



# Micro credential- Full Face Mask and Communications Version July 2022

## **1. Full Face Mask (including through-water communications if applicable)**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This course allows the student to develop knowledge and skills to properly use full face masks. It will discuss the types of full-face masks commonly used in science, the application of each, safety considerations, emergency skills and basic maintenance.

### **1.2 Who may Teach**

An active Instructor that has been trained to teach this specialty.

### **1.3 Student to Instructor Ratio**

#### **Academic**

Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

#### **Confined Water**

A maximum of 6 students per active instructor

#### **Open Water**

A maximum of 4 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate.

The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 8 with the assistance of 2 active assistant instructors or divemaster's.

### **1.4 Student Prerequisites**

Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent and current valid medical clearance.

### **1.5 Course Structure and Duration**

#### **Academic Execution**

Theory and classroom work

#### **Confined water execution (pool or pool like conditions)**

1 dive or until basic skills have been mastered

#### **Open water execution**

Minimum of 3 dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc. to be figured out and logged. In-water skills to be undertaken during dives.



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### 1.6 Administrative Requirements

Ensure that the students have the required equipment. Medical clearance, and complete the necessary performance requirements. Communicate the schedule to the students.

### 1.7 Training Material and Equipment

As required to complete the theory and practical requirements. Link to/ copies of the manuals for the masks in use. If applicable, SOP's for the masks in use

### 1.8 Elements of Competency and Performance Criteria

Theory

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Introduction to Full Face Mask and Underwater Communication equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List the advantages and disadvantages of using full face masks and underwater communication equipment</li> <li>• Describe the different Full-Face Mask's and underwater communication equipment commonly used within the science sector in New Zealand</li> </ul>
Full Face Mask troubleshooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List commonly encountered complications/ issues associated with the Full-Face Masks used within the science sector in New Zealand</li> <li>• Where possible, describe how these complications/ issues can be addressed/ rectified.</li> </ul>
Through-water Communication System (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the power/ battery system for diver mounted and surface units</li> <li>• Correct positioning of the diver and surface communication units</li> <li>• Discuss suitable language and protocols for communicating via through water communication systems</li> <li>• Describe situations when through water communication systems may fail/ become unreliable</li> </ul>
Practical Full-Face mask use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up of Full-Face Mask on a regulator set</li> <li>• Pre-dive checks</li> <li>• Correct donning &amp; doffing</li> <li>• Cleaning, drying and storage</li> <li>• Annual service and maintenance and record keeping</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required equipment- half mask</li> <li>• Bailout techniques</li> </ul>
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### Confined Water Skills

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Pre-dive preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication system set up (if applicable)</li> <li>• Pre dive safety check</li> <li>• Proper donning of full-face mask</li> </ul>
Basic Full-Face Skills (conducted in standing depth water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breathing from a full-face mask and checking of seals</li> <li>• practice equalisation techniques</li> <li>• demonstrate diver to diver through water communication (if applicable)</li> <li>• demonstrate diver to surface through water communication (if applicable)</li> <li>• practice the clearing of the mask and the bailout out to a half mask and alternative regulator</li> </ul>
Basic Full-Face Skills (conducted in water too deep to stand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• buoyancy check</li> <li>• practice equalisation techniques</li> <li>• demonstrate diver to diver through water communication (if applicable)</li> <li>• demonstrate diver to surface through water communication (if applicable)</li> <li>• practice the clearing of the mask and the bailout out to a half mask and alternative regulator</li> <li>• Alternative air-source assent</li> </ul>
Optional Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch from a half mask to a Full-Face mask whilst underwater</li> </ul>

### Open Water Skills

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Pre-dive preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication system set up correctly (if applicable)</li> <li>• Pre dive safety check</li> <li>• Proper donning of full-face mask</li> <li>• Buoyancy check</li> </ul>



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<p>Conduct dives on a Full-Face Mask (repeat 3 times)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled descent with regular equalisation</li> <li>• Demonstrate diver to diver, diver to surface through-water voice communications (if applicable)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ diver to diver</li> <li>○ diver to surface</li> </ul> </li> <li>• After a dive time of no less than 20 minutes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear a partially flooded mask</li> <li>○ Bailout out of the Full-Face Mask on to a half mask and standard regular</li> <li>○ Make a controlled ascent to the surface</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## 1.9 Full Face Mask Diver Authorisation

Once a diver has completed all the requirements in Section 1.8 they may be authorised by their institution to dive using a full face mask for a period of 12 months, approved by the DCB through the DSO. Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in authorization. To be authorized, the applicant must demonstrate to the DCB, through the DSO, that they are sufficiently skilled and proficient in the diving tasks being undertaken and possess the necessary judgement for their safety and/or that of the dive team. Full face mask authorisation is only active when required certifications are in place and current.

## 2.0 Maintenance of Currency

Initial authorisation to act as a Full Face Mask diver is for a period of 12 months. After every subsequent 12 months, the diver must have logged a minimum of 6 dives using a full face mask within the past 12 months and be able to demonstrate to the DSO the ability to switch from a full face mask to a back up half mask underwater. If the diver has not logged 6 dives in the previous 12 months all the 'Open Water Skills' listed in section 1.8 must be competently demonstrated to the DS