



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

SAFER RECREATIONAL DIVING

Launch of TR 32:2012 will help enhance the safety of recreational diving

January 7, 2013 – The Technical Reference (TR) for Recreational Diving “TR 32:2012”, was jointly launched today by the Singapore Standards Council and the National Water Safety Council (NWSC).

2 TR 32:2012 defines the roles and responsibilities of participants involved in recreational diving activities, including the safety requirements to be undertaken for specific diving activities, the minimum standards that dive operators should adhere to, as well as best practices for dive masters and diving instructors. Diving enthusiasts can also refer to TR 32:2012 to understand the safety criteria expected of dive operators and shops selling dive equipment. This would encourage them to take responsibility for their own well-being and that of those under their charge.

3 TR 32:2012 was developed by the Working Group formed under the Technical Committee on Workplace Safety and Health of General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee (GESSC), which establishes standards under the guidance of the Singapore Standards Council. The Working Group also comprises members of

the Recreational Diving Safety Committee (RDSC) that was set up under the NWSC in Jan 2011 to look into enhancing safety standards in the local recreational diving industry.

4 In preparation of TR 32:2012, reference was made to various international standards and best practices for SCUBA diving and snorkelling. Reference was also made to SS 511:2010 Code of practice for diving at work, which provides a set of requirements to promote uniformity of practice in relation to the occupational safety and health in the commercial diving industry, but which does not cover recreational diving.

5 Guest-of-Honour Dr Teo Ho Pin, Chairman of the NWSC, explained that while recreational diving incidents have been few and far between, they can be prevented with better understanding and rigorous application of recreational diving safety requirements. He said, "Recreational diving is an increasingly popular sports activity. The Recreational Diving Safety Committee (RDSC) was specifically set up two years ago to look into enhancing diving standards for the recreational diving industry, so that enthusiasts are able to enjoy the sport in a safe and responsible manner. All parties involved in recreational diving are encouraged to adopt TR 32:2012 to enhance the safety of training sessions and overseas expeditions."

6 Following the announcement of TR 32:2012, the Singapore Underwater Federation (SUF), the national sports authority for diving and underwater activities, will be launching DiveSafer in April 2013. DiveSafer is a purposefully designed certification programme to accredit dive operators in accordance with safety standards for recreational diving in Singapore. Consumers will be encouraged to

approach operators that are DiveSafer certified. More details will be made available prior to the official launch in April 2013.

Issued by:

National Water Safety Council and SMF-Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO)

About Singapore Standards Council

The industry-led Singapore Standards Council advises SPRING, the national standards body, on the directions, policies, strategies and priorities for the Singapore Standardisation Programme. The Council, which comprises representatives from the private and public sectors, establishes Singapore Standards and Technical References that meet industry needs and regulatory requirements, so as to achieve quality, productivity, safety and competitiveness.

For more information, please visit www.spring.gov.sg/standards.

About General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee (GESSC)

As one of the eleven Standards Committees under the Standards Council, GESSC develops and implements standards to standardise products, processes and practices related to industrial safety and general engineering. GESSC engages and involves relevant industries and government agencies in the development and implementation of standards.

Composition of the GESSC

Capacity	Name	Representing
Chairman	Mr Chan Yew Kwong	Individual Capacity
Deputy Chairman	Mr Seet Choh San	Singapore Institution of Safety Officers
Member	Dr Kenneth Choy	Ministry of Manpower
Member	Assoc Prof Foo Swee Cheng	National University of Singapore
Member	Er. Goh Keng Cheong	Housing & Development Board
Member	Assoc Prof Hoon Kay Hiang	Nanyang Technological University

Member	Mr Albert Lim	Packaging Council of Singapore
Member	Mr Kenneth Lim	SPRING Singapore
Member	Mr Liu Png Hock	Land Transport Authority
Member	Mr Ng Yek Meng	The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd
Member	Mr P.K Raveendran	Association for Singapore Marine Industries
Member	Mr Tan Chong Lin	Building & Construction Authority
Member	Mr Tan Kai Hong	Institution of Engineers, Singapore
Member	Mr Tay Cheng Pheng	Society of Loss Prevention in Oil, Chemical and Process Industries (Singapore)
Member	Assoc Prof Zhou Wei	Singapore Welding Society
Member	Mr Wong Choon Kin	Singapore Manufacturing Federation
Member	Mr Victor Yeow	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises of Singapore
Secretary 1	<u>Ms Kong Wai Yee</u>	SMF - Standards Development Organisation
Secretary 2	<u>Mr Chen Lian Sze</u>	SMF - Standards Development Organisation
Secretary 3	<u>Ms Julia Yeo</u>	SMF - Standards Development Organisation

Composition of the Working Group for TR 32:2012

Capacity	Name	Representing
Convenor	Mr Benny Yeo	Singapore Underwater Federation
Member	LTC Sng Meng Wah	Naval Diving Unit, RSN
Member	Mr Nicholas Cheong	Legal Advisor, SUF & RDSC
Member	LTC Ong Eng Kok	Naval Safety Inspectorate, RSN
Member	MAJ (Dr) Shalini Arulanandam	Medical Service, RSN
Member	SUPT Peh Eng Kiat	Technical Maintenance Command, Police Coast Guard
Member	Ms Delphine Fong	Sports Safety, Singapore Sports Council
Member	Mr Henrik C. Nimb	PADI Asia

About the National Water Safety Council (NWSC)

The NWSC was appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) to oversee water safety matters in Singapore. Helmed by Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor North West District and Honorary Advisor to the Singapore Life

Saving Society, the NWSC is the national coordinating body in driving and sustaining initiatives overseeing water safety. The Council, appointed on a two-year term, comprises members from the people, private and public sectors.

About the Recreational Diving Safety Committee (RDSC)

RDSC was formed to enhance local recreational diving safety standards, as well as to promote wider public education on recreational diving safety. Set up under the National Water Safety Council (NWSC), the RDSC is part of a larger national effort by the NWSC to actively promote water safety. RDSC is chaired by Rear Admiral (RADM) Tan Wee Beng and comprises representatives from the Singapore Underwater Federation, Singapore Sports Council, Singapore Life Saving Society and the Singapore Armed Forces.

About Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by industry groups and Centres of Excellence, SMF offers a holistic approach towards enhancing competitiveness of its members. Current membership stands at more than 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs.

For more information, please visit www.smfederation.org.sg.

About SMF-Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO)

SMF-SDO is appointed by SPRING Singapore and endorsed by the Singapore Standards Council to manage development, promotion and implementation of standards for three Standards Committees as follows:

- Food Standards Committee (FSC)
- General Engineering & Safety Standards Committee (GESSC)
- Biomedical Standards Committee (BMSC)

SMF-SDO also facilitates Singapore's participation in relevant international standardisation committees.

For media queries, please contact:

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