

*Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques*  
*World Underwater Federation*



**Snorkel Diver Standards**

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# INTRODUCTION

The system of CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificates exists to allow snorkeldivers who have been trained in accordance with the standards of CMAS to have their qualification recognised in countries throughout the world which are part of the CMAS family of snorkeldivers.

CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificates can be obtained in two ways.

1. A snorkeldiver who holds a diving qualification awarded by a National Federation which is member of the CMAS Technical Committee, and whose qualifications have been recognised by the Technical Committee, can obtain the CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificate which is recognised as equivalent to the National Certificate held. In some countries the CMAS International Certificate will be awarded in place of a national certificate.

2. A snorkeldiver who has been trained by a diving school or centre which is recognised directly by CMAS will be awarded the CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificate appropriate to the standard reached.

## AIMS OF THE CMAS INTERNATIONAL SNORKELDIVER CERTIFICATE SYSTEM

It is intended that, no matter where in the world a snorkeldiver reaches training, he or she will be able to visit other areas and be accepted as a snorkeldiver with competence and experience equal to that indicated by the qualification held. The CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificates are evidence that the holder has received training up to the minimum level defined for each grade of certificate. They should then be allowed to participate in snorkeldiving activities to the extent that a holder of the equivalent national certificate would be.

It is not the aim of the system that the holder of a CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificate should be given the equivalent national certificate. However, they should be accepted for training to the next higher level.

The principles governing the CMAS International Snorkeldiver Instructor Certificates are precisely the same.

# **DEFINITIONS OF SNORKELDIVER AND SNORKELDIVER INSTRUCTOR GRADES**

The system consist of three levels of snorkeldiver qualification and two levels of snorkeldiver instructor qualification. In all cases, increased competence and experience is indicated by an increasing number of stars in the description and the emblem.

## **ONE STAR SNORKEL DIVER**

A snorkeldiver who is competent in the safe and correct use of relevant snorkeldiving equipment used in a swimming pool or sheltered water. The snorkel diver is familiar with relevant personal equipment and its use in a sheltered open water area. The snorkeldiver is ready to gain further open water training.

## **TWO STAR SNORKEL DIVER**

A snorkeldiver who has gained some open water diving experience. The snorkeldiver is considered ready to take part in dives with other snorkeldivers, under supervision if a minor. The CMAS 2 star snorkeldiver is considered trained.

## **THREE STAR SNORKEL DIVER**

A fully trained snorkeldiver who has gained considerable experience in open water snorkel diving under various conditions. The 3 star snorkel diver has aquired life saving skills and can lead snorkel divers in open water dives.

## **ONE STAR SNORKEL DIVER INSTRUCTOR**

A CMAS 2 star snorkeldiver who is interested in and has knowledge of practical snorkeldiver instruction. The instructor is qualified to conduct practical lessons in a swimming pool and to teach the CMAS 1 star snorkeldiver certificate.

The instructor can be used as an assistant instructor in open water, but cannot plan an open water dive and lead a group of divers on his own.

## **TWO STAR SNORKEL DIVER INSTRUCTOR**

An experienced one star snorkeldiver instructor who has the knowledge, skills, and experience required to lead and instruct 1, 2 and 3 Star snorkeldiver students in the classroom, swimming pool, and open water. The experienced CMAS 2 Star snorkeldiver instructor may assist in the training and education of CMAS 1 Star snorkeldiver instructors.

# **THE FORM OF THE CMAS INTERNATIONAL SNORKELDIVERS CERTIFICATES**

For each grade of snorkeldiver and snorkeldiver instructor there is a plastic pocket card and a round badge. These two items are normally issued to applicants for International Certificates. The card carries the details of the holder, and their national certificate, with provisions for identifying their national federation. The badge indicates the international certificate held and is suitable for wearing on leisure wear.

A wall certificate (size A4) is also available on request for those wishing it.

# **PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING EQUIVALENT GRADES FOR NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Any federation wishing to obtain recognition of their national certificates and equivalence with International Certificates must fulfill certain obligations.

1. The Federation must be a paid-up member of the CMAS Technical Committee.
2. They must submit full details of their training, evaluation, and certification system for each grade requested to the International Certificates Commission of the Technical Committee of CMAS. Alternatively, if they have not established such a system they may undertake to follow the system offered and detailed by CMAS.
3. Subject to approval by the International Certificates Commission the equivalence will be proposed for approval by the Executive Bureau. Should there be any part of the national system which requires amendment or clarification then it may be necessary for an appointed observer to witness the training or evaluation procedures in use before equivalence can be granted.

## **PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

There are currently three ways in which CMAS International Certificates are issued by approved issuing bodies.

