CHAPTER 30 OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY: DIVING OPERATIONS

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3000 GENERAL PROVISIONS

3000.1 The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all diving operations for the purpose of safeguarding the wage earners on these operations.

3000.2 In general, the provisions of this chapter cover only items and operations that are peculiar to diving operations.

3000.3 Items, equipment, devices, and operations used on the water's surface to support the operation and not specifically covered by this chapter, shall conform to the applicable safety requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970, and applicable regulations issued under that Act.

3000.4 The absence of a regulation or standard covering any specific equipment, operation, or hazard does not relieve an employer from the responsibility of providing working conditions that are reasonably safe.

3000.5 Any employer of labor of any kind in connection with diving operations shall furnish, erect, and maintain, or cause to be furnished, erected, and maintained, any equipment that may be necessary for the performance of the labor to comply with the requirements of the provisions of this chapter. The employer shall be responsible for the performance of all work, including the use of equipment in a reasonably safe manner.

3000.6 Any employer who requires or permits his or her employees to use or operate any equipment or facilities of another shall be responsible for the safe condition, adequate guarding, and safe operation or use of the equipment or facilities.

3000.7 All pressure vessels used in connection with diving operations shall conform to all requirements of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Regulations of the District of Columbia.

3000.8 To secure the correction of hazards or hazardous conditions not covered by these regulations, applicable safety regulations of the D.C. Minimum Wage and Industrial Safety Board and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act regulations shall be complied with.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is the District of Columbia Minimum Wage Act approved September 19, 1918, 40 *Stat.* 960, D.C. Code §§36-401 through 36-422); as amended by An Act approved October 14, 1941, Title II entitled 'Industrial Safety,' 55 *Stat.* 738, D.C. Code §§36-431 through 36-442); paragraphs 283 and 284 of §402 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1967; and Reorganization Order No. 36, C.O. 302, 853/14, June 16, 1953, as amended.

SOURCE: Sections 11-29002, 11-29003, 11-29025, and 11-29027 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR §900.2, 900.3, 901.17 and 901.19 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The rules published in this chapter have been superseded in whole or in part by rules promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor and published at 29 CFR Part 1926 §1926.1071 *et seq.* (July 1, 1995 ed.).

3001 VARIANCES

3001.1 The Board may, upon written application of any employer affected by the provisions of this chapter, permit a variance from any provision if the Board finds that the application of the provision would result in exceptional or undue hardship in performing the work.

3001.2 A variance may be granted only where, and to the extent, necessary to ameliorate the exceptional or undue hardship, and only when compensating factors are present that give adequate protection to the employee and others.

3001.3 A variance shall be granted only when it can be granted without impairing the intent and purposes of the D.C. Industrial Safety Program for diving operations.

3001.4 Any variance the Board may grant shall be limited to the particular case covered by the application.

SOURCE: Section 11-29004 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR §900.4 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3002 ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

3002.1 Each employer shall investigate, or cause to be investigated, every accidental injury that his or her employees suffer in connection with their employment to determine the means that should be taken to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents.

3002.2 Each employer shall submit a copy of Form BEC-202 to the Industrial Safety Division within ten (10) days from the date of any injury or death.

3002.3 Each employer shall submit a copy of Form BEC-202 to the Industrial Safety Division within ten (10) days from the date that the employer has knowledge of any disease or infection resulting from any injury.

3002.4 Each employer shall keep an accurate record of the following:

(a) Injuries incurred by employees while in line of duty;

(b) The number of employee-hours worked by employees; and

(c) The injury frequency rates of the employer's establishment, calculated on a quarterly basis, commencing on January 1st of each year.

3002.5 Records maintained under this section shall be kept on file for at least four (4) years.

3002.6 Records maintained under this section shall be available for inspection to any duly authorized employee of the Board.

SOURCE: Section 11-29007 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR §§900.6, 900.7, 900.8 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3003 GENERAL DIVING PRECAUTIONS

3003.1 A diver experienced in the type of diving being performed shall be in complete charge of the operation as it relates to diving. This person shall be known as the "diving master."

