

**1994 No. 146****HEALTH AND SAFETY****Diving Operations at Work Regulations  
(Northern Ireland) 1994***Made . . . . . 12th April 1994**Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1(2)  
and (3)***ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Citation and commencement.
  2. Interpretation.
  3. Application.
  4. Duty to ensure compliance with these Regulations.
  5. Diving contractors.
  6. Registration of diving contractors.
  7. Contracts whereby person acts as diving contractor.
  8. Notification of projects involving diving operations.
  9. The diving supervisor.
  10. Duties of divers.
  11. Diving team.
  12. Diving rules.
  13. Certificate of training.
  14. Certificate of diving first-aid.
  15. Certificate of medical fitness to dive.
  16. Plant and equipment.
  17. Maintenance, examination and testing of plant and equipment.
  18. Equipment, facilities, medications and personnel.
  19. Exemption certificates.
  20. Saving.
  21. Repeal and modification.
  22. Revocation, saving and substitution.
  23. Transitional provision.
- SCHEDULE 1. Matters in respect of which provision is to be made in diving rules.
- SCHEDULE 2. Notification of particulars of diving contractors.

- SCHEDULE 3. Notification of particulars of diving projects.  
SCHEDULE 4. Matters to be entered in the diving operations log book.  
SCHEDULE 5. Matters to be entered in the diver's log book.  
SCHEDULE 6. Matters in respect of which a diver has to attain a satisfactory standard of competence.  
SCHEDULE 7. Surface compression chambers.  
SCHEDULE 8. Diving bells.

Whereas it appears to the Department of Economic Development being the Department concerned(a) that the modification of the Regulations referred to in regulation 21(2) is necessary or expedient in connection with the other provisions of these Regulations.

Now therefore, the Department concerned, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 17(1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)(b), 54(1) and 55(2) of, and paragraphs 1(1) and (2), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20(a), (b) and (c) of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(c) ("the 1978 Order") and of every other power enabling it in that behalf; after consultation in accordance with Articles 46(1) and 54(5) of the 1978 Order with the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland and such other bodies as appeared to the Department concerned to be appropriate, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and commencement*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), these Regulations shall come into operation on 1st August 1994.

(3) The following provisions shall come into operation on 1st August 1995, that is to say—

(a) regulation 3(3)(ii);

(b) regulation 5(1)(f) and (g);

(c) regulation 10(1)(b);

(d) regulation 11(1) insofar as it relates to personnel referred to in regulation 18(1);

(e) regulation 11(1)(c);

(f) regulation 14;

(g) regulation 18;

(h) regulation 23;

(i) paragraph 2(e) of Schedule 1 insofar as it relates to a certificate of diving first-aid.

---

(a) See Article 2(2) of S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)

(b) Article 17 must be read with S.I. 1992/1728 (N.I. 17) Article 3(2)

(c) S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9); the general purposes of Part II referred to in Article 17(1) were extended by S.I. 1992/1728 (N.I. 17) Article 3(1)

*Interpretation***2.—(1) In these Regulations—**

“the 1971 Act” means the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971(a);

“breathing mixture” means air or any other mixture of gases which is fit for breathing;

“concession owner” means a person who is a concession owner for the purposes of the 1971 Act in accordance with section 12(2) of that Act(b);

“the Department” means the Department of Economic Development;

“diver” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph (2)(b);

“diver’s log book” shall be construed in accordance with regulation 10(4)(a);

“diving bell” means any compression chamber which is capable of being manned and is used or designed for use under the surface of water in supporting human life being a chamber in which any occupant is or may be subjected to a pressure of more than 300 millibars above atmospheric pressure during normal operation; and “bell diving” shall be construed accordingly;

“diving contractor” has the meaning assigned by regulation 5(4);

“diving operation” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph (2)(a) and (c);

“diving rules” means the rules required by regulation 5(1)(b);

“diving supervisor” means in relation to any diving operation the person appointed in respect of that operation by the diving contractor under regulation 5(1)(a);

“emergency” means an emergency affecting or likely to affect the health or safety of a diver engaged in a diving operation;

“first-aid” means—

(a) in cases where a person will need help from a medical practitioner or nurse, treatment for the purpose of preserving life and minimising the consequences of injury and illness until the appropriate help is obtained; and

(b) treatment of minor injuries and illnesses which would otherwise receive no treatment or which do not need treatment by a medical practitioner or nurse (and in this sub-paragraph “treatment” includes redressing and other follow-up treatment);

“offshore installation” means an offshore installation within the meaning of section 1 of the 1971 Act(c) which is within territorial waters;

---

(a) 1971 c. 61

(b) Section 12(2) was substituted by paragraph 11(2) of Schedule 3 to the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 (c. 23)

(c) 1971 c. 61; section 1 was substituted by section 24 of the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 (c. 23)

“pipeline” means a pipe or system of pipes for the conveyance of any thing, together with—

- (a) any apparatus for inducing or facilitating the flow of any thing through, or through a part of, the pipe or system;
- (b) any apparatus for treating or cooling any thing which is to flow through, or through part of, the pipe or system;
- (c) valves, valve chambers and similar works which are annexed to, or incorporated in the course of, the pipe or system;
- (d) apparatus for supplying energy for the operation of any such apparatus or works as are mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c);
- (e) apparatus for the transmission of information for the operation of the pipe or system;
- (f) apparatus for the cathodic protection of the pipe or system; and
- (g) a structure used or to be used solely for the support of a part of the pipe or system;

but not including—

- (i) a pipeline of which no initial or terminal point is situated in the United Kingdom or within United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Northern Ireland or an area designated by Order under section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964(a); or
- (ii) any part of a pipeline which is an offshore installation;

“pipeline works” means—

- (a) assembling or placing a pipeline or length of pipeline including the provision of internal or external protection for it, and any processes incidental to any of those activities;
- (b) inspecting, testing, maintaining, adjusting, repairing, altering or renewing a pipeline or length of pipeline;
- (c) changing the position of or dismantling or removing a pipeline or length of pipeline;
- (d) opening the bed of the sea for the purposes of the works mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c), tunnelling or boring for those purposes and other works needed for or incidental to those purposes;
- (e) diving operations in connection with any of the works mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) or for the purpose of determining whether a place is suitable as part of the site of a proposed pipeline and the carrying out of surveying operations for settling the route of a proposed pipeline;

“saturation techniques” means procedures by means of which a diver avoids repeated decompressions to atmospheric pressure by being continuously subjected to an ambient pressure greater than

---

(a) 1964 c. 29; section 1 was amended by paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 (c. 23)

atmospheric pressure so that his body tissues and blood become saturated with inert elements of the breathing mixture;

“self-contained” in relation to any diving plant and equipment, means diving plant and equipment in which the supply of breathing mixture is carried by the diver independently of any other source;

“territorial waters” means United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Northern Ireland and “within territorial waters” includes on, over or under them;

“visiting force” has the same meaning as it does for the purposes of any provision of Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952(a).

