sessions

In a number of subject matter areas there is a difference in emphasis between Comhairle F6-Thuinn and other federations. To bridge this gap six Equivalent Knowledge Sessions have been prepared. These sessions, which are provided by suitably qualified instructors, may be a formal classroom lecture or an informal session with the instructor.

Once these sessions are complete, an instructor, who may be from the same club, will sign-off on the registration as follows: Supervised Diver (Trainee Diver) – Instructor; Autonomous Diver (Club Diver) – Instructor **; Dive Leader (Leading Diver) – Leading Instructor.

In all cases, the Club Diving Officer must be satisfied that the diver has completed the appropriate sessions and has the diving competence required for the equivalent grade. This is confirmed with a signature and club stamp on the registration form.

3.1.1 Signals Orientation

All incoming divers must attend this session and be fully familiar with CFT signals.

3.1.2 Dive Tables

All incoming divers must attend this session. A critical aspect of diving within our club structure is a sound understanding of the Buehlmann tables and the rules associated with them.

3.1.3 Diver Environment: Exposure Suits & Hypothermia

These sessions are intended to orient the diver to the conditions encountered while diving in Ireland. The Instructor may waive this session for divers trained in Irish waters or other similarly cold waters.



At least six cold water dives must be shown in the diver's logbook prior to application for equivalence. These may include dives completed within the other federation.

3.1.4 Small Boat Orientation: Divers without Small Boat Diving Experience ¹

This session is for divers who have only trained and dived from shore or hard boats, in which case, an orientation to small boat diving is required. The Instructor may waive this session for divers experienced in small boat diving.

3.1.5 Divers with specified Boat Handling qualification ²

This session is for divers who hold a power-boating certification. For divers presenting with a qualification specified within this policy, additional knowledge and skills are required for Boat Handling equivalence.

3.1.6 Oxygen Administration ³

This session is for divers who have First Aid or Rescue qualifications that do not include Oxygen Administration.

3.2 Special Conditions for Dive Leader Equivalence

For those divers applying for Dive Leader equivalence, the following additional requirements must be met:

- 1 Applicants must complete three External Diving Officer assignments to the satisfaction of an Examiner.
- 2 Applicants without a CFT foundation level certification must demonstrate snorkelling competence by achieving the Senior Snorkeler certification
- 3 A recognised Diver Cox'n certification is required
- 4 Applicant must have all Leading Diver dives of 30m and above logged

In the absence any of the above, the applicant will receive the Autonomous (Club) Diver equivalence and may apply for further equivalence when these three conditions are met.

3.3 Special Conditions for Diver Cox'n

For those applying for Diver Cox'n recognition who hold a Boat Handling certification the, the following three lectures are required.

- 1 Covering Divers
- 2 Emergency Situation 1
- 3 Emergency Situation 2

Thereafter, an assessment by an Examiner from a different club who will assess:

- 4 The theory from the lectures



- 5 General practical skill including :
 - i Covering Divers
 - ii Chart work



Comhairle Fó-Thuinn

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Section 4 Recognised Grades

Most incoming grades are offered an equivalent operating level – however, a number of grades are offered recognition due to their specialised nature. The tables below show specific recognised grades. If your grade is on this list, you may apply through your Club Diving Officer for recognition of this grade.

Please Note that all divers presenting with a CMAS Brevet will be recognised at the CMAS level.

Boat Handling

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|--|------------|----------------------------|
| Boat Handling Course with Diver Cox'n Assessment | BSAC | This is a non diving grade |
| Diver Coxswain | SAA | This is a non diving grade |

Diver Emergency Responder

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|---|------------|----------------------------|
| Emergency First Responder & Oxygen Admin | PADI | This is a non diving grade |
| Diver First Aid | SAA | This is a non diving grade |
| Oxygen Administration [with First Aid For Divers] | BSAC | This is a non diving grade |

