

Proposed amendment of Helmet Diving /Under Seawalk in A&N Islands

Old Clause	Proposed Clause
<p>Section 1: Purpose of Guidelines The Guideline for the Helmet Diving/ Undersea walk is to ensure that the activity is performed with due regard to safety of all and conservation of environment. The standards for equipment and operating procedures defined herein are intended to establish the minimum acceptable norms for safe and responsible operation of the activity in the islands.</p>	<p>Section 1: Purpose of Guidelines The Guideline for the Helmet Diving/ Undersea walk is to ensure that the activity is performed with due regard to safety of all and conservation of environment. The standards for equipment and operating procedures defined herein are intended to establish the minimum acceptable norms for safe and responsible operation of the activity in the islands. Rules for technical equipments, operational parameters and maintenance standards will be formulated</p>
<p>Section 3.4 Personnel Requirements All Helmet Diving operation bases shall be operated with trained staff all of whom shall be proficient in swimming, snorkeling, and hold valid recognized and approved certification qualifying them in life saving and first aid techniques. Such first aid qualification shall include resuscitation techniques. These staff shall operated in the following capacity regardless of whether 1 or 8 helmet divers make up the guided tour: (i) All persons who are monitoring /supervising undersea-walkers/ helmet divers should be qualified rescue divers undergone training in EFR (Emergency First Responder) through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC Etc. (ii)One underwater monitors shall guide the Helmet Divers around the site; minimum one monitor diver for every 04 persons; and The guides should go in scuba dive equipment. The guides must be qualified rescue divers having undergone training in Emergency First Responder through a recognized dive associations, like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. Each guide should carry an alternate air source for emergency; and (iii) Two surface swimming monitors</p>	<p>All Helmet Diving operation bases shall be operated with trained staff all of whom shall be proficient in swimming, snorkeling, and hold valid recognized and approved certification qualifying as a Dive Instructor / Dive master certified by PADI, SSI, CMAS, BSAC, NAUI etc. as applicable below (i-v) and first aid techniques. Such first aid qualification shall include resuscitation techniques. These staff shall operated in the following capacity regardless of whether 1 or 8 helmet divers make up the guided tour: (i)All persons who are monitoring /supervising undersea-walkers/ helmet divers should be qualified as a Dive instructor/ Dive master through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC Etc. (ii)One underwater monitors should accompany with the Helmet Divers/ tourist around the sight with 1(One tourist) : 1 (one Dive instructor/ Dive master) shall guide the Helmet Divers around the site. The guides should go in scuba dive equipment. The Scuba Dive Instructor / Dive master must be qualified as a instructor / Dive</p>

<p>(certified in EFR) using masks, snorkels, and fins shall follow the group of divers whilst swimming on the surface and watch the overall safety and well being of participants and to be render rapid assistance, as necessary. The surface who can descend and stay down to give assistance;</p> <p>(iv) One air supply monitor(certified in EFR) on board (i.e. pleasure craft or platform)shall be responsible for ensuring that the required air supply is maintained at all times and that a reserve air supply of 10 minutes is always readily available;</p> <p>(v) A Site Manager (certified in EFR) shall be present on operation site at all times to supervise the overall operations and equipment. They shall also ensure the safety of clients, cleanliness of the operation area and crafts. The site manager should perfectly a qualified dive instructor and overall in-charge of helmet divers and other divers and of the complete platform.</p>	<p>master through a recognized dive associations, like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc.</p> <p>Each guide should carry an alternate air source for emergency; and</p> <p>(iii)Two surface swimming monitors (certified as rescue diver) using masks, snorkels, and fins shall follow the group of divers whilst swimming on the surface and watch the overall safety and well being of participants and to be render rapid assistance, as necessary. The surface who can descend and stay down to give assistance;</p> <p>(iv)One air supply monitor(certified as Dive instructor/ Dive master) on board (i.e. pleasure craft or platform)shall be responsible for ensuring that the required air supply is maintained at all times and that a reserve air supply of 10 minutes is always readily available;</p> <p>(v)A Site Manager (certified as Master Scuba Dive Trainer(MSDT) through PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc)shall be present on operation site at all times to supervise the overall operations and equipment. They shall also ensure the safety of clients, cleanliness of the operation area and crafts. The site manager should perfectly a qualified MSDT (Master Scuba Dive Trainer) and overall in-charge of helmet divers and other divers and of the complete platform.</p>
<p>Section 3.7: Minimum Age Requirements</p> <p>(a)No person of less than 7 years shall be allowed to undertake the activity. A child between 7 years and 15 years shall be accompanied by an adult during the underwater trail.</p>	<p>Section 3.7: Age requirements</p> <p>(a)No person less than 14 years shall be allowed to undertake the sea walk activity. Any person above the age of 50 to have prior medical fitness certificate issued by a doctor before undertake the activity.</p>
<p>Section 3.8: Underwater Trail</p> <p>(i)The Underwater monitor shall stand by at the foot of the ladder to receive and steady helmet divers as they descent from the platform to the sea floor by means of a secure</p>	<p>Section 3.8: Underwater Trail</p> <p>(i) The Underwater monitor shall stand by at the foot of the ladder to receive and steady helmet divers as they descent</p>

