

<b>Title</b>	Standard for Public Safety Qualification: Public Safety Dive Operator		
<b>Certification</b>	IPSQA Certificate in Public Safety (Dive Operator)		
<b>Standard</b>	3027	<b>Version</b>	2023
<b>Level</b>	4	<b>Credits</b>	10
<b>Postnominal</b>	CertPubS®(PDO)	<b>Code</b>	PDO

<b>Graduate Profile</b>	<p>Graduates of this certification are able, under supervision conduct basic public safety diving tasks in static clean water environments such as around marinas, ponds and lakes to carry out non-tactical activities such as underwater rescue, body recovery or evidential search.</p>
-------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Subject Area</b>	Diving.
---------------------	---------

<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	<p>Candidate must hold a recognised advanced open water, commercial or military diver certification; plus, any additional certification required for any special equipment or environment being used.</p> <p>Candidate must also have no less than 75 logged and verifiable open water dives prior to assessment.</p>
------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

**Special notes:**

- 1 This standard must be assessed in conjunction with IPSQA Standard 3000:2022 Certificate in Public Safety.
- 2 Recognised pre-requisite dive certification include but not limited to advanced open water diver (PADI, SSI, SDI, NAUI), and commercial and military certifications such as the Australasian Diver Accreditation Scheme or United States Navy respectively.
- 3 Diving environment for Skills Requirements must be between 3 and 12 metres in depth and in open water, clean (not requiring decontamination) and static (non-flowing) water environments.
- 4 Public safety diver equipment must be used including Full Face Mask (FFM), Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), regulators, fins, dry or wetsuit, a minimum of two cutting devices but may also include redundant air system, dive harness, communication systems, camera, slate, torch. Other equipment can also be used.
- 5 Must hold a recognised first aid certificate issued within 24 months prior to skills assessment.

- 6 Must hold medical clearance to dive provided by a registered medical practitioner issued within 6 months prior to skills assessment.
- 7 Exercises for P1-4 requirements must be simulated as a response, without coaching or training and provide an end to end simulation from scene arrival to debrief.
- 8 Enriched air may be used where certified to do so.
- 9 Evidential items being recovered as part of Skill Requirements, must not exceed 8 kilograms.
- 10 Skill and knowledge performance must be consistent with approved industry references as prescribed by IPSQA.

---

## Assessment Outcomes

### Knowledge requirements

- K1 Contrast the differences between recreational and public safety diving.
- K2 Explain the personal preparedness considerations for public safety diving
- K3 Describe incident management system and how they apply to public safety diving
- K4 Identify and explain specialist equipment used for public safety diving
- K5 Describe the psychological impacts of public safety diving and associated management mechanisms
- K6 Explain the key activities within public safety diving response.  
*Range: size up, pre-entry, entry, termination*
- K7 Explain best practices when dealing with affected family during a public safety dive operation
- K8 Explain best practice when dealing with the media during a public safety dive operation
- K9 Describe the key components of a public safety dive operation plan  
*Range: mission, contingencies, medical, roles (primary diver, safety diver, back up diver, line tender, supervisor), equipment.*
- K10 Demonstrate knowledge of drowning and drowned victim considerations  
*Range: terminology, first aid treatment, physiology.*
- K11 Recall best practice guidance on determining rescue versus rescue mode
- K12 Describe basic search procedures for public safety diving  
*Range: Arc search, circle search, jack-stay search, marker buoy use, search terms.*

## Skill requirements

- S1 Prepare public safety dive equipment for deployment
- S2 Undertake and verbalise a dynamic risk assessment for a public safety dive operation
- S3 Don public safety dive equipment in response to an emergency
- S4 Demonstrate pre-dive safety check
- S5 Enter water as public safety diver
- S6 Execute an arc search as a public safety diver to locate target under water.
- S7 Carry out self-rescue as a public safety diver  
*Range: use of cutting tool, activate quick-release snap shackle.*
- S8 Mark, preserve and collect evidence relating to target underwater.  
*Range: photograph or video, sketch, marker buoy.*
- S9 Perform ascent and descent with simulated unresponsive non-diving victim
- S10 Perform ascent and descent with simulated unresponsive diving victim
- S11 Transfer unresponsive victim to safety and perform CPR and first aid  
*Range: drowning, diving injury, severe haemorrhaging.*
- S12 Respond to simulated responsive diver emergency  
*Range: entrapped diver, use of cutting tool, out of air, panicked diver underwater, distressed diver at surface, use of pony bottle.*
- S13 Demonstrate dive communication signals while carrying out role as public safety diver.  
*Range: standard hand signals, hand-squeezes, rope-pull.*
- S14 Tie knots under water  
*Range: Figure eight on a bight, half-hitches, sheet bend, bowline.*
- S15 Recover evidence to surface
- S16 Exit water as public safety diver
- S17 Doff public safety diving equipment and carry out post-use checks
- S18 Inspect and maintain public safety equipment following use  
*Range: visual inspection, cleaning, drying, function testing, storage, documentation.*
- S19 Perform role as tender during arc search
- S20 Participate in a debrief following a public safety dive operation
- S21 Complete industry or agency required documentation for a public safety dive operation.  
*Range: Dive report, body recovery worksheet, diver emergency information sheet, diver equipment inspection worksheet, divemaster/supervisor control sheet, evidence tag/report.*

## Professional requirements

- P1* Verified logged experience as public safety (primary) diver at 20 operations and/or exercises, at different sites
- P2* Verified logged experience as tender for public safety diver at 5 operational and/or training activities.
- P3* Verified logged experience as safety diver at 5 public safety diving operational and/or training activities.
- P4* Verified logged experience as public safety (primary) diver carrying out a minimum of 2 underwater rescues, 2 body recoveries and 2 evidential searches either operationally and/or during an exercise, at different sites.

---

## Assessment discrepancies (skills)

### Minor

- O1* Poor or slow technique that may lead to safety issue
- O2* Excessive time to perform task
- O3* Incorrect or poor use of equipment
- O4* Equipment left behind
- O5* Equipment used against manufacturer caution notice
- O6* Poor communication/signal with team or others to achieve task
- O7* Poor navigation
- O8* Surfaces under air reserve
- O9* Documentation not clearly legible

### Major

- X1* Excessive time to complete task
- X2* Task not completed
- X3* Breach of local law, regulation or another statutory directive
- X4* Action or inaction that causes or likely to cause injury
- X5* Uncontrolled ascent or descent
- X6* Uncontrolled ascent (faster than 9m/30' per minute)
- X7* Exceeds dive table limits
- X8* Loss of navigation (becomes lost)
- X9* Diver runs out of air
- X10* Fails to perform safety stop where dive table/computer indicated
- X11* Minimum equipment not used or carried
- X12* Breach of IPSQA Code of Conduct
- X13* Candidate instructed to stop by assessor due to medical concern

X14 Fails to perform pre-dive safety check

X15 Fails to analyse and document enriched air (where used)

---

<b>Certification period</b>	3 years
<b>Re-certification requirements</b>	Completion of 8 hours continuing professional development; and re-assessment of Part B.