1. The issuing body sends the application form containing the details of the snorkeldivers or instructors, signed by a responsible officer, together with the appropriate fee, to CMAS headquarters. The cards are prepared and returned, with the badge, to the issuing body for delivery to the snorkeldivers or instructors.
2. The issuing body may be authorised by CMAS to prepare the embossed card themselves, in which case the blank certificates are ordered from CMAS headquarters by a letter signed by a responsible officer, together with the agreed fee. The cards are prepared by the issuing body, using its own facilities, and issued directly to the snorkeldiver or instructor. The issuing body must complete an application form giving details of all cards issued and send this to CMAS headquarters each month.

On the application form the following details must be given for each certificate:

- the family name and first name of the applicant.
- the full address of the applicant.
- the nationality of the applicant.
- the number of any previous CMAS certificate.
- the number of the present CMAS certificate (unless the certificate is prepared by CMAS HQ).

The form must carry the name and address of the issuing body, be signed by a responsible officer, and dated. Up to 12 applicants for the same level of certificate may be listed on one form.

The certificate will carry the following information:

- family name.
- town and country.
- name of the national equivalent certificate (where appropriate).
- name of the issuing body or CMAS recognised school.
- date of expiry date (instructor certificate only).
- number of the certificate.

The certificate number is determined by following this procedure:

First two figures = abbreviation of the certificate level

S1, S2, S3 indicate the snorkeldiver level  
I1, I2 indicate the snorkeldiver instructor level

Next 1-3 figures = code of the issuing body or recognised school  
e.g. CH indicates Switzerland, GB indicates Great Britain.

Next 1-5 figures = chronological number of this certificate.

For example: S2 CH 023

This is the 23th CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificate to be issued to a 2 Star Snorkeldiver in Switzerland.

CMAS International Snorkeldiver Certificates may only be issued to snorkeldivers who have been trained by instructors holding the appropriate CMAS International Instructor Certificate, or its approved National Equivalent and who operate within a National Federation's training system, or in a CMAS Recognised School.

3. A CMAS Recognised school (OCC) will issue to its students temporary certificates which are signed by the instructor responsible for granting the certificates. Copies of these temporary certificates are returned together with the appropriate fee, to CMAS headquarters who issue cards and badges to the students directly.

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

There are two methods currently in use to assess the competence and ability of snorkeldivers and snorkeldiver instructors under training.

In the traditional system a period of training is generally followed by a final examination in which all of the required skills and knowledge are assessed. This method is usually more physically demanding and more likely to induce stress and apprehension in the student. However, it will prove suitable where these factors are considered appropriate.

In the second, more modern, system the increasing skill and ability of the student are assessed continuously and the student's rate of progress adjusted accordingly. Since the instructor is able to assess the student's competence and knowledge at regular intervals during the training programme, and during their diving experience, far more information can be gained on the student's strengths and weaknesses and any such weaknesses can be adjusted during the programme. Thus, at the end of the period of training the student will have the required level with a minimum need for final assessment.

Although the second system is considered more desirable in the context of teaching snorkeldiving as a leisure activity, elements of both approaches are usually present in most systems.

The instructor should consider a skill as acquired if the student has successfully carried it out one or more times in real conditions during the course of one or more dives.

There is no laid down marking system. Each element in the training programme, once carried out successfully, is marked as adequate in the training records. The chronological order of the training programme elements is not inflexible. Certain elements from a later part of the programme can be carried out before the completion of all elements of the earlier part of the programme. This allows for the aptitude of the student to be recognised, and for the practicality of the diving facilities and opportunities to be considered. However, all elements must be completed before the certificate can be awarded. A higher level certificate cannot be awarded before a lower level certificate.

When assessing the difficulty of a snorkeldiving or training experience it is important to take into account not only the depth at which the activity takes place, but also the temperature of the water and its clarity. Suggested depth ranges are shown in the »Requirements« section for each certificate.

## **DIVING LOG BOOKS**

It is compulsory that all students maintain good records of their diving and training experience. Dives should be noted in a diving log book, and the award of qualifications may be noted in this, or another book. While most national federations will supply these, a log book is also available from CMAS.

## **VALIDITY OF INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

The period of validity placed on the International Snorkeldiver Instructor Certificates issued by CMAS is that of their equivalent National Certificate. International Snorkel Diver Instructor Certificates have an expiry date fixed at five years from the date of their issue.

