

[DOT, April 10, 2003]

**PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND
PROMOTION OF SPORTS SCUBA DIVING RULES AND
REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF SPORTS
SCUBA DIVING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Pursuant to the provisions of LOI no. 745 creating the Philippine commission on the development and promotion of sports scuba diving, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated to govern the accreditation of sports scuba diving establishments in the Philippines

**Chapter I
Definition of Terms**

SECTION 1. When used in these Rules, the following terms shall, unless the context otherwise indicates, have the following meaning:

- a. PCSSD — refers to the Philippine Commission on the Development and Promotion of Sports Scuba Diving which is the agency mandated to ensure the safety of both domestic and foreign diving enthusiasts and to promote the Philippines as a premiere dive destination.
- b. DOT — refers to the Department of Tourism.
- c. LGU — refers to the Local Government Unit.
- d. PCG — refers to the Philippine Coast Guard.
- e. MARINA --- refers to the Maritime Industry Authority.
- f. Accreditation — a certification issued by the PCSSD recognizing the holder's compliance with the minimum standards required in the operation of a sports scuba diving establishment or as a diving professional.
- g. Scuba — refers to a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.
- h. Scuba Diving Establishment — Any business establishment licensed by the LGU engaged in the conduct of sports scuba diving activities in the Philippines, whether or not for a fee.
- i. Scuba Diving Tour Operator — Any establishment licensed by the LGU engaged in the marketing, promotions and conduct of sports scuba diving activities and tours.
- j. Dive Boat — Any motor-run or sail boat used for scuba diving purposes duly registered with PCG and MARINA.

k. Live Aboard Dive Boat — Any motor-run or sail operated boat with live-aboard facilities used for scuba diving purposes, duly registered with PCG and MARINA.

l. Dive Boat Operator — Any establishment or person who operates a Dive Boat or Live Aboard Dive Boat to service sports scuba divers duly licensed by the LGU and registered with PCG and MARINA.

m. Dive Banca — Any motor-run or sail operated banca with outriggers used for sports scuba diving and duly registered with the PCG and MARINA.

n. Dive Banca Operator— Any establishment or person that operates a dive banca licensed by the LGU and registered with the PCG and MARINA to service sports scuba divers.

o. Dive Resort/Diveshop — Any establishment that offers food, accommodation and scuba diving facilities, among other recreational facilities, to the public for a fee.

p. Professional Scuba Dive Center — Any establishment engaged in all of the following activities:

- i. Direct importer and or wholesaler of major diving equipment.

- ii. Renting out of scuba diving equipment

- iii. Provides air-filling service

- iv. Services and repairs scuba diving equipment

- v. Conducts scuba diving courses

- vi. Conducts dive tours

q. Scuba Dive Shop/Facility — Any establishment engaged in any or more of the following activities:

- i. Sale or retail of scuba diving equipment and accessories

- ii. Renting out of scuba diving equipment

- iii. Provides air-filing services

- iv. Services and repairs scuba diving equipment

- v. Conducts scuba diving courses

- vi. Conducts dive tours

r. Professional Dive Instructor — Any individual who is a holder of a valid certificate issued by any Philippine or internationally recognized certifying scuba diving organization possessing the required expertise to conduct instructional sport scuba diving courses at the level stipulated in his/her credentials, whether or not for a fee.

s. Assistant Dive Instructor — Any individual who is a holder of a valid certificate issued by any Philippine or internationally recognized certifying scuba diving organization possessing the required expertise to assist a professional dive instructor in the conduct of instructional sports scuba diving course at the level stipulated in his/her credentials, whether or not for a fee.

t. Dive Master — An individual with a dive master certificate or higher certification who is in charge of the diving activities.

u. Professional Dive Master — Any individual who is a holder of a valid certificate issued by any Philippine or internationally recognized certifying scuba diving organization possessing the required expertise in supervising sports scuba diving activities, whether or not for a fee.

v. Advanced Open Water Diver — Any individual who has undergone advanced open water diver training by a government agency or by a PCSSD recognized international certifying/training agency consisting of at least 72 hours of theoretical and academic course and at least 10 consecutive ocean dives.

w. Training Dive — A closely supervised dive conducted by a sports scuba diving instructor in a contractual relationship for the purpose of providing sports scuba diving skills in accordance with the standards of an international or a nationally recognized certifying/training agency.

x. Supervised Dive — Any dive which involves a scuba diving establishment or a sports scuba diving professional and a sports scuba diver or a group of sports scuba divers wherein a contractual relationship exist.

y. Fun Dive — Any dive where there is no contractual relationship between a sports scuba diver or a group of sports scuba divers and the diving establishment or a sports scuba diving professional.

z. Dive Leader — The leader of a dive buddy team or the diver in charge of a dive.

