

Diving Industry Advisory Group

meeting notes #11 22 March 2019 – Public Release

email: DIAG@worksafe.govt.nz

Attendees:

Professor Des Gorman , Lt Cdr Kelvin Barrett (RNZN), Snr Sgt Bruce Adams (NZPDS), Crispin Middleton (NIWA), Daniel McNaughtan (Victoria Uni), Darrell Bird (NZRDIG), Ritchie Haagh (SubSea), Richard Steel (WorkSafe, CAR), Richard Taylor (WorkSafe, CAR).

By Video: Mark Preece (Aquaculture NZ)

Absent: Shane McDonnell (ADC), Dave Abbott (Liquid Actions Films), Dr Chris Sames, Prof Simon Mitchell

Location: WorkSafe New Zealand – Board Room, Lvl 6, 86 Customhouse Quay, Wellington.

Start at 10:15 am

Chair: Professor Des Gorman

Secretariat: WorkSafe New Zealand

Agenda was tabled, venue housekeeping and emergency procedures outlined

Chair welcomed all attending. Dr Chris Sames' paper on Audiometry and Respiratory Testing for Occupational Divers has been successfully critiqued and is no ready to be published (cf. SPUMS Journal). Chair noted that two other papers in Europe appear to follow the finding of the local study.

Chair advised that DHMS had finished a study on what applicants think about the Medical Clearance process – 80% happy with system, 15% unhappy with monitoring regime. 90% of the negative feedback appears simply opposed to any system, though many suggest annual medicals preferable at an even high cost). Chair outlined that NZ has the only single system that monitors occupational divers.

Notes of last meeting were tabled & confirmed. Outstanding Action Items confirmed as moved to Agenda

TOR (Terms of Reference) tabled for review. Outstanding Members to sign at next meeting.

Conflicts of Interests Register - Tabled for review. Amended as appropriate. Changes for review at next meeting. Outstanding Members to complete at next meeting.

Risk Register - WorkSafe has advised that they view DIAG's advice as being based upon acceptable industry good practice and any adoption or otherwise would be entirely based upon WorkSafe's own internal operational and guidance policy. Working Group drafting document.

Incoming and Outgoing DIAG Communications

- Outwards as emailed to meeting:

- Meeting #10 Public version of Minutes published.
- Inwards:
 - Sector input on Risk Model Job Classifications received.
- A range of WorkSafe vs DIAG Communications were discussed:
 - What is a notifiable event
 - Diving work by Customs
 - Accepted Construction Diving Part 3 qualifications
 - Whether actors need CoCs for a film project
 - Harbour Golf Ball Challenge ball collection
 - DHMS Medical date for new CoC Applicants just out of course
 - What O2 admin training do occupation divers need
 - 3 Concerns/Complaints raised

Technical Bulletins -

- DIAG's "Divers' Hose" approved for sending to WorkSafe Guidance and Comms.
- Powered Tools - Working Group drafting notice. Power, job and control systems being discussed.
- Oxygen Partial Pressure to be reviewed by Working Group and circulated to members for approval.

Clarification between Surface Snorkelling (no weight belt) and breath-hold diving/ freediving (with a weight belt) to be included in the DRAFT Guidelines.

Medical Requirements for Snorkellers & Freedivers was discussed. Chair recommended centralised medical system as most freediving fatalities have identifiable medical issues. To be included in new CoC Project or Guidelines.

DIAG Facebook Page remains in discussion with WorkSafe Comms to close & remove. Redirection post to DIAG web page added.

DIAG Web Page up and running on WorkSafe site. Members to visit WorkSafe Occ Diving web pages and provide feedback.

CoCs for Construction Diver Supervisors – Not possible under current Regulations. Possible when new Regs are considered (maybe late 2020?). Most important criteria is for industry to understand the requirements for someone to act as a Dive Supervisor.

Conditional Medical Clearances – Confirmed as now in use with CoCs. Cards & letters will read: VALID ONLY WITH CURRENT MEDICAL CLEARANCE then the second line to have the option:
- NO CONDITIONS APPLY, CHECK DATE (or) - CONDITIONS APPLY. REFER TO CERTIFICATE.