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations and subject to paragraph (3)—

(a) a diver shall be deemed to be engaged in a diving operation from the time when he commences to prepare to dive until—

(i) if he entered the water, he has left it and returned to a place from which the diving operation is being carried on;

(ii) he is no longer subject to raised pressure; and

(iii) it may reasonably be anticipated that he will not need therapeutic recompression;

(b) a person shall be deemed not to be a diver if he—

(i) is in a submersible chamber or craft or in a pressure-resistant diving suit, and is not exposed to a pressure exceeding 300 millibars above atmospheric pressure during normal operation;

(ii) uses no underwater breathing apparatus or uses only snorkel-type apparatus;

(iii) is taking part in the diving operation in a capacity other than as an employee or self-employed person; or

(iv) is on duty as a member of the armed forces of the Crown or visiting forces and is engaged in operations or operational training;

(c) a person who is engaged in any activity as a diving supervisor, as a member of a diving team or in connection with the recompression or decompression of a diver engaged in a diving operation shall be deemed to be engaged in a diving operation.

(3) Paragraph (2)(a)(ii) and (iii) shall not apply when for the purpose of receiving medical treatment a diver has been transferred to a hospital or other place which is not under the control of the diving contractor or the diving supervisor.

### *Application*

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and regulation 8(1), these Regulations shall apply to, and in relation to, all diving operations in which any diver taking part is at work as an employee or a self-employed person.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to a diving operation only if at least one of the persons going under water is a diver for the purpose of the Regulations.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), where a person is exposed to a pressure greater than 300 millibars above atmospheric pressure in a surface compression chamber in connection with—

- (a) any diving operation; or
- (b) the testing or evaluation of any plant or equipment designed for use in diving operations,

then these Regulations shall apply to, and in relation to, him as if he were a diver engaged in a diving operation except—

- (i) regulations 10(1)(a), 11(2), (3), (4) and (5), 13, 16(1)(b), (f), (g), (i) and (j); and
- (ii) regulations 10(1)(b) and 14 where the person is not exposed to a pressure greater than 5,000 millibars above atmospheric pressure.

(4) Paragraph (3) shall not apply to a diver engaged in a diving operation or to a person to whom regulation 2(2)(b)(iv) applies.

#### *Duty to ensure compliance with these Regulations*

4.—(1) In addition to any specific duty placed on him by these Regulations—

- (a) every diving contractor and every other person who to any extent is responsible for, has control over or is engaged in a diving operation; and
- (b) in the case of—
  - (i) an offshore installation, the owner;
  - (ii) a proposed offshore installation, the concession owner;
  - (iii) a pipe-line, the owner;
  - (iv) a proposed pipe-line, the person who will be the owner when it is laid,

shall ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that these Regulations are complied with in such a way that persons involved are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

(2) An employer shall not permit any employee of his to take part in a diving operation as a diver unless a diving contractor has been appointed in respect of that operation.

(3) A self-employed person shall not take part in a diving operation as a diver unless a diving contractor has been appointed in respect of that operation.

#### *Diving contractors*

5.—(1) Every diving contractor shall in respect of each diving operation—

- (a) appoint one or more diving supervisors in accordance with paragraph (3) to be in immediate control of the operation;
- (b) issue diving rules in accordance with regulation 12 and Schedule 1;

- (c) provide a diving operations log book, which is to be maintained in accordance with regulation 9(2)(c), and shall keep it for at least two years after the date of the last entry in it;
  - (d) ensure that all plant and equipment, including any plant and equipment required by regulation 16, which is necessary for the safe carrying on of the diving operation is available for immediate use;
  - (e) not permit the use of compressed natural air as the breathing mixture in any diving operation at a depth exceeding 50 metres except where the use is for therapeutic purposes;
  - (f) provide the equipment, facilities, medications and personnel referred to in regulation 18(1);
  - (g) ensure that persons engaged in the diving operation are informed of the nature of the arrangements that have been made in connection with the provision of first-aid, which information shall include details of—
    - (i) the location of first-aid equipment, facilities, medications and personnel; and
    - (ii) any standing instructions from a medical practitioner (who may or may not be present) in respect of the management and handling of persons who are injured or become ill while engaged in a diving operation.
- (2) Every diving contractor shall so far as is reasonably practicable ensure that—
- (a) each diving operation is carried out from a suitable and safe place with the consent of any person having control of that place;
  - (b) emergency services are available including in particular in the cases of diving—
    - (i) using saturation techniques; or
    - (ii) at a depth exceeding 50 metres, facilities for transferring the divers safely under a suitable pressure to a place where treatment can be given safely under pressure;
  - (c) there are effective means of communication between the place at which the operation is being or is to be carried on and—
    - (i) persons having control of that place; and
    - (ii) the emergency services.
- (3) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b), each diving supervisor shall be appointed in writing and where two or more diving supervisors are appointed in respect of any diving operation, the diving contractor shall specify which part of the diving operation each is to supervise at any one time.
- (b) The diving contractor may permit two duly appointed supervisors to arrange between themselves the time at which one is to take over from the other.
  - (c) Subject to sub-paragraph (d), a person shall not be appointed to be a diving supervisor in relation to any category of diving operation unless—

- (i) he is a competent person with adequate knowledge and experience of the diving techniques to be used in that operation in respect of which he is appointed; and either—
  - (ii) he has qualified as a diver, in respect of the diving techniques to be used, under these Regulations; or
  - (iii) during the period of two years immediately preceding 1st January 1984 he acted as a diving supervisor in respect of a diving operation in which those techniques were used.
- (d) Sub-paragraph (c)(ii) and (iii) shall not apply where the diving operation is to be carried on in water which is not more than 1.5 metres deep.
- (4) For the purpose of these Regulations, “diving contractor” in relation to any diving operation, means—
- (a) in any case where any of the divers taking part are employees—
    - (i) their employer; or
    - (ii) if there is more than one employer, such one of them as those employers may appoint in writing;
  - (b) if there is no diving contractor by virtue of sub-paragraph (a) and the operation is carried on—
    - (i) from or in connection with an offshore installation, the manager of the installation appointed pursuant to section 4 of the 1971 Act<sup>(a)</sup> or where no such manager has been appointed, the person made responsible by the owner for health and safety on the installation;
    - (ii) in connection with a proposed offshore installation, the concession owner;
    - (iii) in connection with a pipe-line, the owner of the pipe-line;
    - (iv) in connection with a proposed pipe-line, the person who will be the owner of the pipe-line when it is laid;
  - (c) if there is no diving contractor by virtue of sub-paragraph (a) or (b), any diver who is a self-employed person and if there is more than one such person, such one of them as they may appoint in writing.
- (5) In paragraph (4)—
- “in connection with an offshore installation” and “in connection with a proposed offshore installation” does not include any pipe-line works;
- “in connection with a pipe-line” and “in connection with a proposed pipe-line” means in connection with that part of it with which the diving operation is concerned and includes pipe-line works; and “the owner” means the owner of that part.

