



### Points of special consideration

- *This is the third mandatory professional level certification*
- *It can be given by any ACUC ITE once requisites are met*
- *There are no RSTC or ISO specific standards for this level*
- *It exceeds academically and skills wise, the ISO 24802-2 requirements*

### Foreword

The ACUC Advanced Instructor is a certification that can be obtained by ACUC Open Water Instructors that meet a series of prerequisites. The main features of this certification are that in addition to doing the same as an ACUC Open Water Instructor, the candidate who obtains this level can also teach but cannot evaluate or certify the ACUC Entry Level Instructor course.

This is an International ACUC standard and therefore it is always subject to different national or local legislations. In cases where the existing legislation differs from this standard, the ACUC Delegation of the country or area, if it exists, must request in writing to the ACUC central office, a "Deviation" from this standard to satisfy the legislation of the area, supporting its demand with the proper documentation. Deviations, if requested, to be considered valid, should appear at the end of each specific standard document. There is no RSTC or ISO specific standard for this level.

In cases where local or national legislations are more restrictive than the ACUC standard, then local legislation will prevail, but if the ACUC standard is more restrictive, then the ACUC standard will prevail, because logically fulfilling the more restrictive ACUC standard, the local legislation will also be fulfilled.

## 1. Scope

This standard specifies the minimum competencies that must be achieved during **training** by an ACUC Advanced Instructor.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of the ACUC standards, the following definitions apply. Please note that not all terms shown next might appear in any one specific standard.

**2.1 ACUC:** Entity providing recreational scuba diving training systems and certification.

**2.2 basic equipment:** Equipment consisting of the following items:

- Mask
- Fins
- Snorkel

**2.3 breathing gas:** Appropriate mixture of oxygen and nitrogen.

**2.4 certification:** Confirmation that a student has completed all requirements of a course according to the specific standard, as issued by ACUC.

**2.5 cold water:** Water less than 10°C / 50°F from its highest average temperature or water of 10°C / 50°F or less

**2.6 competencies:** What a diver can do once certified

**2.7 confined spaces:** condition that applies when there is no direct access to the surface, such inside a wreck, cave, etc.

**2.8 confined water:** Swimming pool with a depth appropriate to the activity, or body of water that offers similar conditions (maximum depth 6 meters)

**2.9 diving equipment:** Equipment consisting of the following items:

- Mask,
- Fins,
- Snorkel,
- Cylinder,
- Regulator,
- Alternative breathing gas system, which could range from a simple octopus system to a duplicate breathing system with a separate breathing gas supply,
- Cylinder-support-system and buoyancy control device including (if appropriate) a quick release weight system,
- Submersible pressure gauge (breathing gas pressure monitor),
- Means to measure depth and time and to safely limit exposure to inert gas,
- Diving suit (if appropriate).

Note: Specific environments may require appropriate additional equipment (e.g. an underwater navigational aid, knife/cutting device).

**2.10 dry specialty:** Specialty course where no water training takes place, such as for example, First Aid, Oxygen Administration, etc

**2.11 knowledge levels:**

- Basic: knows how...
- Intermediate: knows how and why...
- Advanced: knows how, why and also, knows how to teach it...

**2.12 non certification scuba course:** Scuba course where the participants do not receive an ACUC certification at the end of the course, such as for example, scuba introduction, scuba refreshment, scuba buoyancy, etc

**2.13 open water:** Body of water significantly larger than a swimming pool offering conditions typical of a natural body of water encountered in the region where training takes place.

**2.14 prerequisites for training:** What a diver needs or conditions to be met prior to start training

**2.15 reduced visibility:** condition that applies when diving at night or when visibility is less than an arm's length, for whatever the reason

**2.16 scuba:** Self-contained under-water breathing apparatus.

**2.17 scuba instructor:** A qualified individual, certified by ACUC to teach, evaluate and certify divers.

**2.18 theory knowledge:** knowledge imparted in a dry environment (classroom, pool deck, etc)

**2.19 training definitions:**

- To observe: to be an observer in a course but without any type of participation
- To assist: besides the above, to assist in the training of a course under the direct supervision of a higher level instructor
- To train: besides all of the above, to train in a course without the need of a higher level instructor's supervision
- To evaluate: besides all of the above, to evaluate by one self or with other evaluators, candidates' performances
- To certify: besides all of the above, to issue candidates' certifications

**2.20 training open water dive:** open water training experience under direct supervision of a qualified instructor, comprising at least the following activities:

- Briefing
- Preparation to dive
- Pre-dive checks
- Entry into water
- Descent procedures
- Under-water activity
- Ascent and surfacing procedures
- Exit from water
- Debriefing

- Post dive procedures
- Recording the dive.