Health Based Diving Standards - Awaiting DRAFT from Guidance and Education. DIAG to review to assess need for further Health Based Controls.

Continuing Professional Development for CoCs – example of DRAFT requirements circulated. Each sector to offer ideas on how to deal with CPD.

Waiver for on-site chamber Update. Chair indicated that this could be repeated if successful. DIAG advised that the practice has been completed and awaiting report.

2 minutes silence was held in remembrance of the Christchurch terror attacks

SSBA Part 3 Currency & CoC Renewal requirements – to be moved to New CoC Project.

DRAFT Risk Model for Occupational Diving – Updated to include Job Classifications received from Sectors.

WorkSafe Guidelines Review Project update – awaiting Guidance and Education to release DRAFT to DIAG and Working Group

WorkSafe Guide to Gas Cylinders update – awaiting Guidance and Education to release final version on website.

SF17 Standards Committee status was discussed. Awaiting outcome of 2299.2 and 2815.6 DRAFTS.

Minimum requirements for Standby Divers – Discussion on wording submitted by SubSea and whether SSBA standby divers should be using SCUBA. Concerns were raised regarding impact across sectors. Working Group to draft wording.

Film & Media CoCs - Sector Job Classifications included in Risk Model. Film & Media CoC to be specific to Film & Media industry.

Proposed Changes to Occupational Diving Medical – Discussion on proposed changes to the Audiometry and Spirometry Test requirements post Chris Sames paper. DIAG supportive.

HSWA & Regulatory Presentations for Sectors – WorkSafe Comms have approved Sector and Industry PPTs to outline HSWA, Regulations & Guidelines. WorkSafe to edit and send to sectors for use in training and at conferences.

Occ Diving Newsletter – WorkSafe Comms have approved an Occupational Diving Industry Newsletter that will be sent to those who “sign up”. Initial version will be sent with sign up option. WorkSafe will be asking DIAG members to spread the word. 1st one hopefully out early July.

- The issue of “urgent industry communication” was discussed. An example of a recent incident in Tauranga whereby hyperbaric treatment was delayed resulting in long term spinal injury. WorkSafe advised that such an issue is most likely best managed as a “**Safety Alert**”.

Audits & site visits - WorkSafe CAR will be auditing occupational dive business to compliance to Regulations (CoCs, etc) and good practice starting from July 2019 involving both desktop and site visits.

Recent On-site Observation - WorkSafe CAR Team was recently invited to observe diving operations at a major port. Successful visit reflects improving industry acceptance of WorkSafe as an asset.

Notification of Diving Hyperbaric events – Discussion on WorkSafe/DIAG seeking notification of Diving Hyperbaric events from the Chambers to determine whether a workplace was involved. Privacy issues were raised. WorkSafe to liaise with Chair on options.

Science Diving Stats for 2018 were outlined relating to the number of dives & divers. Chair thanked sector for feedback.

Divers Attendant Course & requirements – Held over to next meeting as Shane not present.

Notifiable Works for Diving – Held over to next meeting as Shane not present.

Member Elections – Stability and positive situation with current DIAG membership discussed. TOR to be updated to have Industry Sectors to decide whether to call elections for their representative. DIAG still to retain right of refusal if nominee unacceptable.

Next Meeting to include feedback from Chris Sames on Medical/CoC process and to be held in Auckland in July.

General discussion – Aquaculture Diving Guidelines - to be raised by email and to advise Chair on outcome.

Meeting closed at 2:15pm.

Invited Presentation from Snr Sgt Bruce Adams – Possible lessons from Diving Fatalities.

- Since 2006 there have been 70 diving fatalities (incl. 17 freediving ones). Coroners do not pass the finding on to industry or Worksafe.
 - 60 had no occupational aspect, 6 involved recreational facilities (PCBUs).
 - 41 had air quality not within standards
 - 5 had cylinders not filled by approved fillers
- Currently another 10 in progress (incl. 3 freediving ones)
- Bruce to give PPT outline at next meeting.

- End -