#### *Registration of diving contractors*

6.—(1) A person shall not act as a diving contractor unless he is registered in accordance with this regulation.

(2) A person shall be registered in accordance with this regulation if—

---

(a) 1971 c. 61

- (a) he has given written notice to the Department containing the particulars listed in Schedule 2;
- (b) the Department has issued an acknowledgement under paragraph (4); and
- (c) the registration has not expired in accordance with paragraph (5) or (7).

(3) The Department may approve a form of notice for the purpose of paragraph (2)(a), and where it does so any such notice shall be in the form for the time being so approved.

(4) The Department shall serve written acknowledgement on each diving contractor who has given written notice under paragraph (2)(a) and such acknowledgement shall include the date it is issued and the date on which registration will expire.

(5) Subject to paragraph (7), registration shall expire 12 months after—

- (a) the date the acknowledgement under paragraph (4) is issued; or
- (b) where notice under paragraph (2)(a) has been received by the Department no more than one month before the expiry of an existing registration under this regulation of the same diving contractor, the date of expiry of the existing registration,

whichever is the later.

(6) Any person who is registered in accordance with this regulation shall give further written notice to the Department of any change in the particulars required by paragraph (2)(a) forthwith or at such later time as the Department may approve in any case or class of case.

(7) For the purpose of this regulation the Department may on or before 1st August 1995 approve registration in any case or class of case for a period exceeding 12 months but not exceeding 24 months and the registration so approved shall expire at the end of that period.

#### *Contracts whereby person acts as diving contractor*

7. A person shall not enter into a contract whereby any other person acts as a diving contractor unless he is satisfied that such other person is registered in accordance with regulation 6.

#### *Notification of projects involving diving operations*

8.—(1) This regulation shall apply to, and in relation to, diving operations in connection with—

- (a) any offshore installation and any activity on it;
- (b) any of the following activities in connection with an offshore installation, whether carried on from the installation itself, on or from a vessel or in any other manner, that is to say, inspection, testing, loading, unloading, fuelling, provisioning, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, maintenance, cleaning, demolition, dismantling and any activity which is immediately preparatory to any of the said activities;
- (c) the survey and preparation of the sea bed for an offshore installation;

- (d) any pipeline works within territorial waters; and
- (e) the following activities in connection with pipeline works referred to in sub-paragraph (d)—
  - (i) the loading, unloading, fuelling or provisioning of a vessel;
  - (ii) the loading, unloading, fuelling, repair and maintenance of an aircraft on a vessel,

being in either case a vessel which is engaged in such pipeline works.

(2) Every person who enters into a contract whereby any other person acts as a diving contractor shall notify the Department of each project in which that other person acts as such.

(3) Notification under this regulation shall contain the particulars listed in Schedule 3.

(4) Subject to paragraph (6), notification of any project under this regulation shall be given not less than 21 days before any diving operation which comprises or forms part of that project commences.

(5) Subject to paragraph (6), notification under this regulation shall be in writing.

(6) Where it is not reasonable to give notification as required by paragraphs (4) and (5), then—

- (a) notification shall be given forthwith after any of the particulars required by paragraph (3) become available to the person required by paragraph (2) to notify the Department;
- (b) notification shall include such of the particulars required by paragraph (3) as are available to the person required by paragraph (2) to notify the Department and have not been contained in a previous notification in respect of the same project; and
- (c) notification shall be given by the fastest means available but, where that means is not in writing, shall also be confirmed in writing forthwith.

(7) The Department may approve a form of notification under this regulation and where it does so any such notification shall, subject to paragraph (6), be in the form for the time being so approved.

#### *The diving supervisor*

9.—(1) Every diving supervisor shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that each diving operation in respect of which he is appointed is carried on in accordance with the diving rules and under his immediate control.

(2) In relation to each diving operation the diving supervisor shall—

- (a) ensure that plant and equipment is not used unless regulation 17(1)(c) and (d) have been complied with;
- (b) comply with regulation 12(4);
- (c) enter in the diving operations log book provided under regulation 5(1)(c) an accurate record of the matters specified in Schedule 4 and shall sign the entries daily during the course of the diving operation;

(d) countersign the entries relating to the diving operation in the diver's log book of each diver who took part in that operation.

(3) A person shall not dive while he is the diving supervisor for the time being in charge of a diving operation or any part of it.

#### *Duties of divers*

**10.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not take part in any diving operation as a diver unless he—

(a) has an appropriate and valid certificate of training issued or approved under regulation 13;

(b) has a valid certificate of diving first-aid issued or approved under regulation 14 or is a suitable person for the purposes of regulation 18(1);

(c) has a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive issued under regulation 15; and

(d) is competent to carry out safely the work which he is called upon to perform in that operation.

(2) Paragraph (1)(a) and (b) shall not apply in the case of a person taking part in a diving operation as part of training which if successfully completed would lead to the issue of a certificate such as is mentioned in either of those sub-paragraphs, and paragraph (1)(b) and (c) shall not apply in the case of a person who enters a compression chamber in order to provide treatment in an emergency.

(3) Every diver engaged in a diving operation shall inform the diving supervisor appointed in respect of that operation if he is unfit or if there is any other reason why he should not go or remain under water or in a compression chamber, as the case may be.

(4) (a) Every diver engaged in a diving operation shall maintain a personal log book ("diver's log book") in which he shall enter his name and which shall contain his signature and a photograph which is a reasonable likeness of him.

(b) On every day on which he takes part in a diving operation a diver shall record in his log book the matters set out in Schedule 5, and he shall sign each entry and shall present it to be countersigned by the diving supervisor in accordance with regulation 9(2)(d).

(5) Every diver shall present his diver's log book to the doctor examining him for the purposes of regulation 15.

(6) Every diver shall retain his diver's log book for at least two years from the date of the last entry in it.