## **AWARDING CMAS INTERNATIONAL SNORKELDIVING CERTIFICATES**

The detailed conditions and recommended content of the training course for each certificate level will be found in the CMAS publication »CMAS Snorkel Diver Training Programmes«. The following is a summary of this information

# ☆ CMAS ONE STAR SNORKELDIVER

**a. Definition**

A snorkeldiver who is competent in the safe and correct use of relevant snorkeldiving equipment used in a swimming pool or sheltered water. The snorkel diver is familiar with relevant personal equipment and its use in a sheltered open water training area. The snorkeldiver is ready to gain further open water experience.

**b. Entry requirements**

1. Must be able to swim 50 metres freestyle without equipment.

**c. Level**

**Knowledge:**

Must have a basic understanding of:

The dangers of hyperventilation and pressure effects.

Safe snorkeling techniques.

Equipment used in snorkeldiving.

**Skills:**

Be competent in the preparation, care and use of equipment for snorkeldiving.

Be able to enter and leave the water and adjust buoyancy.

Be able to control movement in all directions.

Be able to perform self-rescue and buddy rescue.

Be able to demonstrate the required discipline in a group of snorkeldivers, so that dive safety is ensured.

**d. Assessment**

In the »continuous assessment« system the above knowledge and skills will be assessed at various points during the course, and the certificate will only be awarded if the snorkeldiver is judged to have reached the required standard.

An oral test can be used to establish that the snorkeldiver's standard of knowledge matches that outlined in »Knowledge« above.

The assessment will normally be made in accordance with the rules of the National Federation, but when awarded directly at a CMAS recognised diving school the assessment must be made by an Instructor of at least CMAS 1 star snorkel diver instructor grade.



## ☆☆ CMAS TWO STAR SNORKELDIVER

**a. Definition**

A snorkeldiver who has gained some open water diving experience. The snorkeldiver is considered ready to take part in dives with other snorkeldivers, under supervision. The CMAS 2 star snorkeldiver is considered trained.

**b. Entry requirements**

1. Must be qualified as a CMAS 1 Star Snorkel diver.

**c. Level**

**Knowledge:**

Must have a basic understanding of:

Diving physics related to snorkeldiving, i.e. effects of pressure, dangers of hyperventilation, panic and drowning.

Basic first aid: Mouth to Nose artificial ventilation.

Safe open water snorkelling techniques.

Introduction to other snorkelling activities.

**Skills:**

Be competent in the use of mask, fins and snorkel.

Be able to control movement in all directions in open water whilst wearing open water equipment.

Be competent in self-rescue and buddy rescue techniques in open water.

Be able to demonstrate buoyancy controll.

**d. Assessment**

In the »continuous assessment« system the above knowledge and skills will be assessed at various points during the course, and the certificate will only be awarded if the snorkeldiver is judged to have reached the required standard.

An oral test can be used to establish that the snorkeldiver's standard of knowledge matches that outlined in »Knowledge« above.

The assessment will normally be made in accordance with the rules of the National Federation, but when awarded directly at a CMAS recognised diving school the assessment must be made by a Instructor of at least CMAS 2 star snorkel diver instructor grade.

# ☆☆☆ CMAS THREE STAR SNORKELDIVER

## a. **Definition**

A fully trained snorkeldiver who has gained considerable experience in open water snorkel diving under various conditions. The 3 star snorkel diver has acquired life saving skills and can lead snorkel-divers in open water dives.

## b. **Entry requirements**

1. Must be qualified as a CMAS 2 star snorkel diver.
2. Since obtaining the two star snorkeldiver certificate the diver should have carried out snorkel dives on at least 15 different occasions (dates).

## c. **Level**

### **Knowledge:**

Must have an advanced understanding of:

Diving physics related to snorkeldiving, the causes and effects of snorkel diving illnesses such as: Dangers of hyperventilation, panic, drowning, squeezes and hypothermia.

Basic diving first aid.

Special procedures and safety related to open water diving.

Must have a basic understanding of:

The principles of dive planning and selection of dive sites.

Use of resuscitation equipment, correct reaction in relation to diving accidents.

Marine life and conservation.

Must have knowledge of snorkel activities such as finnswimming, underwater hockey, underwater rugby, underwater photography etc.

### **Skills:**

Be fully competent and familiar with all types of snorkel diving equipment i.e. lifejackets, suits, compasses, knives, masks, fins, snorkels, weight belts and the different release mechanisms. Be competent in self-rescue and buddy rescue from depths in the 0-6 metre range.

Be able to perform Mouth To Nose artificial ventilation.

Be competent as a leader of a group of snorkel divers.

## d. **Assessment**

In the »continuous assessment« system the above knowledge and skills will be assessed at various points during the course, and the certificate will only be awarded if the snorkeldiver is judged to have reached the required standard.

An oral test can be used to establish that the snorkeldiver's standard of knowledge matches that outlined in »Knowledge« above.