Rescue Diver

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Advanced Lifesaver Award | BSAC | Autonomous (Club) |
| Scuba Rescue Diver | NAUI | Autonomous (Club) |
| Rescue Diver | PADI | Autonomous (Club) |
| Rescue Diver Course | SDI / TDI / ERDI | Autonomous (Club) |

Gas Blender

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Blending | BSAC | This is a non diving grade |
| Gas Blender Course | PADI | This is a non diving grade |
| Nitrox Gas Blender Course | SAA | This is a non diving grade |
| Mixing and Blending Technician | IANTD | This is a non diving grade |
| Gas Blender | SSI | This is a non diving grade |



Nitrox Diver

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nitrox Diver | BSAC | Grade Equivalent |
| Advanced Nitrox Diver | BSAC | Grade Equivalent |
| Nitrox Diver | NAUI | Grade Equivalent |
| Enriched Air Diver | PADI | Grade Equivalent |
| Nitrox Diver | SAA | Grade Equivalent |
| Nitrox Diver | SDI / TDI / ERDI | Grade Equivalent |
| Advanced Nitrox Diver | SDI / TDI / ERDI | Grade Equivalent |
| Decompression Procedures Diver | SDI / TDI / ERDI | Grade Equivalent |
| Nitrox Diver | IANTD | Grade Equivalent |
| Advanced Nitrox Diver | IANTD | Grade Equivalent |
| Enriched Air Nitrox | SSI | Grade Equivalent |
| Entry Level Tech | ITDA | Autonomous (Club) |
| N-Tech – Nitrox | ITDA | Autonomous (Club) |

Extended Range Diver

| Other Federation Grade | Federation | May operate at |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Extended Range Diver | SDI / TDI / ERDI | Autonomous (Club) |
| Extended Range Diver | BSAC | Autonomous (Club) |
| Decompression Techniques Diver | NAUI | Autonomous (Club) |
| Extended Range Nitrox Diver | SAA | Autonomous (Club) |
| Nitrox Divemaster | IANTD | Autonomous (Club) |
| Nitrox Diver | ITDA | Autonomous (Club) |
| Decompression Diver | ITDA | Autonomous (Club) |

Note: Grade Equivalent means that the award in the table above is recognised but that the Diver must have an additional certification to establish the grade level.



Section 5 Equivalence Grades

This table shows other federations' grades and the equivalent operating level that is offered.

5.1 British Sub Aqua Club – (BSAC)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| BSAC | Advanced Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Dive Leader | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | First Class Diver | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁸ |
| | Ocean Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Practical Rescue Management | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Sport Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |

5.2 National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NAUI | Advanced Scuba Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Dive Master | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) |
| | Experienced Scuba Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Master Scuba Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Scuba Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |

5.3 Sub Aqua Association (SAA)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| SSA | Club Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Dive Leader | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Dive Master | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁸ |
| | Dive Supervisor | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁸ |
| | Elementary Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Elementary Diver Trainee | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Open Water Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |

5.4 Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|---------------------------|--|
| PADI | Advanced Open Water Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Dive Master | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁸ |
| | Open Water Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |



5.5 International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| IANTD | All Grades | Autonomous (Club) Diver |

5.6 International Training – SDI / TDI / ERDI

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| SDI TDI ERDI | Advanced Scuba Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Advanced Scuba Rescue Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Boat Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Dive Master | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Master Scuba Diver | Dive Leader (Leading Diver) ⁸ |
| ERDI | Open Water Scuba Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Scuba Rescue Diver | Autonomous (Club) Diver |

Scuba Schools International (SSI)

| Federation | Grade | May operate at |
|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| SSI | Passport Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Open Water Diver | Supervised (Trainee) Diver |
| | Diver Stress and Rescue | Autonomous (Club) Diver |
| | Advanced Open Water | Autonomous (Club) Diver |



Comhairle F6-Thuinn

Irish Underwater Council

COMHAIRLE F6-THUINN
78A Patrick Street,
Dun Laoghaire
County Dublin
IRELAND

Telephone: (01) 2844601
Facsimile: (01) 2844602
www.cft.ie

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