#### *Diving team*

**11.**—(1) At all times when any diving operation is, or is about to be, carried on there shall be present a sufficient number of divers, personnel referred to in regulation 18(1) and other competent persons ("the diving team") necessary to—

- (a) ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable the operation can be carried on safely;
  - (b) operate plant, equipment or other facilities necessary for the safe carrying on of the operation;
  - (c) render first-aid to, and treat in accordance with the directions of a medical practitioner (who may or may not be present), persons who are injured or become ill while engaged in a diving operation.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), in addition to any diver who will be diving in a diving operation—
- (a) there shall be another diver (“the standby diver”) who shall—
    - (i) where a diving bell is being used, descend in the bell to the depth from which work is to be carried out and shall remain in the bell to monitor any diver who leaves it and be in immediate readiness to render assistance to him;
    - (ii) in all other cases, be in immediate readiness to dive except that two divers in the water at the same time who are near enough to be able to communicate with and to render assistance to each other in an emergency may each be regarded as the standby diver for the other;
  - (b) in the following cases there shall be another diver (“the extra diver”) on the surface in addition to the standby diver—
    - (i) where diving stops are required for the purpose of routine decompression;
    - (ii) where the diving will be at a depth of 30 metres or more;
    - (iii) where there is a special hazard and in particular where a diver will be endangered in a current or where there is a risk of a diver being trapped or his equipment entangled.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (4), the standby diver and the extra diver shall be in addition to—
- (a) any member of the diving team required to attend or work any plant, equipment or other facilities; and
  - (b) the diving supervisor.
- (4) The standby diver and the extra diver may perform other duties in the diving team where to do so would not prejudice the safety of any person in the water if either one or both, as the case may be, is called upon to dive.
- (5) Nothing in paragraph (2) shall prevent the standby diver or the extra diver from going to the assistance of any other diver in an emergency.
- (6) Paragraph (2) shall not apply where the diving operation is to be carried on in water which is not more than 1.5 metres deep.

### *Diving rules*

**12.—**(1) The diving rules required to be issued by the diving contractor pursuant to regulation 5(1)(b) shall include provisions for securing the health and safety of persons engaged in the diving operation and in particular shall—

- (a) make provision relating to such of the matters specified in Schedule 1 as are relevant to the diving operation to be carried on;
- (b) require the use of such of the plant and equipment specified in regulation 16 as is relevant to the diving operation to be carried on.

(2) The diving contractor shall, if an inspector so requires, supply the inspector with a copy of the diving rules issued by him for any diving operation or intended diving operation or such part of those diving rules as the inspector may require.

(3) The diving contractor shall supply the diving supervisor with a copy of the diving rules.

(4) The diving supervisor shall make available to each member of the diving team a copy of any part of the diving rules relevant to that member.

### *Certificate of training*

**13.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (5), the certificate of training required by regulation 10(1)(a) shall be valid only if—

- (a) it has been issued or approved by the Department;
- (b) it states—
  - (i) the name of the individual to whom it relates;
  - (ii) the category of diving to which it relates;
  - (iii) that the person or body issuing the certificate is satisfied that the diver has attained a satisfactory standard of competence (whether by training, experience or a combination of both) in the matters specified in Schedule 6 which are relevant to the category of diving to which the certificate relates, except that where the person or body is not satisfied on all such matters, but nevertheless considers it appropriate to issue a certificate subject to restrictions within a category of diving, those restrictions shall be stated in the certificate; and

(c) it has not ceased, in accordance with paragraph (2), to be valid.

(2) If the Department declares a certificate of training which it has issued or approved to be no longer valid, then that certificate shall cease to be a valid certificate for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(3) The certificate of training shall be kept in the diver's log book.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1)(a), where the Department—

- (a) refuses to issue or approve a certificate of training; or
- (b) declares a certificate which it has issued or approved to be no longer valid,

the Department, upon application being made to it by any person aggrieved, within 28 days of his being notified of the refusal or declaration as the case may be, shall review that decision and if it is satisfied that it should be reversed or altered shall, as the case may be, issue, approve or re-issue a certificate, subject to such restrictions, if any, as it considers appropriate.

(5) A certificate of training which complies with regulation 10 of the Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981(a) or a certificate which is deemed to comply therewith by virtue of regulation 15 of those Regulations, shall be deemed to be a valid certificate of training for the purpose of this regulation.

*Certificate of diving first-aid*

14.—(1) The certificate of diving first-aid required by regulation 10(1)(b) shall be valid only if—

- (a) it has been issued or approved by the Department;
- (b) the date mentioned in sub-paragraph (c)(iv) has not passed;
- (c) it states—
  - (i) the name of the individual to whom it relates;
  - (ii) the category of diving to which it relates;
  - (iii) that the person or body issuing the certificate is satisfied that the diver has attained a satisfactory standard of competence in first-aid appropriate to the category of diving to which it relates;
  - (iv) the date on which it will cease to be valid unless further training is undertaken and an appropriate endorsement thereon obtained from, or approved by, the Department for the purpose of this paragraph; and
- (d) it has not ceased, in accordance with paragraph (2), to be valid.

(2) If the Department declares a certificate of diving first-aid which it has issued or approved to be no longer valid, then that certificate shall cease to be a valid certificate for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(3) The certificate of diving first-aid shall be kept in the diver's log book.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1)(a), where the Department—

- (a) refuses to issue or approve a certificate of diving first-aid relating to the category of diving requested by the diver;
- (b) refuses to endorse, or approve the endorsement of, a certificate already issued; or
- (c) declares a certificate which it has issued or approved to be no longer valid,

the Department, upon application being made to it by any person aggrieved, within 28 days of his being notified of the refusal or declaration, as the case may be, shall review the decision and if it is satisfied that such decision should be reversed or altered, shall, as the case may be, issue, approve, re-issue, endorse or approve the endorsement of the certificate.

(5) A certificate of diving first-aid which complies with regulation 10A of the Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981(b) shall be deemed to be a valid certificate of diving first-aid for the purpose of this regulation.

---

(a) S.I. 1981/399; to which there are amendments which are not relevant to this regulation

(b) As inserted by S.I. 1990/996 regulation 2(h)

*Certificate of medical fitness to dive*

15.—(1) The certificate of medical fitness to dive required by regulation 10(1)(c) shall be valid in respect of a particular diving operation only if it has been issued by an approved doctor or by the Department in accordance with the following provisions, that is to say—

- (a) the diving undertaken does not contravene any limitation contained in the certificate pursuant to paragraph (3)(a)(v);
- (b) the period stated in the certificate pursuant to paragraph (3)(a)(vi) has not expired.

(2) A certificate of medical fitness to dive shall be issued for the purposes of paragraph (1) only after the person concerned has undergone an examination carried out by an approved doctor in such manner and including such tests as the Department may require either generally or for that case or class of case.

