

being rushed into place. Emotional calls for restrictive legislation often ignore the real issues in favour of political point-scoring which has harmful rather than constructive long-term effects”.

John Knight

**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE CS/83  
RECREATIONAL UNDERWATER DIVING**

Standards Association of Australia,  
Standards House,  
80 Arthur Street,  
North Sydney,  
NSW 2059  
Telephone: (02) 963 4111

7 December 1988

The Secretary,  
South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society,

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 1984 Standards Australia received a request from the Australian Underwater Federation for preparation of an Australian Standard for recreational scuba diving. The request was widely supported when Standards Australia surveyed many government departments, divers, diving associations, and diving medical services in 1985.

This project was handled initially by Committee SF/17 - Work in Compressed Air, the committee which has responsibility for standards concerning commercial diving. After the release of DR 88026 - Training and certification of recreational divers, Part 1: Minimum entry level scuba diving, a large amount of public comment was received. Most of the comments were from recreational and sports divers requesting increased input in the preparation of the proposed standard. As this standard's aim is to protect consumers rather than commercial divers it was proposed to set up a separate project in the Consumer Standards section of Standards Australia. This proposal has been reviewed by Standards Australia's Consumer Standards Advisory Board and Safety Standards Board, both of which have endorsed the proposal.

It is envisaged that the proposed standard will deal primarily with the basic course syllabus contents and minimum training activities required for training and accreditation of recreational scuba divers. Other aspects which may be included are medical examinations for candidates, basic first aid and rescue procedures, equipment requirements and underwater communication signals.

A new standards committee is being formed to take over responsibility for the preparation of this standard. A copy of the proposed constitution of committee CS/83 is enclosed (page 34) and you will note that provision is made for your organisation to be represented by the number of persons shown. I would be grateful if you would consider whether you wish to take part in this work, and advise me as soon as possible of the name of your nominee(s) and the address(es) for documents.

The first meeting will be held in Sydney around March 1989 and subsequent meetings at locations according to the wishes of the committee. Obviously for effective participation in the preparation of the standard, it is desirable that committee members be able to attend meetings; however, it is understood that it is not always possible.

Should you require any further information regarding the nature of the proposed standard or the kind of work the committee will be involved in, could you please contact Ms. Carol Foster at this office.

Peter N Walsh  
Director-Standards

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society.

18th January, 1989

Mr. P. Walsh,  
Standards Association of Australia,

Dear Sir,

This Society is pleased to be invited to participate on the Committee to discuss the formulation of DR 88206 concerning the training and certification of recreational divers.

SPUMS was constituted to promote the cause of safe diving, to educate divers and doctors in the problems that divers incur and to encourage the dissemination of knowledge about diving medicine in the diving community. It is obvious that the aims of the Standard Association and SPUMS are the same in this field.

Our representative on the Committee will be Dr John Knight of 80 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002. All communication should be addressed to him.

If we can be of any further service to your organisation, please contact me again.

David E. Davies  
Secretary SPUMS