3003.2 Duties of the diving master shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Planning the dive;

(b) Briefing the crew;

(c) Making certain all necessary equipment is available; and

(d) Taking all necessary precautions against foreseeable situations, and being responsible for the safety of the person he or she supervises.

3003.3 Divers shall not be required or permitted to dive when the diver or diving master has reason to believe a hazard exists that would immediately jeopardize the diver's health or safety.

3003.4 Each diver shall wear an identification tag bearing the following information for a minimum of twelve (12) hours after completion of a dive:

(a) Diver's name;

(b) The words, "I am a diver"; and

(c) The telephone number of a hospital or nearest recompression chamber, or of a doctor familiar with "decompression sickness."

3003.5 For all scuba diving operations, the buddy system shall be used. The buddy system of diving is a pair of divers working as a unit.

3003.6 Divers using the buddy system shall keep in visual or physical contact with each other so either may render immediate assistance to the other when required.

3003.7 Buddy lines shall be used when visibility is poor.

3003.8 For all diving operations, and in addition to the requirements of §3003.1, a standby diver shall remain on the surface during normal diving operations and shall enter the water only in cases of emergency to aid the working diver(s).

3003.9 Dependable two-way communications between the diver and the surface shall be provided and used during all deep sea (hard-hat) dives.

3003.10 The communications system provided shall meet the requirements of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual.

SOURCE: Sections 11-29009, 11-29010, and 11-29013 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §§901.1, 901.2, 901.5, 901.6, 901.7, and 901.9 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3004 DIVING IN POLLUTED WATER

3004.1 Whenever a diver dives in polluted waters using a suit and helmet (deep sea or hard hat equipment), the following precautions shall be taken:

(a) Avoid taking in water through the spit cock or by other means;

(b) Hose the diver off when he or she surfaces to remove any clinging filth;

(c) Avoid putting hands in mouth after tending or working with diving equipment;

(d) Avoid handling food after tending or working with diving equipment; and

(e) Wash hands thoroughly and bathe as soon as possible when the job is completed.

3004.2 Whenever a diver dives in polluted waters using scuba equipment, the following precautions shall be taken:

(a) Use equipment with a full-face mask;

(b) Wear a full, dry type rubber swim suit;

(c) Hose the diver off when he or she surfaces to remove any clinging filth;

(d) Avoid putting hands in mouth after tending or working with diving equipment;

(e) Avoid handling food after tending or working with diving equipment; and

(f) Wash hands thoroughly and bathe as soon as possible when the job is completed.

3004.3 Whenever a diver is injured while diving in polluted water, the diver shall do the following:

(a) Surface promptly;

(b) Cleanse the wound thoroughly with soap and water; and

(c) Obtain a tetanus booster.

3004.4 In all diving operations conducted in polluted waters, every diver's inoculations shall be up to date.

3004.5 In all diving operations conducted in polluted waters, an illness of any diver shall be reported promptly.

SOURCE: Section 11-29011 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §901.3 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3005 DECOMPRESSION

3005.1 Divers shall use the latest available U.S. Navy Standard Air Decompression Tables and other appropriate U.S. Navy diving tables for decompressions and repetitive dive decompressions.

3005.2 A recompression chamber that meets the requirements of the most recent edition of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual shall be kept at the diving site whenever planned dives will exceed the "no decompression" limits as specified by the U.S. Navy Standard Air Decompression Tables.

3005.3 Whenever a recompression chamber is required, a qualified person shall be immediately available to operate the chamber.

3005.4 An adequate approved method of supplying air shall be readily available for the immediate operation of the chamber.

SOURCE: Section 11-29012 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §901.4 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3006 TIMEKEEPER-TENDER

3006.1 There shall be one (1) timekeeper-tender for each surface-tender (hard-hat) diver and one (1) timekeeper-tender for each scuba diving buddy pair.