(3) The certificate of medical fitness to dive shall—

(a) state—

- (i) the name of the person to whom it relates;
- (ii) the date of the medical examination;
- (iii) the date of any X-ray taken for the purpose of that examination;
- (iv) that the person is considered fit to dive;
- (v) any limitation on the diving or compression for which the person is considered fit;
- (vi) the period not exceeding 12 months for which the person is considered fit;
- (vii) the name, address and telephone number of the approved doctor issuing the certificate;

(b) be signed by the approved doctor issuing it, or on behalf of the Department, as the case may be.

(4) The certificate of medical fitness to dive shall be entered in the diver's log book in such form as the Department may approve.

(5) If an approved doctor decides, after examination, that a person is unfit to dive, he shall enter this fact in the diver's log book together with the information required by paragraph (3)(a)(i) to (iii) and (vii) and shall sign the entry.

(6) An employment medical adviser may on medical grounds revoke a certificate of medical fitness to dive after, where reasonably practicable, consulting the approved doctor who issued that certificate.

(7) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1)(a), where an approved doctor decides—

- (a) that a person is unfit to dive; or
- (b) that a person is fit to dive subject to limitations,

the Department, upon application being made to it by that person within 28 days of the decision, shall review the decision and if it is satisfied that such

decision should be reversed or altered shall issue a certificate of medical fitness to dive subject to such limitations, if any, as it considers appropriate.

(8) In this regulation—

“an approved doctor” means a fully registered medical practitioner approved for the time being by an employment medical adviser for such purpose of these Regulations as he may specify in the instrument of approval; and

“employment medical adviser” means a person appointed under Part III of the 1978 Order to be such an adviser and who is authorised by the Department to give approvals under this paragraph or to revoke a certificate under paragraph (6) as the case may be.

(9) A certificate of medical fitness to dive which complies with regulation 11 of the Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981 or a certificate which is deemed to comply therewith by virtue of regulation 15 of those Regulations shall be deemed to be a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive for the purpose of this regulation.

### *Plant and equipment*

**16.**—(1) The plant and equipment mentioned in regulation 5(1)(d) shall—

(a) include a means of supplying a breathing mixture (including a reserve supply for immediate use in the event of an emergency or for therapeutic recompression or decompression)—

(i) suitable in content and temperature and of adequate pressure; and

(ii) at an adequate rate,

to sustain prolonged vigorous physical exertion at the ambient pressure for the duration of the diving operation;

(b) include a lifeline for each diver except—

(i) where the nature of the diving operation renders a lifeline unsuitable and an alternative system for ensuring the diver's safety is used; or

(ii) in a case where two divers are at a depth not exceeding 30 metres and each is acting as standby diver for the other and one of them is connected to the surface by a lifeline,

and in this sub-paragraph “lifeline” means a rope, gas hose, communication cable or any combination thereof which is adequate in strength and suitable for recovering and lifting the diver and his equipment from the water;

(c) enable each diver to communicate with the diving supervisor except—

(i) where the nature of the diving operation renders such communication unsuitable and an alternative system for ensuring the diver's safety is used; or

(ii) where sub-paragraph (b)(ii) applies in which case one of the divers shall be able to communicate with the supervisor,

and in a case where a diving bell is being used enable the diver who leaves the bell to communicate with the diver remaining in it;

- (d) in addition to the means of communication required by sub-paragraph (c), include where reasonably practicable a system enabling oral communication to be made between each diver and the diving supervisor;
  - (e) include such plant and equipment as may be necessary to ensure that each diver may safely enter and leave the water;
  - (f) include a surface compression chamber with all necessary ancillary equipment which shall comply with Schedule 7 in all cases where the diving operation is carried on—
    - (i) at a depth in excess of 50 metres;
    - (ii) at a depth exceeding 10 metres but not exceeding 50 metres where the routine decompression time exceeds 20 minutes;
    - (iii) at a depth exceeding 10 metres but not exceeding 50 metres where the routine decompression time is 20 minutes or less and effective arrangements have not been made for the rapid conveyance of any diver requiring therapeutic recompression from the location of the diving operation to a suitable two-compartment chamber;
    - (iv) from or in connection with an offshore installation, a proposed offshore installation or pipe-line works;
  - (g) for a diving operation at a depth exceeding 50 metres, include a diving bell which shall have all necessary ancillary equipment and shall comply with the requirements of Schedule 8;
  - (h) include such plant and equipment, if any, as may be necessary to ensure that each diver's body temperature is kept within safe limits and in all cases where the diving operation is—
    - (i) at a depth exceeding 50 metres there shall be a means of heating the diver; and
    - (ii) at a depth exceeding 150 metres there shall also be a means of heating the diver's breathing mixture;
  - (i) where a diving operation is to be carried on during the hours of darkness, include—
    - (i) a lamp or other device attached to the diver to indicate his position when he is on the surface; and
    - (ii) such plant and equipment as may be necessary to illuminate adequately the place on the surface from which the diving operation is being carried on, except where the nature of the diving operation renders such illumination undesirable;
  - (j) include depth measuring devices which where reasonably practicable shall be suitable for surface monitoring.
- (2) Where a person is deemed to be engaged in a diving operation by virtue of regulation 3(3) and (4), the surface compression chamber and its ancillary equipment shall comply with Schedule 7.

(3) Where any vessel, hovercraft, floating structure or offshore installation is used in a diving operation there shall be means of securing that it is—

- (a) at anchor or aground;
- (b) made fast to the shore, to a fixed structure or to an offshore installation which is in a fixed position; or
- (c) maintained in position using its propulsion system or a dynamic positioning system with adequate precautions to secure the safety of the diver from these systems and the flow of water created.

(4) All plant and equipment used in a diving operation shall—

- (a) be properly designed, of adequate strength and of good construction from sound and suitable material;
- (b) be suitable for the conditions in which it is intended to be used;
- (c) where its safe use depends on the depth or pressure at which it is used, be marked with its safe working pressure or the maximum depth at which it may be used;
- (d) at whatever temperature it is to be used, be adequately protected against malfunctioning at that temperature.

(5) Each gas cylinder used in a diving operation shall be legibly marked with the name and the chemical formula of its contents.

*Maintenance, examination and testing of plant and equipment*

17.—(1) The plant and equipment specified in regulation 16(1), (2) and (5) shall not be used in any diving operation unless—

- (a) it is maintained in a condition which will ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that it is safe while it is being used;
- (b) the register maintained under paragraph (4) contains—
  - (i) a certificate by a competent person that it complies with regulation 16(4); and
  - (ii) in the case of a surface compression chamber or a diving bell, sufficient information, including information relating to the materials used in its construction, to enable it to be safely used, repaired or altered;
- (c) there is in force a certificate issued under paragraph (2) by a competent person that it has been examined and tested and that it may be safely used;
- (d) it has been examined by a competent person within the six hours immediately before the diving operation commenced.

