

Regulations on diving operations from ships

Legal basis: Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Authority on 27 April 2020 under the Act of 16 February 2007 No. 9 on ship safety and security (Ship Safety and Security Act) sections 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 28a, 29, 30, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47, cf. Royal Decree of 16 February 2007 No. 171, Formal Delegation of 31 May 2007 No. 590 by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and Formal Delegation of 19 August 2013 No. 1002.

Section 1 *Purpose*

The purpose of these Regulations is to

- a. provide a safe working environment for persons working on board who are involved in work under increased ambient pressure under water or in a compression chamber where the diver is supplied with breathing gas;
- b. ensure that all professional diving operations are subject to an adequate regulatory system by harmonising the marine professional diving regulations with the corresponding provisions of the Working Environment Act.

Section 2 *Substantive scope of application*

The Regulations apply to persons working on board who are involved in diving operations.
The Regulations do not apply to recreational diving.

Section 3 *Geographical scope of application*

These Regulations apply to

- a. Norwegian ships irrespective of their position;
- b. foreign ships in Norwegian territorial waters, including waters near Svalbard and Jan Mayen.

Section 4 *Health and safety during work under water or under increased ambient pressure*

Regulations of 6 December 2011 No. 1357 concerning the performance of work, use of work equipment and related technical requirements (Regulations concerning the Performance of Work) chapter 26 on health and safety during work under water or under increased ambient pressure shall apply correspondingly to diving operations pursuant to these Regulations, however, the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority shall be taken to mean the Norwegian Maritime Authority.

For operations requiring a diving certificate, the diving certificate must be issued pursuant to the Regulations of 6 December 2011 No. 1360 concerning administrative arrangements chapter 8.

Section 5 *Requirements for inspection, marking and filling of breathing air*

The company shall ensure that breathing air equipment for diving comply with the requirements of the Regulations concerning the Performance of Work chapter 25 on inspection, marking and filling of compressed air cylinders for diving.

The company shall ensure that the breathing air complies with the requirements of the Regulations of 6 December 2011 No. 1358 concerning action and limit values section 5-5.

Section 6 *Professional qualifications from abroad*

Regulations of 22 December 2017 No. 2384 relating to recognition of professional qualifications shall apply accordingly to persons working on board who are involved in diving operations.

Section 7 *Exemptions*

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may upon written application grant exemptions from one or more of the requirements of these Regulations if there are special reasons and provided that it is justifiable in terms of safety and health.

Section 8 *Entry into force*

These Regulations enter into force on 1 June 2020.