3006.2 In addition to tending the diver(s), the timekeeper-tender shall keep accurate and legible records of the following:

(a) The time of descent;

(b) The depth of the dive;

(c) The duration of the dive; and

(d) The time of ascent.

3006.3 The timekeeper-tender also shall do the following:

(a) Know the probable diving depth;

(b) Know the probable duration of the apparatus in the case of scuba dives;

(c) Notify the diving master when the diver's time is up;

(d) Foresee decompression if necessary and warn the diving master soon enough to make adequate arrangements; and

(e) Give the diving master the proper decompression schedule.

3006.4 The records of the timekeeper-tender shall be kept on file for at least twenty-four (24) months.

SOURCE: Section 11-29016 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §901.8 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3007 EQUIPMENT

3007.1 All equipment used by divers, or used on the surface to tend or supply divers, shall be inspected daily before any dives are made.

3007.2 Adequate written inspection reports, signed by the person making the inspection, shall be kept on the site and made available for inspection by any duly authorized representative of the Board.

3007.3 Any equipment found to be defective or in questionable condition shall be clearly labeled defective, removed from service, and reported at once to the employer.

3007.4 All floating equipment shall meet the applicable regulations of the U.S. Coast Guard and the D.C. Harbor Police.

3007.5 At each workplace, one (1) or more fixed or portable ladders giving access to the water shall be provided at each structure where it meets the water, and at each floating equipment.

3007.6 Adequate safeguarding of all moving mechanical parts shall be provided in accordance with applicable regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

SOURCE: Sections 11-29018, 11-29019, 11-29021, and 11-29026 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §§901.10, 901.11, 901.13, and 901.18 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3008 LIFE PRESERVERS

3008.1 Buoys and life lines shall be provided and readily accessible for emergency use.

3008.2 No less than one (1) life buoy with line attached shall be provided for each one hundred feet (100 ft.) or part of one hundred feet (100 ft.) of workplace that is adjacent to or over water.

3008.3 During night operations, each buoy shall be illuminated so as to be easily visible from a distance of fifty feet (50 ft.).

3008.4 The outside dimensions of life buoys shall not be less than twenty-four inches (24 in.), and shall meet construction, workmanship, and performance requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard specifications for buoys and life rings of cork or balsa wood.

3008.5 Approved life vests shall be worn by all employees, except divers, when working on or over water.

SOURCE: Section 11-29020 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §901.12 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3009 DECK SAFETY

3009.1 Decks of floating equipment shall be kept clean of unnecessary tools, equipment, material, and debris.

3009.2 Lines shall be coiled, tools shall be stored, and materials shall be stacked securely.

3009.3 Deck hatches shall not be left uncovered unless completely enclosed by guardrails.

3009.4 Gangplanks and walkways shall be at least twenty inches (20 in.) wide, and shall have standard railings.

SOURCE: Sections 11-29023, 11-29022, and 11-29024 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §§901.14, 901.15, and 901.16 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.

3099 DEFINITIONS

3099.1 When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed:

Accident - any unexpected, unintentional, unplanned, or unforeseen occurrence of a nature, or under circumstances, that could cause personal injury or property damage, regardless of whether injury or damage does result.

Adequate - meeting the requirements essential to reasonable safety.

Deep sea or hart-hat diving - diving operations where the air is supplied from the surface.

Disabling injury - an injury that disables a person for the performance of his or her regular duties, or the normal duties of a regularly established job, beyond the date or shift of the injury; or an injury that results in permanent disability.

Employee - any person rendering service to an employer for compensation.

Equipment - includes machinery, devices, tools, derricks, hoists, scaffolds, platforms, runways, ladders, and all similar facilities, safeguards, and protective construction used in connection with diving operations.

Recompression chamber - a compartment designed to recompress a diver so that the diver can then undergo decompression at a controlled rate.

Scuba diving - diving operations employing self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.

SOURCE: Section 11-290005 of Regulation No. 70-18, approved May 28, 1970; 11B DCRR, §900.5 (April 1, 1971), Special Edition.