(2) The certificate referred to in paragraph (1)(c) shall—

- (a) state—
  - (i) the plant and equipment to which it relates;
  - (ii) that the competent person has examined it;
  - (iii) that it has been tested by him or under his close supervision;

- (iv) the pressure, depth or other conditions under which it can be safely used; and
  - (v) the period during which it can be safely used which shall not exceed six months;
- (b) cease to be valid—
- (i) when any repair or alteration has to be made to the plant or equipment which affects its safe working;
  - (ii) on the expiration of six months or such shorter period as may be stated under sub-paragraph (a)(v).
- (3) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(a)(iii) the competent person need not cause a pressure leak test or an internal pressure test to be repeated—
- (a) in the case of a surface compression chamber or a diving bell—
    - (i) if a pressure leak test to a safe working pressure has been carried out and certified within the previous two years or, as the case may be;
    - (ii) if an internal pressure test has been carried out and certified within the previous five years;
  - (b) in the case of a seamless gas cylinder not taken under water if either a pressure leak test to a safe working pressure or an internal pressure test has been carried out and certified within the previous five years;
  - (c) in the case of any other item of plant or equipment which will be subjected to an internal pressure in excess of 500 millibars above external pressure, if either a pressure leak test to a safe working pressure or an internal pressure test has been carried out and certified within the previous two years.
- (4) The diving contractor shall—
- (a) enter in, attach to or insert into a register kept for the purpose, the certificates and information required by paragraph (1)(b) and (c);
  - (b) retain each such register—
    - (i) in the case of a register containing certificates relating to any surface compression chamber or diving bell or seamless gas cylinder not taken under water, for at least five years from the date of the last such certificate;
    - (ii) in any other case, for at least two years from the date of the last certificate it contains.

*Equipment, facilities, medications and personnel.*

**18.—**(1) The equipment, facilities, medications and personnel mentioned in regulations 5(1)(f) and 11(1) shall be such equipment, facilities, medications and number of suitable persons (being at least one in the case of mixed gas or bell diving) as are adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for rendering first-aid to, and treating in accordance with the directions of a medical practitioner (who may or may not be present), any person who is injured or becomes ill while engaged in a diving operation.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), a person shall not be suitable unless he—

- (a) has a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive issued under regulation 15;
- (b) has undergone such training, if any, or further training, and has obtained such qualifications or further qualifications as the Department may from time to time approve in respect of that case or class of case; and
- (c) maintains a diver's log book whether or not he is a diver.

#### *Exemption certificates*

**19.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department may, by a certificate in writing, exempt any person or class of persons, any diving operation or class of diving operations and any plant and equipment or class of plant and equipment from any requirement or prohibition imposed by any provision of these Regulations, and any such exemption may be granted subject to conditions and to a limit of time and may be revoked at any time.

(2) The Department shall not grant any such exemption unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, and in particular to—

- (a) the conditions, if any, which it proposes to attach to the exemption; and
- (b) any other requirement imposed by or under any statutory provision which applies to the case,

it is satisfied that the health and safety of persons who are likely to be affected by the exemption will not be prejudiced in consequence of it.

#### *Saving*

**20.** Without prejudice to the generality of section 29 of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a), a certificate of training or a certificate of medical fitness to dive issued under any of the Regulations repealed or modified by regulation 21 or revoked by regulation 22(1) shall have effect as if such certificate had been issued under these Regulations.

#### *Repeal and modification*

**21.**—(1) The Submarine Pipe-lines (Diving Operations) Regulations 1976(b) are hereby repealed as respects Northern Ireland.

(2) Regulation 2(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Diving Operations) Regulations 1975(c) shall be modified by substituting for the reference to "Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983" a reference to "Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994".

---

(a) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(b) S.I. 1976/923

(c) S.I. 1975/116; regulation 2(1) was substituted by regulation 16(2) of S.I. 1981/399 and amended by regulation 16(3) of S.R. 1983 No. 209

*Revocation, saving and substitution*

22.—(1) The Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983(a) are hereby revoked.

(2) The revocation contained in paragraph (1) shall not affect the validity of any certificate issued by the diving contractor and approved by the Department under regulation 15(1) of the Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 and it shall be sufficient compliance with regulation 13 if the diver's log book contains such a certificate instead of a certificate of training.

(3) The Department may revoke a certificate referred to in paragraph (2) at any time if, after making such enquiries as it considers necessary, it considers that in all the circumstances of the case it is appropriate to do so.

(4) For regulation 7(f) of the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982(b) there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

“(f) where the Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 apply;”.

*Transitional provision*

23. Regulation 10(1)(b) shall not apply until 1st August 1997 to a diver who holds a certificate of training which complied with regulation 10 of the Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983, or a certificate issued by a diving contractor and approved by the Department under regulation 15(1) of those Regulations, before 1st August 1995.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Economic Development on 12th April 1994.

(L.S.)

*P. B. Strong*

Assistant Secretary

---

(a) S.R. 1983 No. 209

(b) S.R. 1982 No. 429; regulation 7(f) was inserted by regulation 16(4) of S.R. 1983 No. 209

**Matters in respect of which provision is to be made in Diving Rules***Planning*

## 1. Consideration of—

- (a) meteorological conditions, including forecasted conditions;
- (b) tidal information including local tide tables and indications of speed of current to be expected;
- (c) proposed shipping movements;
- (d) air and water temperatures;
- (e) underwater hazards of the diving site, including any culverts, penstocks, sluice valves or areas where differences in hydrostatic pressure may endanger the diver;
- (f) depth and type of operation;
- (g) suitability of plant and equipment;
- (h) availability and qualifications of personnel;
- (i) the effect on a diver of changes of air pressure if he travels by air after diving;
- (j) the activities of any person who will be diving in connection with the diving operation whether or not he is a diver for the purpose of these Regulations.

*Preparations*

- 2. (a) Consultation with persons having any control over or information related to the safety of any diving operation; and in particular persons having control of lifting appliances or having control of or information about shipping movements;
- (b) selection of the breathing apparatus and breathing mixtures;
- (c) check of plant and equipment;
- (d) allocation of personnel;
- (e) possession by the diver of valid certificates of training, diving first-aid and medical fitness to dive;
- (f) precautions against cold in and out of the water;
- (g) signalling procedures;
- (h) precautions against underwater hazards of the diving site.

