

Rebreather Diving and Supervision Requirements FAQs

Use of Rebreathers by PADI Divers:

1. Which units may be used in PADI Rebreather courses?

- PADI maintains a register of rebreathers that manufacturers have specified meet the key features of a Type R (recreational) or Type T (technical) rebreather and have successfully undergone internationally recognized third-party testing against an appropriate standard such as EN14143. Only rebreathers that have been included in this central register can be used for PADI courses. The Unit Register can be found on the [PADI Pros Site](#) under *Training Essentials* → *TecRec* → *Revisions and Teaching Tools* → *Register of Rebreather Units*. It can also be found on the [TecRec Blog](#).

2. Can rebreathers be used in PADI courses* other than rebreather courses?

- Yes, student divers may use rebreathers while taking many PADI courses*:
 1. In most courses, as long as course performance requirements can still be met when using the rebreather.
 2. If the rebreather is listed on the unit register**
 3. If divers have appropriate rebreather credentials.

**Rebreathers may not be used in PADI Discover Scuba Diving programs, PADI Scuba Diver, Open Water Diver or Instructor Development Courses, or courses with specific equipment requirements (it would not meet the performance requirements) e.g. Sidemount or Open Circuit TecRec courses. (See 3Q2011 Training Bulletin)*

*** The Rebreather Unit Register can be found on the [PADI Pros Site](#) (*Training Essentials* → *TecRec* → *Revisions and Teaching Tools* → *Register of Rebreather Units*). It can also be found on the [TecRec Blog](#)*

Use of Rebreathers by Supervisory Staff:

1. Can I use a rebreather while teaching open circuit PADI courses*?

- PADI Instructors and certified assistants may equip themselves with rebreathers when conducting PADI course training dives only where indirect supervision is permitted.

Follow these guidelines:

1. Carry out a risk assessment prior to the dive to decide whether it is appropriate for you to use a rebreather. In particular, ensure that at least one other diver (e.g. your certified assistant) could assist you, and is familiar with the rebreather controls and rescuing a rebreather diver. Consider whether you may need to

provide any course-related demonstrations for your class, and, if so, whether your gear configuration will interfere with student diver learning. (use the PADI *Rebreather Informer**** to familiarize open circuit divers with how to dive with a rebreather diver)

2. Have a certification specific to the rebreather you are using and dive within the limits of this certification. You must have logged at least 50 dive/hours with that Type T unit, or 30 dive/hours for a Type R unit.
3. Use a rebreather that is registered for use on PADI courses. You can see a list of rebreathers registered for use on PADI courses by viewing the *Rebreather Unit Register***.
4. Maintain and operate the rebreather according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
5. Carry a separate cylinder of open circuit gas that is safe to breathe at any depth encountered on the dive. The second stage should be fitted with a hose of a suitable length for sharing with another diver, accessible to them and within the normal "activity triangle". The cylinder should have a capacity of *at least* 850 liters free gas/30 cf.
6. Follow any local regulations that may apply to the use of rebreathers; particularly if you may be classified as a working diver. NOTE: Units must meet CE to be used within areas that require this certification.
7. Rebreathers may not be used on PADI course training dives that require *direct supervision*. For example: on the Wreck Specialty Course dive 4a - during the penetration dive, or during deep dives such those on the Deep Specialty Course. Be sure to reference the *Supervision and Ratios* sections of your PADI Instructor or Specialty Instructor Guide to verify appropriate supervision requirements before using a rebreather during a PADI course*.

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** *The Rebreather Unit Register can be found on the [PADI Pros Site](#) (Training Essentials →TecRec →Revisions and Teaching Tools →Register of Rebreather Units). It can also be found on the [TecRec Blog](#)*

*** *The Rebreather Informer can be found on the [PADI Pros Site](#) (Training Essentials →TecRec →Revisions and Teaching Tools →Rebreather Informer). It can also be found on the [TecRec Blog](#)*

You may also like to read/share the PADI *Rebreather Informer**** which is designed to familiarize non-rebreather divers with rebreather diving and buddying rebreather divers. PADI Professionals should be informed and stay-up-to-date on diving technologies even if you're not a technical or rebreather diver. This will help you understand and prepare for all types of different equipment configurations you may come across such as rebreathers, long hose configuration, etc., and emergency procedures to employ when supervising divers using this equipment.

If you have any other questions about rebreathers please email rebreather@padi.com

*** *The Rebreather Informer can be found on the [PADI Pros Site](#) (Training Essentials →TecRec →Revisions and Teaching Tools →Rebreather Informer). It can also be found on the [TecRec Blog](#)*