<p>ladder;</p> <p>(ii)The total number of helmet divers (including the Underwater Monitor) shall not exceed 9 persons;</p> <p>(iii)The activity shall be carried out in a maximum of 7 mts depth as measured at high tide and in calm waters;</p> <p>(iv)The maximum duration for the underwater part of the activity shall be 15/20 minutes; and</p> <p>(v) The tour shall take place within the allotted trail/ space.</p>	<p>from the platform to the sea floor by means of a secure ladder;</p> <p>(ii)The total number of helmet divers (including the Underwater Monitor) shall not exceed 9 persons;</p> <p>(iii)The activity shall be carried out in a maximum of 7 mts depth as measured at high tide and in calm waters;</p> <p>(iv)The maximum duration for the underwater part of the activity shall be 15/20 minutes; and</p> <p>(v) The tour shall take place within the allotted trail/ space.</p> <p>(vi) Ascent and Descent Rates:</p> <p>(vi)(i). The safe ascent and decent rates as per international standards (SSI) is 8m/min. this can be achieved consciously by a trained diver by controlling the BCD (Buoyancy control device). In case of sea walk, it is recommended that the ladder reach the ocean floor and the guest can safely climb down the stairs slowly.</p> <p>(vi)(ii) There needs to be two ladders one for ascending and one for descending.</p> <p>(vi)(iii) The ladder should have handrails so that the participants can maintain balance.</p> <p>(vi)(iv) It is advisable to have a platform constructed underwater with handrails so that the sea bed is not disturbed and sand shift will not affect depth and balance of the participant.</p> <p>(vii) Dive duration and Number of Dives:</p> <p>(vii)(i)All safety measures are affected because of overcrowding. It is desirable to limit the number of dives based on number of helmets and one hour per batch. For example, if the Sea walk establishment has 8 helmets and</p>
--	---

	<p>in an hour they can do only 8 dives. In a six-hour operational period, there can be $6 \times 8 = 48$ dives a day. This again needs to confirm with the air consumption and compressor capacity.</p>
<p>Section 5.0 Environmental Conditions</p>	<p>Existing (i)-(viii) as applicable remain intact. An additional clause added on.</p> <p>(ix) Awareness workshop and capacity building on the Marine fauna of A&N Islands to the proposed sights should be carried out.</p> <p>(x) Assist the status of coral reef and monitoring should be carried out at regular interval i.e. once in 06 months.</p>
<p>Section 10.0 Insurance The activity of Helmet Diving / under sea – walk shall be covered by a public liability insurance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per accident and maximum coverage for four times i.e Rs. 80.00 lakhs per annum. Besides there should be a minimum Personal Accident Insurance cover of Rs. 1.00 lakh per person under ongoing se-walk activity at any point of time.</p>	<p>The activity of Helmet Diving / under sea –walk shall be covered by a public liability insurance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per accident and maximum coverage for four times i.e Rs. 80.00 lakhs per annum. Besides there should be a minimum Personal Accident Insurance cover of Rs. 10.00 lakh per person under ongoing se-walk activity at any point of time.</p>
<p>Section 12. Penalty Clause:</p> <p>a) Fine of Rs. 1000/- on first violation of complaint received and found correct.</p> <p>b) Fine of Rs. 10000/- on second complaint / violation of terms and conditions laid down in the guidelines.</p> <p>(c) Suspension of operation for 7 or 14 days in view of serious complaint / third complaint.</p>	<p>Section 12. Penalty Clause:</p> <p>a) Fine of Rs. 1000/- on first violation of complaint received and found correct.</p> <p>b) Fine of Rs. 10000/- on second complaint / violation of terms and conditions laid down in the guidelines.</p> <p>c) Suspension of operation for upto 180 days in view of serious complaint / third complaint.</p> <p>d) Permanent cancelation of license if gross violation / multiple complaints or serious deviation from the guidelines.</p>