*Procedures during diving*

- 3. (a) Responsibilities of diving supervisor, divers and surface support;
- (b) use of all types of personal diving equipment;
- (c) supply of gas and gas mixture, including maximum and minimum partial pressure of gases;
- (d) operations direct from an offshore installation, work site or craft;
- (e) operations in relation to diving bell;
- (f) working in different locations;
- (g) operations and use of equipment under water;
- (h) limits on depth and time under water;

- (i) descent, ascent and recovery of divers;
- (j) descent, ascent and recovery of diving bell;
- (k) diving tables for use in decompression procedures for both single and repetitive diving and in therapeutic decompression procedures; and for inland waters the need to take account of the effect on pressure of the altitudes at which the diving takes place;
- (l) control in changing conditions;
- (m) time for which divers are to remain in vicinity of the surface compression chamber;
- (n) maintenance of log books.

*Emergency procedure*

- 4. (a) Emergency signalling;
- (b) emergency assistance under water and on the surface;
- (c) therapeutic recompression and decompression and the availability of chambers for that purpose;
- (d) first-aid;
- (e) medical assistance;
- (f) calling assistance from emergency services including advance liaison with those services where appropriate;
- (g) precautions in the event of evacuation of the offshore installation, work site, vessel, hovercraft or floating structure;
- (h) provision of emergency electrical supplies.

**Notification of Particulars of Diving Contractors**

1. The diving contractor's name and the address where notices may be served on him.
2. A telephone number where the diving contractor may be contacted.
3. Any location where the diving contractor knows or expects he will undertake diving operations in the next year.
4. Whether the diving contractor will undertake diving operations—
  - (a) at any premises or in relation to any activities mentioned in regulation 8(1);
  - (b) at premises and in circumstances other than those mentioned in sub-paragraph (a); or
  - (c) both.
5. The nature of the work likely to be done during intended diving operations.
6. The level of competence likely to be required of divers (expressed by reference to the relevant Parts of Schedule 6).

**Notification of Particulars of Diving Projects**

1. The diving contractor's name and the address where notices may be served on him.
2. A telephone number where the diving contractor may be contacted.
3. The date the diving operation will commence.
4. The number of days on which it is expected diving operations will be carried on.
5. The location where diving will take place, including, in particular, any offshore installation or pipeline in respect of or in connection with which diving will take place.
6. The total number of persons who will or are expected to comprise the diving team.
7. Whether the breathing mixture will be air or whether the diving will use saturation techniques.
8. The name or other sufficient identification of each diving support vessel, barge, offshore installation or other place from which divers are intended to be deployed, and the method of maintaining its position at the location where diving will take place.
9. A description of the nature and purpose of the diving operation sufficient to show what risks are involved.
10. The name of an individual who is able to make arrangements to facilitate any inspection and a telephone number where that individual may be contacted.

**Matters to be entered in the Diving Operations Log Book**

The following matters shall be entered in the diving operations log book in respect of each diving operation—

- (a) the name of the diving contractor;
- (b) the date on which the diving operation commenced and the period during which it was carried on;
- (c) the name or other designation of the craft, offshore installation or work site in connection with which the diving operation was carried on and the location of that craft, offshore installation or work site;
- (d) the name of the diving supervisor and the period for which he is acting in that capacity in respect of that diving operation;
- (e) the names of the other persons engaged in the diving operation including those operating any diving plant or equivalent and their respective duties;
- (f) the arrangements for emergency support;
- (g) the procedures followed in the course of the diving operation including details of the decompression schedule used;
- (h) for each diver, the maximum depth reached in the course of the diving operation;
- (i) for each diver, in respect of each dive he makes, the time he leaves the surface, his bottom time (that is the period from the time he leaves the surface until he starts to ascend) and the time he reaches the surface;
- (j) the type of breathing apparatus and breathing mixture used;
- (k) the nature of the diving operation;
- (l) any decompression sickness, other illness, discomfort or injury suffered by any diver;
- (m) particulars of any emergency which occurred during the diving operation and any action taken;
- (n) any defect which is discovered in any plant or equipment used in the diving operation;
- (o) particulars of any environmental factors affecting the diving operation;
- (p) any other factor relevant to the safety or health of the persons engaged in the diving operation.

**Matters to be entered in the Diver's Log Book**

The following matters shall be entered in the diver's log book in respect of each diving operation in which he takes part—

- (a) the name and address of the diving contractor;
- (b) the date;
- (c) the name or other designation and the location of the offshore installation, work site, craft or harbour from which the diving operation was carried on;
- (d) the name of the diving supervisor;
- (e) the maximum depth reached on each occasion;
- (f) the time he left the surface, his bottom time (that is the period from the time he left the surface until he started to ascend) and the time he reached the surface on each occasion;
- (g) where the dive included time spent in a compression chamber, details of any time spent outside the chamber at a different pressure;
- (h) the type of breathing apparatus and breathing mixture used by him;
- (i) any work done by him on each occasion and the equipment (including tools) used by him in that work;
- (j) any decompression schedules followed by him on each occasion;
- (k) any decompression sickness, other illness, discomfort or injury suffered by him;
- (l) any other factor relevant to his safety or health.

**Matters in respect of which a Diver has to attain a satisfactory standard of competence**

**PART I**

**BASIC AIR DIVING**

1. The theory of air diving.
2. Use of self-contained and surface-supplied diving equipment.
3. Diving safely and competently in various conditions at a depth not exceeding 50 metres, including the safe use of hand tools and hand-held power tools and equipment.
4. Use of diver communication systems appropriate to air diving.
5. Emergency procedures for air diving.
6. Surface compression chamber operation, therapeutic recompression, decompression and the decompression tables appropriate to air diving.
7. Relevant legislation and guidance.

**PART II**

**MIXED GAS OR BELL DIVING**

1. All the matters specified in Part I.
2. The theory of mixed gas and bell diving.
3. Gases and gas systems.
4. Diving safely and competently to representative depths exceeding 50 metres from a diving bell.
5. Use of diver communication systems appropriate to mixed gas and bell diving.
6. Diving bell operation, transferring to surface compression chamber, recompression on mixed gas and decompression and decompression tables appropriate to mixed gas diving.
7. Emergency procedure for mixed gas and bell diving.
8. Legislation and guidance relevant to mixed gas diving not covered by paragraph 7 of Part I.

## PART III

## AIR DIVING WHERE NO SURFACE COMPRESSION CHAMBER IS REQUIRED ON SITE

1. The theory of air diving.
2. Use of surface-supplied diving equipment.
3. Use of self-contained diving equipment.
4. Diving safely and competently in various conditions.
5. Use of diver communications systems appropriate to air diving.
6. Emergency procedures for air diving.
7. Therapeutic recompression, decompression and the decompression tables appropriate to air diving.
8. Relevant legislation and guidance.

