

WET WELDER TRAINING

ENROLMENT ELIGIBILITY

We receive many enquiries, regarding our wet welder training but unfortunately not all those that enquire are eligible to enrol on our courses. So we have compiled this short document which may answer some of your questions.

ELIGIBILITY (WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR JOINING THE COURSE)

Hydroweld do not provide 'commercial diver training' (Training students to dive commercially). Hydroweld only provide specialist underwater wet welder training to 'qualified commercial divers' and in order to enrol on our wet welding courses you must be a qualified commercial diver having attended and qualified at an approved commercial diving school.

The diving qualification needs to be approved and if you intend to work around the world, be internationally recognised by organisations such as IMCA, HSE, ADCI, and ADAS or similar. The contact details of these schools can be found on sites like www.longstreath.com or www.offshorediver.com or in a general search of the internet for 'commercial diving schools'. *Note: Not all commercial diving schools are approved internationally so check first.*

OTHER (RECREATIONAL) DIVING CERTIFICATION

We very frequently receive enquiries from potential students who only hold a recreational, **SCUBA**, qualification such as **BSAC, PADI, CMAS or SAA** etc. wanting to join our courses. Unfortunately, students that only hold these 'recreational qualifications' are **not eligible** to join the wet welding courses, and, in general, these qualifications are **not recognised** in the commercial diving industry.

TRADE SKILLS

Trade skills are essential in the commercial diving industry and we get many enquiries from potential students that are qualified welders. This is ideal if you already have a commercial diving qualification but we cannot train you to dive or qualify you as a commercial diver. This can only be achieved by attending a commercial diver training school as detailed in the eligibility section above.

A CAREER IN COMMERCIAL DIVING

If you are considering becoming a commercial diver, if it is your dream or if you believe there is a pot of gold to be made then consider this:

Diving is only the means to get to work, so ideally you need some sort of engineering, construction or practical back ground or you will struggle to find the work. Nobody is interested in the fact that you are a SCUBA instructor, ran a SCUBA shop, how many dives you have done or that you are comfortable in the water. Diving contractors are only interested in what you can do, what skills you have, and are they applicable to a particular project. They want divers that have experience in construction, welding, building, pneumatics, hydraulics, mechanics and/or electricians.

You will need to be committed and in particular be prepared to pay a lot of money to get the appropriate qualifications as it is very rare anyone is going to pay for any of your training. It is not just the diving qualification you require, you will also need a yearly commercial diving medical and if you want to work offshore then you will need to take an offshore survival course too. To make yourself more employable a 'Diver Medic' qualification is useful as well as underwater inspection qualifications and if you want to qualify in wet welding you will need to take welding course (s) to develop some skill.

As a guide consider this, the duration of a commercial diving training course changes from school to school with some taking up to a year but on average they are between 9 and 12 weeks long. The prices vary a lot with some including accommodation and others not. But as a budget guide be prepared to pay as a minimum £15,000, US\$20,000, €18,000 for a basic commercial diving course. If you add on living costs and the cost of the additional qualifications, travel and accommodation then you need to budget for £30,000, US\$45,000, €36,000.

Do your research before committing. I hope this explains the situation and helps, once you are qualified then please contact us again about the welding courses

Regards

Hydroweld