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May 26, 2004

Changes Adopted - General Industry Commercial Diving Operations

On February 17, 2004, Federal OSHA published in the Federal Register (69:7351-7366) final new rules for Commercial Diving. A new paragraph was added as 1910.401(a)(3), a new mandatory Appendix C relating to paragraph 1910.401(a)(3), and two new definitions in 1910.402.

Oregon OSHA adopts these rules in Division 2/T, Commercial Diving Operations (CDO). These changes allow employers of recreational diving instructors and diving guides to comply with an alternative set of requirements instead of the decompression-chamber requirements in the current CDO standards. The final rule applies only when these employees engage in recreational diving instruction and diving-guide duties; use an open-circuit, a semi-closed-circuit, or a closed-circuit self-contained underwater-breathing apparatus supplied with a breathing gas that has a high percentage of oxygen mixed with nitrogen; dive to a maximum depth of 130 feet of sea water; and remain within the no-decompression limits specified for the partial pressure of nitrogen in the breathing-gas mixture. These alternate requirements essentially are the same as the terms of a variance granted by Federal OSHA to Dixie Divers, Inc. in 1999.

This is OR-OSHA Administrative Order 2-2004, **adopted and effective May 20, 2004.**

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