## PART IV

## AIR DIVING WITH SELF-CONTAINED EQUIPMENT WHERE NO SURFACE COMPRESSION CHAMBER IS REQUIRED ON SITE

All matters specified in Part III except the use of surface-supplied diving equipment.

**Surface Compression Chambers**

A surface compression chamber shall—

- (a) have at least two compartments with doors each of which acts as a pressure seal and can be opened from either side (“a two-compartment chamber”); or alternatively a single compartment chamber may be used where—
  - (i) the diver does not go to a depth exceeding 50 metres;
  - (ii) the diving operation is not carried on from or in connection with an offshore installation or pipe-line works; and
  - (iii) facilities are provided for transferring a person under pressure from that chamber to a two-compartment chamber within four hours;
- (b) in the case of a two-compartment chamber, have sufficient space in at least one of its compartments to enable two adults to lie down inside the chamber without difficulty and if the chamber is to be used in circumstances in which a person is intended to remain inside under pressure for a continuous period of 12 hours or more, excluding any therapeutic decompression, it shall have a minimum internal diameter of two metres, except that in the case of equipment taken into use for the first time before 1st January 1985 the minimum internal diameter shall be 1.75 metres;
- (c) where a diving bell is used, be capable of allowing a person to transfer under pressure from the bell to the surface compression chamber and vice versa;
- (d) provide a suitable environment and suitable facilities for any person who is to use it, having regard to the kind of operation in connection with which it is used and the period during which the pressure is raised;
- (e) be so designed as to minimise the risk of fire;
- (f) have a lock through which food and medical supplies may be passed into the chamber while its occupant remains under pressure;
- (g) be equipped with such valves, gauges and other fittings (which are to be made of suitable materials and so designed as to minimise the noise inside the chamber during rapid pressurisation) as are necessary to control and indicate the internal pressures of each compartment from outside the chamber;
- (h) be fitted with adequate equipment, including reserve facilities, for supplying and maintaining the appropriate breathing mixture to a person inside it;
- (i) be equipped with a two-way oral communications system;
- (j) be fitted with equipment for heating and lighting the chamber and adequate sanitary facilities.

**Diving Bells**

A diving bell shall—

- (a) be equipped with means by which each diver using the bell is able to enter and leave it without difficulty;
- (b) be capable of allowing a person to transfer under pressure from it to a surface compression chamber and vice versa;
- (c) be equipped with doors which act as pressure seals and which may be opened from either side;
- (d) be equipped with such valves, gauges and other fittings (which are to be made of suitable materials) as are necessary to control and indicate the pressure within the bell and to indicate to a person inside the bell and to the diving supervisor the external pressure on the bell;
- (e) be fitted with adequate equipment including reserve facilities for supplying the appropriate breathing mixture to a person occupying or working from the bell;
- (f) be equipped with a two-way oral communication system which enables contact to be maintained both with persons at the place from which the diving operation is carried on and with a diver while he is outside the bell;
- (g) be fitted with equipment for lighting and heating the bell;
- (h) without prejudice to the generality of regulation 18(1), contain adequate first-aid equipment and facilities and be fitted with lifting equipment sufficient to enable an unconscious or injured diver to be hoisted into the bell by a person inside it;
- (i) be provided with means by which, in the event of any emergency, it can be rapidly located by through-water signals from the bell and the life of any person trapped therein can be sustained for at least 24 hours or, where that is not practicable, sustained for as long as is practicable;
- (j) be used in association with lifting gear which enables the chamber to be lowered to the depth from which the diving operation is to be carried on, maintained in its position and raised, in each case without excessive lateral, vertical or rotational movement taking place; and
- (k) be provided with a means by which, in the event of failure of the main lifting gear, the chamber can be returned to the surface; if those means involve the shedding of weights, they shall be capable of being shed from the bell by a person inside it and a means shall be incorporated to prevent their accidental shedding.

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations revoke and replace the Diving Operations at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 (S.R. 1983 No. 209) and also repeal as respects Northern Ireland the Submarine Pipe-lines (Diving Operations) Regulations 1976 (S.I. 1976/923). The Regulations come into operation on 1st August 1994 except for those relating to diving first-aid which come into operation on 1st August 1995.

They apply to diving operations in which a diver is at work in circumstances covered by the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)) the general purposes of which were extended by Article 3(1) of the Offshore, and Pipelines, Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (S.I. 1992/1728 (N.I. 17)). The Regulations also apply when a surface compression chamber or a diving bell is being used in connection with a diving operation or the testing of equipment for use in a diving operation. They also apply to any person who is engaged in any activity as a diving supervisor, a member of a diving team or in connection with the recompression or decompression of a diver engaged in a diving operation.

Certain divers are excluded from the Regulations principally those using snorkel-type apparatus or no underwater breathing apparatus at all and those in submersible craft or pressure-resistant suits at less than 300 millibars above atmospheric pressure and those who are on duty as members of the armed forces (regulation 2(2)(b)).

The principal provisions of the Regulations require that for each diving operation there must be a registered diving contractor (regulation 6 and Schedule 2) whose main duties are to provide and maintain certain equipment and facilities which are safe and suitable (regulations 16 and 17), as well as medications and personnel which are adequate and appropriate in the circumstances (regulation 18), to make diving rules laying down the procedures to be followed in diving operations (regulation 12 and Schedule 1), to ensure that persons engaged in such operations receive specified information (regulation 5(1)(g)), to appoint a diving supervisor to have immediate control of such an operation (regulation 5(1)(a)) and to notify projects involving diving operations to the Department of Economic Development ('the Department') (regulation 8 and Schedule 3).

Persons who engage diving contractors must satisfy themselves that such contractors are registered (regulation 7).

Duties are placed on all persons having any control over diving operations (regulation 4), on the diving supervisor (regulation 9 and Schedule 4) who must have certain qualifications or experience (regulation 5(3)(c)) and on the divers themselves (regulation 10 and Schedule 5).

The Regulations prescribe the composition of the team of people ("the diving team") who must be present when a diving operation is or is about to be carried on, including the stand-by diver permanently required and the "extra diver" required in specified circumstances (regulation 11).

Divers are required to have certificates of training in the category of diving to be undertaken (regulation 13 and Schedule 6), of diving first-aid (regulation 14) and of medical fitness to dive (regulation 15).

Regulations 16 and 17 and Schedules 7 and 8 relate to the plant and equipment necessary for the safe carrying on of a diving operation.

The Department may grant certain exemptions by a certificate in writing (regulation 19).

These Regulations contain saving, repeal, modification, revocation, incidental and transitional provisions (regulations 20 to 23).

A person who contravenes these Regulations is guilty of an offence under Article 31 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.