The assessment will normally be made in accordance with the rules of the National Federation, but when awarded directly at a CMAS recognised diving school the assessment must be made by a Instructor of at least CMAS 2 star snorkel diver instructor grade.

# ☆ CMAS ONE STAR SNORKELDIVER INSTRUCTOR

## a. **Definition**

A CMAS 2 star snorkeldiver who is interested in and has knowledge of practical snorkeldiver instruction. The instructor is qualified to conduct practical lessons in a swimming pool and to teach the CMAS 1 star snorkeldiver certificate.

The instructor can be used as an assistant instructor in open water, but cannot plan an open water dive and lead a group of divers on his own.

## b. **Entry requirements**

1. Must be a minimum of 15 years old.
2. Must hold a 2 star snorkeldiver certificate.
3. Must be a member of a CMAS TC recognised organisation or be attached to an OCC.

## c. **Level**

### **Knowledge:**

Must have a basic understanding of:

Instruction methods appropriate to conducting practical snorkeldiver lessons in a swimming pool or in sheltered open water.

The learning process.

Equipment used in snorkeldiving instruction.

First aid.

Must have a basic knowledge of how the Federation and CMAS are organised.

### **Skills:**

Be able to lead and control a group of snorkeldiver students in a swimmingpool or in sheltered open water.

Be able to instruct a group of snorkeldiver students in a swimming pool or in sheltered open water.

Be able to teach the various elements of the 1 Star Snorkeldiver course to a group of students.

Be able to communicate effectively with the students at all times.

## d. **Assessment**

In the »continuous assessment« system the above knowledge and skills will be assessed at various points during the course, and the certificate will only be awarded if the instructor is judged to have reached the required standard.

If the »testing system« is used then the final assessment should establish the instructor's ability to carry out the following in a swimming pool.

### **Skills:**

1. Demonstrate the ability to lead a group of students in a swimming pool.

2. Demonstrate the ability to instruct a group of students to the level of CMAS 1 Star Snorkeldiver Certificate.

3. Demonstrate theoretical knowledge about snorkeldiving.

4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with the students at all times.

The assessment can be made by an instructor of at least 2 star grade authorised by a CMAS TC recognised organisation or by an OCC.

# ☆☆ CMAS TWO STAR SNORKELDIVER INSTRUCTOR

## a. **Definition**

An experienced one star snorkeldiver instructor who has the knowledge, skills, and experience required to lead and instruct 1,2 and 3 Star snorkeldiver students in the classroom, swimming pool, and open water. The experienced CMAS 2 Star snorkeldiver instructor may assist in the training and education of CMAS 1 Star snorkeldiver instructors.

## b. **Entry requirements**

1. Must hold a 1 Star Snorkeldiver Instructor Certificate.
2. Must hold a 3 Star Snorkeldiver Certificate.
3. Must be a minimum of 16 years old.
4. Must have gained further practical experience in instruction and teaching since obtaining the 1 Star Snorkeldiver Instructor Certificate.
5. Must be a member of a CMAS TC recognised organisation or be attached to an OCC.

## c. **Level**

### **Knowledge:**

Must have a complete understanding of:

Instruction methods appropriate to snorkeldiving in open water.

Importance of well planned dives, safety and dive leadership in open water diving.

Relevant instruction methods for snorkeldivers including young people and children.

The knowledge which is important and relevant for snorkeldivers.

Equipment used in diving instruction.

### **Skills:**

Be able to control and lead a group of snorkeldiver students in varying diving conditions from the beach and a small boat.

Be able to instruct a group of snorkeldiver students in open water conditions.

Be able to teach the 1, 2 and 3 Star Snorkeldiver courses to a group of students in a surface/classroom situation and in open water.

Be able to exercise necessary authority, in order to maintain a high level of dive safety.

Be able to communicate effectively with the students at all times.

## d. **Assessment**

In the »continuous assessment« system the above knowledge and skills will be assessed at various points during the course, and the certificate will only be awarded if the instructor is judged to have reached the required standard.

If the »testing system« is used then the final assessment should establish the instructor's ability to carry out the following under sheltered water diving conditions.

### **Skills:**

1. Demonstrate the ability to control and lead a group of snorkeldiver students in a dive to take place in open water.

2. Demonstrate the ability to instruct a group of snorkeldiver students in selected diving techniques.

3. Demonstrate knowledge and familiarity with the areas covered by the 1,2 and 3 Star Snorkeldiver courses.

4. Demonstrate the ability to exercise authority over a group of snorkeldivers.

5. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with the students at all times.

The assessment can be made by an instructor of at least 2 star grade authorised by a CMAS TC recognised organisation or by a 3 star instructor attached to an OCC.