**2.21 water skills:** knowledge imparted inside a wet environment (pool water, sea water, etc)

### 3. Competencies of a certified, recreational ACUC Advanced Instructor

An ACUC Advanced Instructor shall be trained to have sufficient competencies by knowledge, skill and experience to, in addition of what an Open Water Instructor must know, teach but not evaluate or certify the Entry Level Instructor program. In addition, those ACUC Advanced Instructors, who are also instructors of the following "dry" specialties:

- Diving Emergency Responder
- O2 Emergency Responder
- Equipment Maintenance
- Nitrox Mixer

Will be able to teach, evaluate and certify other instructors in these specialties. Remember that since these are "dry" specialties (there is no aquatic training), any ACUC Divemaster or higher level can be an instructor for these specialties.

ACUC Advanced Instructors shall dive within the following parameters

- Dive and lead divers to a maximum depth of 40 meters / 130 feet
- Dive and ensure that others dive only when appropriate support is available at the surface,
- Dive and ensure that others dive under conditions that are equal or better than the conditions where they were trained.
- Assist certified divers in new environments which the Advanced Instructor is familiar with.

If accompanied by an ACUC Instructor of superior level, certified ACUC Advanced Instructors may gain progressive experience beyond these parameters (except depth) and develop competency in managing more challenging diving conditions designed to lead to higher qualifications. Where further instruction is required this can only be provided by a suitably qualified ACUC Instructor.

### 4. Prerequisites

To obtain this level according to this standard, the candidate must meet the following prerequisites:

- **Minimum age:** 19 years.
- **Health requirements:** candidates must pass an appropriate medical examination for recreational diving. Candidates will be advised on the importance of appropriate regular medical examinations.
- **Previous certification:** ACUC Open Water Instructor or similar. Must also be an ACUC DER (Diving Emergency Responder) Instructor and an ACUC O2ER (O2 Emergency Responder) Instructor. Please note that it is in the best interest of an Advanced Instructor to be an Instructor of those Non-Restricted specialties (Night Diving, Wreck Diving, U/W Orientation, etc...) which a diver is introduced to in the Advanced Diver course.
- **Documentation requirements:** Candidates must sign a risk waiver form, safety norms, ethical conduct form, etc....these forms are downloadable from the ACUC private website.

Note: ACUC could accept any similar certification of First Aid Instructor, if they include BLS (Basic Life Support) and defibrillator training, from other recognized organizations (although the ACUC exam should be done and the ACUC DER Instructor kit should be obtained), but in the case of Emergency Oxygenation Instructor, ACUC will only recognize DAN or USP certifications, and the ACUC O2ER instructor kit should be obtained, and the ACUC exam should be done.

## 5. Certification requirements

Considering that candidates must already be Open Water Instructors, they may be required by ACUC to complete an aptitude and knowledge test, mainly dealing with ACUC standards. In addition to having the specialties mentioned in point 4 above, the candidate must have certified a minimum of 20 divers with ACUC, including at least 4 Divemasters, in the last 48 months. **As an alternative**, if the candidate does not have 20 certified students, the Open Water Instructor candidate, to obtain the Advanced Instructor certification, can also participate as an observer in at least two ACUC Entry Level Instructor or ACUC Open Water Instructor courses offered by an ACUC IT or ITE. Once the candidate has participated as an observer in at least two instructor courses and the IT or ITE, acting as course director issues a favourable report, then the candidate will obtain the Advanced Instructor qualification. The candidate must also have the Instructor specialties mentioned in Section 4

## 6. Training Dives

No additional training dives are required for this level.

## 7 Candidate's certification

Candidates will be certified as ACUC Advanced Instructors when they have complied with all the requirements.

## 8 Candidate's qualifications

Once completed the course, the ACUC Advanced Instructor will be able to:

- Dive up to a maximum depth of 40 meters and always accompanied by at least another certified diver.
- Be able to guide groups of divers in open water without supervision.
- Be able to teach, evaluate and certify all levels up to and including, the Divemaster level courses without supervision
- Be able to teach, but not evaluate or certify, the Entry Level Instructor course under the supervision of an ACUC Instructor Trainer.
- Be able to teach any specialties for which the Advanced Instructor holds or obtains the Specialty Instructor certification

## 9. Deviations: Deviations only apply to the country or area mentioned

Country or Area	Deviation relating to	Reason	Deviation Approval
South Korea	O2ER Instructor certification	Local legislation	Because a medical degree is required for oxygen administration, this course is not mandatory