

Diving Information

DIVERS QUALIFIED WITH OTHER AGENCIES T.17 **BSAC welcomes all divers**

The British Sub-Aqua Club welcomes previous diver training by recognised organisations, whether recreational, commercial or military. Divers can join a BSAC branch and enjoy diving with that branch within the recommendations of their existing qualification and BSAC Safe Diving Practices (whichever is the more conservative).

Alternatively divers can join BSAC as a Direct Member without membership of a branch.

OPTION 1

Qualified divers wishing to join a BSAC Branch but **NOT CONTINUE** their training with the BSAC:

- The diver joins a Branch and the BSAC.
- The diver presents evidence of their alternative diving qualification
- The Branch consults the 'similarity table' and identifies the alternative diver qualification with the appropriate BSAC diver grade.
- The diver is then integrated into the Branch and treated as a diver of that similar grade.
- The new member can apply for an optional 'Equivalency Card' from BSAC HQ.
- There is no documentation to be issued, i.e., Qualification Record Book, training material etc. to the new member.

Divers will be expected to attend a brief 'Induction to the BSAC' lesson based on parts of BSAC Ocean Diver training programme – OT1 and OT4, which will describe how the Branch structure works, outline the aims, beliefs and function of BSAC as the national governing body, what BSAC membership offers and provide an overview of the BSAC '88 Decompression Tables.

The Diving Officer, or Training Officer, may also encourage further theory study and skills practice to 'close any gaps' which might become apparent on review of qualifications and practical experience, such as 'controlled buoyant lift.

OPTION 2

Qualified divers wishing to join a BSAC Branch and **FURTHERING** their training with the BSAC.

New members with other organisation qualifications are encouraged to continue their training and development as a diver within BSAC, by training for higher qualification levels and by attending BSAC Skill Development Courses (SDCs). The Branch, or BSAC HQ, can tell you more about these SDCs.

Should a diver, qualified by another diver training organisation, wish to further their diver training with the BSAC, the qualifications they already hold are recognised as a starting point for further training by the issue of a Statement of Alternative Training (SALT) page, issued as part of the training pack they purchase.

- To obtain furthering diver training with the BSAC:
- Join a branch and the BSAC (as already described).
- On request, the Branch will order a 'Crossover Training Pack' for the next BSAC diver grade.
- The 'Crossover Training Pack' will include the Student Notes and a BSAC Qualification Record Book - with an extra SALT page to record the previous training.
- On completion of the course, the diver will be a BSAC qualified diver at that new grade.

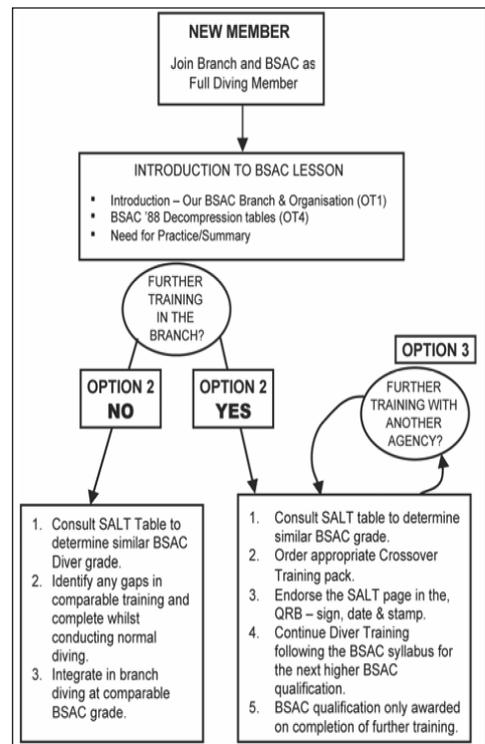
With this process, the NEW member may train for the next higher BSAC qualification. The process has to assume that the person has only just obtained the certificate they hold. It cannot offer any credit for variables such as additional diving experience gained since the qualification was achieved, or training undertaken on incomplete courses. This process applies only to diving qualifications and not to diving instructor qualifications.

Diver Training Organisation	BSAC Qualification
<p>All 'Entry Level' qualifications (which typically do not include rescue training) such as:</p> <p>CMAS One Star Diver</p> <p>NASDS Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver</p> <p>NAUI Scuba Diver and Advanced Scuba Diver</p> <p>PADI Open Water Diver</p> <p>PADI Advanced Open Water Diver/AOWD Plus</p> <p>Royal Navy Ships Diver</p> <p>SAA Open Water Diver</p> <p>SSAC Branch Diver (Depth limited to 15m)</p> <p>SSI Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver</p>	Ocean Diver
<p>All 'Second Level' qualifications (which must include rescue training) such as:</p> <p>CMAS Two Star Diver</p> <p>HSE Commercial Diver:</p> <p>HSE Scuba Diver/HSE Surface Supply Diver/HSE Surface Supply (Top Up) Diver/HSE Closed Bell Diver (formerly HSE Diver Part 4, 3, 1 and 2 respectively)</p> <p>NASDS Rescue Diver</p> <p>NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver</p> <p>PADI Rescue Diver</p> <p>SAA Club Diver</p> <p>SSAC Third Class Diver/Sports Diver</p> <p>SSI Advanced Open Water Diver with 'Stress and Rescue' Speciality</p> <p>Army Compressed Air Diver</p>	Sports Diver
<p>All 'Third Level' qualifications (which must include dive leadership training) such as:</p> <p>NASDS Dive Supervisor</p> <p>NAUI Divemaster</p> <p>PADI Divemaster</p> <p>SAA Dive Leader</p> <p>SSI Dive Control Specialist</p>	Dive Leader
<p>Any higher level of qualification, such as:</p> <p>CMAS Three Star Diver</p> <p>SAA Dive Supervisor</p> <p>SSAC Second Class Diver/ Master Diver</p> <p>Because of the variation allowed in training for the higher diving qualifications awarded by US diver training agencies, BSAC is unable to accept them as being of a similar standard to BSAC Advanced Diver.</p> <p>However, Branch Diving Officers can judge additional experience and training on a case-by-case basis.</p>	Advanced Diver

OPTION 3

Qualified BSAC divers undertaking **FURTHER TRAINING** with other organisations:

If a diver, having crossed over to the BSAC via a previous SALT, wishes to continue their training with other organisations, this is acceptable. Should their training advance their skill level, they may reintegrate back into BSAC training via a further SALT. Once again, they may require additional training and a "crossover" training pack needs to be obtained. Again the Diving Officer will only award similarity to the higher BSAC grade when all required additional training is completed.



Nothing in this process removes or alters the Branch Diving Officer's responsibility for the safety and well-being of Branch members. If the Diving Officer feels that the skills of a new member, originally trained by another organisation, are lacking, the DO is at liberty to require the member to undertake appropriate refresher training and/or limit their open water diving activities until a satisfactory level of skills performance is demonstrated.