22. Sidemount Diver

22.1 Introduction

This course is designed to teach certified divers how to safely utilize side-mounted primary cylinders as an alternative to the traditional back-mounted configuration. The course is strictly non-decompression with a maximum depth limit of 40m/130ft, or within the limit of the student's current certification, whichever is shallower.

22.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may engage in sidemount diving activities without direct supervision provided the following limits are adhered to:

1. Safety stops as appropriate
2. Planned dives do not exceed diver's current certification level

22.3 Who May Teach

1. This course may be taught by any active SDI Sidemount Specialty Instructor
2. Instructors can apply for administrative upgrade by:
    a. Providing documentation of SDI Sidemount diver level certification or equivalent
    b. Completing 25 sidemount dives

Or

1. Successfully completing an SDI Sidemount Instructor course with a active SDI Sidemount IT and completing 10 sidemount dives

22.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

22.5 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Diver or the equivalent

2. Minimum age 18; 15 with parental consent

22.6 Course Structure and Duration

Water execution

1. 2 dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-deco time, etc. to be figured out and logged
3. This is a non-overhead environment course

Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

22.7 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
    a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
    b. *SDI Medical Statement* Form

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the SDI Diver Registration Form to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website

22.8 Required Material

1. *SDI/TDI Sidemount* Student Manual or elearning
2. *SDI/TDI Sidemount* Student Manual or elearning
3. *SDI/TDI Sidemount* Instructor Guide

22.9 Required Equipment

The following equipment is required for each student:

1. Dual cylinders, volume appropriate for planned dive, and student gas consumption
2. Two independent first and second stage regulators each with a submersible pressure gauge
3. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with power inflator appropriate for sidemount configuration
4. Exposure suit adequate for diving environment
5. Mask and fins
6. Dive computer
7. Compass
8. Rescue signal

22.10 Required Subject Areas

Instructors may use any text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered during this course:

1. Gas management utilizing independent cylinders
2. Equipment considerations
    a. Cylinder options
    b. Regulator options
    c. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) / harness options
    d. Proper weighting
    e. Equipment configurations
3. Communication
    a. Hand signals
4. Problem solving
    a. Gas-sharing
    b. Gas hemorrhages
5. Water entries
    a. Shore
    b. Boat
6. S-Drills (specific to sidemount)

22.11 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

The following skills must be covered during this course

Land drills

1. May be performed at the instructor's discretion

In-water skills during open water dives

1. Plan dive
2. Test and check all equipment (depth gauges, bottom timers/watches and computers)
3. Familiarization with area
4. Descend to planed depth and do not exceed any pre-planned limits
5. Demonstrate the ability to safely manage gas in independent cylinders
6. Monitor depth/time/air consumption, figure all times on slate
7. Demonstrate ability to control buoyancy
8. Attaching sidemount cylinders while
    a. Out of water
    b. On surface standing on bottom
    c. On surface in water to deep to stand
    d. At depth

9. Perform gas switches
10. Perform safety stops

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Perform all land drills and open water dive requirements safely and efficiently
2. Demonstrate mature, sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution
3. Log all dives