Chapter II

Application and Requirements for the Issuance of Accreditation

SECTION 1. Who May Apply. —

a. Any individual who is a Filipino citizen, or foreign national with a valid proof of permanent residency issued by the Bureau of Immigration and a valid work permit issued by the Department of Labor and Employment, and possessing the required permit or license issued by other concerned authorities, desiring to teach, train or conduct activities related to sports scuba diving, whether or not for a fee.

b. Any establishment organized under Philippine laws and duly registered with concerned government agencies/authorities engaged in sports scuba diving activities, whether or not for a fee.

SECTION 2. Branch or Extension Office. —

- a. Prior to the establishment and operation of any branch or extension office by any PCSSD accredited scuba diving establishment, the branch or extension office shall likewise secure accreditation with PCSSD.

SECTION 3. Requirements for Accreditation. —

a. Dive Boat Operator

- i. Philippine Coast Guard permit
- ii. MARINA Registration Certificate
- iii. Business license and permit issued by the LGU and other concerned government authorities
- iv. Certificate of ownership of vessel
- v. Bureau of Domestic Trade, SEC registration, Articles of Incorporation and by-laws for vessels owned by juridical entity, if applicable
- vi. List of employees with their respective positions, citizenship and home address
- vii. List of safety equipment
- viii. Compliance with the PCSSD Scuba Diving Safety Standards

b. Dive Banca Operator

- i. Philippine Coast Guard permit
- ii. MARINA Registration Certificate
- iii. Business license and permit issued by the LGU and other concerned government authorities
- iv. Certificate of ownership of vessel
- v. Bureau of Domestic Trade registration, SEC registration, Articles of Incorporation and By-laws for vessels owned by a juridical entity, if applicable
- vi. List of employees with their respective positions, citizenship and home address
- vii. Compliance with PCSSD scuba diving safety standards

c. Professional Scuba Dive Center

- i. Pertinent Registration Certificate (SEC Registration or Bureau of Domestic Trade Registration of Business Name);
- ii. List of employees with their respective positions, citizenship and home address. (must have at least one dive master and one dive instructor)
- iii. Compliance with PCSSD Scuba Diving Safety Standards.
- iv. Appropriate business license and permit issued by the LGU and other concerned authorities.

d. Scuba Dive Shop/Facility

- i. Pertinent registration certificate (SEC Registration or Bureau of Domestic Trade Registration of Business Name);
- ii. List of employees with their respective positions, citizenship and home address. (must have at least one dive master and one dive instructor)

- iii. Compliance with Minimum Standards for Diving Operations and Standard Diving Procedure under Chapter III and Chapter VIII of these guidelines.
 - iv. Business license and permit issued by the LGU and other concerned authorities.
- e. Professional Dive Instructor/Assistant Dive Instructor/Dive Master
 - i. Copy of the individual's Philippine or international certificate of expertise or credentials.
 - ii. Appropriate visa issued by the Bureau of Immigration and work permit issued by DOLE for foreign nationals
 - iii. Compliance with PCSSD Scuba Diving Standards.
- f. Advanced Open Water Diver
 - i. Copy of proof of training issued by the concerned government agency or by a PCSSD recognized international certifying agency
 - ii. Appropriate visa issued by the Bureau of Immigration and Work Permit issued by DOLE for foreign nationals
 - iii. Compliance with PCSSD Scuba Diving Standards

SECTION 4. Fees. —

a. Accreditation Fees shall be charged annually with the following schedule:

i. Professional Dive Center/Shop/Facility	-	— Php 2,000.00
ii. Branch/Extension Office	-	— Php 500.00
iii. Professional Dive Instructor	-	— Php 1,000.00
iv. Assistant Dive Instructor/Dive Master	-	— Php 750.00
v. Advanced Open Water Diver	-	— Php 750.00 (One time charge for government personnel)

SECTION 5. Inspection of Establishment. —

a. Within a reasonable period after submission of documentary requirements and the payment of the required fees, a physical inspection of the facility, equipment and premises of the applicant shall be conducted by the PCSSD or its duly designated representatives for the purpose of determining whether the applicant meets the minimum standards set by PCSSD.

SECTION 6. Issuance of Certificate Accreditation. —

a. Upon satisfactorily complying with the requirements of the PCSSD, the establishment shall be issued a certificate of accreditation within thirty