



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Special Purpose Specification NFQ Level 6

Commercial Scuba Diving Operations 6S20619

1. Certificate Details

Title	Commercial Scuba Diving Operations
Teideal as Gaeilge	Oibríochtaí Tráchtála Tumadóireacht Scúba
Award Type	Special Purpose
Code	6S20619
Level	6
Credit Value	20
Purpose	The purpose of this award is to enable the learner to acquire the relevant knowledge, skills and competence to effectively and safely carry out work related scuba diving activities and core tasks in a variety of contexts working as a member of a team, in accordance with current legislation and relevant codes of practice.
Statements of Knowledge, Skill and Competence	Learners will be able to:
Knowledge	
<i>Breadth</i>	Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of commercial scuba diving theory, principles and practices
<i>Kind</i>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant theoretical concepts and abstract thinking with a firm grasp of the significant underpinning theory, techniques and procedures relevant to commercial scuba diving
Know How & Skill	
<i>Range</i>	Utilise a comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools in a variety of underwater environments and conditions

Selectivity Apply theoretical concepts and technical skills to solve well-defined abstract problems in varied commercial scuba diving settings

Competence

Context Operate safely and effectively in a range of underwater environments and conditions in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice, consistent with operational best practice and apply appropriate control measures to manage related risks

Role Contribute effectively, both individually as a diver and as a dive team member, to underwater diving operations in a range of environments and conditions, having regard for operational protocols, own safety and dive team safety

Learning to Learn Learn to evaluate own learning and identify needs within a structured learning environment; assist others in identifying learning needs

Insight Reflect on operational experiences to inform future performance and professional development.

The learning outcomes associated with this award are outlined in the associated Component Specifications.

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Access

To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.

In addition, learners must have:

- Occupational first aid training recognised by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
- A valid certificate of competence in the emergency administration of pure oxygen
- A National Powerboat Certificate (ISA or equivalent)
- A valid certificate of medical fitness to dive by an HSA approved or recognised medical practitioner - see http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Diving/Diving_Medicals/
- Be able to swim 200 metres in a diving suit weighted to neutral buoyancy

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression Awards Learners who successfully complete this award may progress to a range of different awards.

Grading Pass
Merit
Distinction
The grade achieved will be determined by the grades achieved on the components

2. Certificate Requirements

The total credit value required for this certificate is 20. This will be achieved by completing:

Award Code	Title	Level	Credit Value
All of the following component(s)			
6N20618	Commercial Scuba Diving	6	20

3. Supporting Documentation

1. Professional Diver's Handbook – (John Bevan ISBN9780950824260)
2. Relevant Occupational Diving Manual
3. US Navy Dive Tables – (Best Publishing & other sources)
4. Enriched Air Tables – (Best Publishing & other sources)
5. Current national legislation, regulations and code of practice relevant to commercial diving
6. The International Diving Schools Association Diving Standards (<http://www.idsaworldwide.org/>)
7. European Diving Technology Committee – Diving Industry Personnel Competence Standards <http://www.edtc.org>

4. Specific Validation Requirements

The provider must have all of the following in place to offer this award:

1. Appropriate insurance to cover all risks
2. All boats used must be licenced accordingly and operated by suitably qualified persons
3. Commercial scuba diving equipment including underwater communication systems
4. Suitable diving platform for work in open water environment
5. Access to suitable sheltered body of water with depths up to 30 metres
6. Compression chamber and qualified personnel to operate the chamber on site of diving operations

7. First aid equipment and therapeutic oxygen delivery systems onsite
8. Suitable range of tools and work pieces for use underwater
9. High pressure breathing air compressors (air quality to meet EN12021:2014)
10. A space suitably equipped for the repair and maintenance of commercial diving equipment
11. An adequate number of appropriately qualified commercial/occupational and certified diving instructors with relevant experience of teaching and commercial diving operations
12. Evidence of a safety management system which includes a safety statement, documented risk assessment and emergency plans
13. A programme can only be validated for the overall Special Purpose award i.e. validation on a component basis is not available

5. Europass Certificate Supplement

The Europass Certificate Supplement for this award can be accessed at: www.qqi.ie.

6. FET Award Standards

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see www.qqi.ie).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for QQI awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)
Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)
Minor Award	Component Specification	Component Certificate (Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

7. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

Table 1: FET Credit Values

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and <60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and <90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a comprehensive range of skills which may be vocationally-specific and/or of a general supervisory nature, and require detailed theoretical understanding. The outcomes also provide for a particular focus on learning skills. The outcomes relate to working in a generally autonomous way to assume design and/or management and/or administrative responsibilities. Occupations at this level would include higher craft, junior technician and supervisor.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Specialised knowledge of a broad area
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant underpinning theory
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Formulate responses to well defined abstract problems
Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts involving creative and non-routine activities; transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical or creative skills to a range of contexts
	Role	Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form and function within, multiple and complex heterogeneous groups.
	Learning to Learn	Learn to evaluate own learning and identify needs within a structured learning environment; assist others in identifying learning needs
	Insight	Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others.

Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI