

Bylaw respecting Qualifications in Recreational Underwater Diving

INFO – EXPRESS

Since April 2004, the Bylaw respecting Qualifications in Recreational Underwater Diving is in place throughout Quebec. This Bylaw comes from the Act respecting safety in sports (R.S.Q., chapter S-3.1, Chapter V.2 : Recreative Underwater Diving) and essentially explains and further defines the required qualifications to practice and teach Recreational Underwater Diving in Quebec.



According to this law, here are the obligations for divers and for instructors:

The Diver (Art. 46.17)

Every person who engages in underwater diving, otherwise than during a training course or qualifying examination, must be the holder of a certificate attesting the level of qualification acquired in underwater diving or of an attestation of equivalency referred to in section 46.15.

No holder of a certificate of qualification or attestation of equivalency may undertake a dive for which a higher level of qualification than the level indicated on the certificate or attestation is required.

The Instructor (Art. 46.18)

Every person who provides instruction in underwater diving must be the holder of a certificate attesting the level of qualification acquired in underwater diving instruction or of an attestation of equivalency referred to in section 46.15.

No holder of a certificate of qualification or of an attestation of equivalency may provide instruction for which a higher level of qualification than the level indicated on the certificate or attestation is required.

As specified in the Bylaw, there are three (3) qualification levels for Divers, Class A, Class B and Class C, and two (2) qualification levels for Instructors, Class A and Class B.

To obtain a certificate which attests of your competency, please contact a duly certified Instructor of an approved Training Agency, who is also mandated by the Quebec Underwater Activities Federation, the FQAS, to issue such certificate, or contact the Federation directly.

Tourists and persons who have been certified outside of Quebec, can be issued an equivalency certificate if they meet certain conditions. For more details, please contact the Federation or its Instructor mandatees.



To renew your certificate, you must meet one of the following conditions :

As a Diver (every three years):

- prove, that he has made at least ten (10) recreational underwater dives in open water using compressed breathing gas in the last 3 years;

OR

- prove that he took part in a knowledge and skills refresher course during a dive supervised by a qualified instructor;

OR

- pass the qualifying examinations for a Class A, B or C diver certificate.

As an Instructor (every year):

- be an instructor member in good standing of one of the diving instructor associations listed in the Bylaw;

AND

- prove that during the period of validity of his certificate he took part in at least one improvement workshop.

Please refer to the FQAS' Web Site, to consult the list of Instructors that are mandated to issue the Competency Certificates in Quebec.

For more informations:



Quebec Federation Underwaters Activities

4545, Pierre-De Coubertin avenue, P.O. Box 1000
Station M, Montreal (Quebec) H1V 3R2

Tel. : (514) 252-3009 • 1 866 391-8835
E-mail: info@fqas.qc.ca
Internet: www.fqas.qc.ca



Éducation,
Loisir et Sport
Québec