



## **WEYMOUTH HARBOUR DIVING REGULATIONS**

(Updated 19 Dec 16)

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Diving at Work Regulations and any amendments place a special responsibility on the Harbour Authority for the safe conduct of all diving operations in the waters under their jurisdiction. The Health and Safety Commission has produced a number of mandatory Approved Codes of Practice (ACOP) for the commercial diving industry. The following regulations apply to every diving or underwater operation undertaken within Weymouth Harbour's limits. These regulations have been issued to ensure the safety of those involved in underwater operations within Weymouth Harbour. All commercial or contract diving must operate within the Diving at Work Regulations.

### **BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

2. A hazard identification and risk assessment is required for each diving or underwater operation.
3. No diving operation shall take place without a 'Diving Permit to Work', see Appendix attached, issued by the Harbour Master or authorized deputy. The Diving Checklist and requirements on the Diving Permit to Work are to be completed and signed for prior to diving taking place.
4. A 'Diving Permit To Work' is authorization for the agreed operation only.
5. All engineering contracts that require diving or underwater operations should be referred to the Harbour Master for consultation.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Diving Supervisor**

6. When arriving on site the Diving Supervisor is to establish communication with the Harbour Office as agreed in the Diving Permit.
7. The Diving Supervisor will keep in constant communication with the Harbour Office as agreed in the Diving Permit.
8. The Diving Supervisor is to ensure that all diving and ancillary equipment is safe and operational.
9. The Diving Supervisor should seek approval from the Harbour Office for divers to enter the water and to report when divers are clear of the water.
10. The Diving Supervisor should be prepared to stop the diving operation if instructed by the Harbour Office.

11. The Diving Supervisor is responsible when divers are to work in the close proximity to a vessel's hull, to ensure that propellers will not be turned, main inlets and outlets are closed and the necessary precautions taken to prevent the vessel being started / moved.

12. The Diving Supervisor understands that particular care must be taken when divers are to work in areas to which the public have access for fishing and other sporting activities. The Harbour Office will not be aware of all recreational vessels movements and therefore will not be able to give warnings of their activities.

13. If an accident happens, or an emergency arises, the Diving Supervisor should immediately inform the Harbour Office. All such messages must be prefixed with "Diving Emergency – Urgent".

### **Harbour Office**

14. The Harbour Master, or authorized deputy, will advise the applicant of all relevant hazards the divers might encounter in the proposed diving area.

15. The Harbour Office will inform the Diving Supervisor of any vessel movements which might affect the divers.

16. The Harbour Office will ensure that the divers are moved to a place of safety before authorizing the passage of any vessel through the diving area.

17. The Harbour Office may enlist the aid of their vessels as required to provide additional safety coverage.

18. The Harbour Office will advise the Diving Supervisor of any sudden changes in conditions.

19. The Harbour Office will advise other vessels of the diving operation.

### **EMERGENCIES**

20. The diving contractor must provide equipment, facilities, medications and personnel for first aid and emergency treatments at diving and underwater operations. At least one in-date first aider is required.

21. In an emergency the Harbour Office will contact the Coastguard or other relevant emergency service who will arrange for the casualty to be evacuated, including to a suitable decompression facility if required.

22. Diving contractors and those who employ diving contractors are advised that Weymouth Harbour have a duty to refer to the Health and Safety Executive any contravention of the 'Diving at Work Regulations'.

### **LESSONS IDENTIFIED**

23. The diving or underwater works teams should de-brief the event with the Harbour Office to identify any weak areas or areas for improvements to the operation.

### **Appendix: Diving Permit to Work**