



Micro credential- Limited/ Nil Visibility Diver Version July 2022

1. Limited/Nil Visibility Diver

1.1 Introduction

This course allows the student to develop knowledge and skills to safely carry out scientific diving operations in Limited/Nil Visibility situations. It will discuss the diving techniques and situations where this type of diving may be required. Limited visibility is considered to be conditions where the horizontal visibility is <2m.

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 **4** 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 instructor should have an in-water safety diver available during open water training. If there are multiple instructors training groups, then one in-water safety diver may be adequate, if conditions allow for them to safely monitor and move between each group.

1.4 Student Prerequisites

Trained Scientific Diver or equivalent and current valid medical clearance.

1.5 Course Structure and Duration

Academic Execution

Theory and classroom work

Open water execution

At least two 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

1.8 Course Content

Theory:

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Describe what limited/nil visibility diving involves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List different reasons/locations for diving in limited/nil vis Give reasons why science divers may dive in those situations When is it not recommended to dive in limited/nil visibility
Methods used in limited/nil visibility diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe buddy diving with a buddy line Describe how a solo diver with a lifeline operates Describe how a solo diver with a surface float operates
Role of the Dive Attendant during limited/nil visibility diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of the meaning and how to use line signals Describe the role of the attendant in assisting the diver Describe how to maintain contact with divers in the water Describe the role of the attendant in communicating with the Dive Coordinator (and Skipper) Describe the role of the attendant in an emergency situation
Equipment considerations for limited/nil visibility diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe considerations for lifelines, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floating vs sinking Length considerations Where and how to secure Describe suitable reserve gas supplies for a diver on a lifeline in limited/nil visibility situations Describe options for standby tethers or lifelines



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the use of surface floats in limited/nil visibility diving
Role of the Standby Diver during limited/nil visibility diving operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the requirements for being dressed in and ready to dive, for a standby diver Describe what equipment considerations and requirements are necessary for a standby diver Describe what dive considerations are necessary for the standby diver Describe what surface considerations are necessary for the standby diver
Rescue situations during limited/nil visibility diving operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a suitable procedure for resolving lost communications Describe the process for rescuing a tangled diver Describe the process for rescuing a trapped diver
Communications during limited/nil visibility diving operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the use of lifelines for communications during limited/nil visibility diving operations Describe the use of voice communications during limited/nil visibility diving operations Describe how to maintain contact with the diver by the attendant Describe common lifeline signals Describe a suitable procedure for lost communications during limited/nil visibility diving operations
Maintenance requirements for lifelines and other equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe appropriate methods for cleaning and storage of lifelines
Use of Full Face Masks during limited/nil visibility diving operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe reasons for and against the use of FFMs in limited/nil visibility diving operations
Operating from vessels with a lifeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe appropriate procedures/considerations for operating from vessels when using lifelines and/or surface floats

1.9 Required Skill and Performance Requirements



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Confined Water Skills

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Pre-dive preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications system set up (if applicable) • Pre dive safety check • Proper securing and attachment of a lifeline • Preparation of the Standby Diver
Basic lifeline skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate diving and managing a lifeline • Respond appropriately to lifeline signals • Complete any required tasks (e.g. search patterns)
Basic Dive Attendant Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage a diver’s lifeline appropriately • Communicate with the Diver and Dive Coordinator effectively • Maintain awareness of the diver during diving operations
Standby Diver Responses (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate readiness to deploy as a standby diver • Successfully “rescue” a diver using appropriate procedures

Open Water Skills

Element of Competency	Performance criteria
Pre-dive preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications system set up (if applicable) • Pre dive safety check • Proper securing and attachment of a lifeline • Preparation of the Standby Diver
Basic Diver skills for limited/nil visibility diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate diving and managing a lifeline • Respond appropriately to lifeline signals • Complete any required tasks in limited/nil visibility situations
Basic Dive Attendant Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain contact with the Diver • Communicate clearly between Diver and Dive Coordinator • Demonstrate knowledge of common line signals • Respond appropriately to a simulated emergency situation
Standby Diver Responses (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be dressed in appropriately for the scenario • Respond in a timely manner to a simulated emergency



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate procedures to effectively rescue another diver in limited/nil visibility
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- Open water Dive 1 to a max depth of 6m:
 - Planning dive
 - Lifeline
 - Attendant role and skills
 - Diver responses
 - Practice basic skills
 - Complete search patterns
 - Complete rescue scenarios – standby to rescue

Open Water Dive 1 is completed with the diver on a lifeline in normal visibility (>2m). The aim of the dive is to get the diver and attendant comfortable with using a lifeline to complete search patterns and while swimming around. During the dive the standby diver will be required to enter the water and “rescue” the diver.

- Open Water Dive 2
 - Planning dive
 - Blackout
 - Attachment of Lifeline
 - Entry and descent
 - Practice lifeline skills – searching, moving under directions, maintaining contact with the bottom
 - Complete rescue scenarios – standby to rescue wearing blackout

Open Water Dive 2 is completed with the diver on a lifeline, while wearing a blackout mask. The aim is to get the diver comfortable with operating in nil visibility, using the lifeline for orientation. During the dive the standby diver will be required to enter the water and “rescue” the diver, while also wearing a blackout mask.

Note that it is recommended that an in-water safety diver is available while students are using blackout masks. One safety diver may monitor more than one student, as long as conditions are appropriate.