

Standard Number: 2.B.37 / BOD no 193 (05-05-2016)

## **CMAS Cave Diver 3 (Full Cave Diver) Standard**

### **1. Aim of the training programme**

- 1.1 The Cave Diver 3 course is the third level of training in the series of CMAS Cave Diver development programmes. Advanced cave dive planning, the practical execution of different types of cave systems and scenarios divers encounter are presented. This cave diving course is not intended to prepare divers for evaluating all facets of cave diving. The objective of this course is to expand and critique previous skills obtained in the Cave Diving programs. Emphasis is put on dive planning and skill perfection during cave penetration.
- 1.2 The Cave Diver 3 course focuses on advanced cave diving planning and execution. This is the final step in the progression from Cave Diver 1 to Cave Diver 3. Techniques learned through earlier courses are fully developed and refined, with the cave diver exposed to more sophisticated cave diving scenarios.

### **2. Classification**

- 2.1 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 Training Programme is classified as an advanced level speciality diver training programme.
- 2.2 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 is a very experienced open water and cave diver on the highest competence level with the knowledge and the skills for correct use of all required materials and equipment.
- 2.3 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 has the knowledge and the competence for mastering specific techniques and procedures for planning and organising tank deposits and usage of stage tanks, for the execution of long-distance penetration, for mastering squeezes and post-sump diving, for the usage of Nitrox-mixtures and for O<sub>2</sub>-decompression.
- 2.4 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 masters all techniques to correctly lay a temporary or permanent cave line, to handle jumps, repair gaps, orient themselves even under total loss of light or during a silt-out and to safely find their way back to the cave exit.
- 2.5 The maximum depth for CMAS Cave Diver 3 level is 40m EAD.

### **3. Instructor and Assistant Requirements**

- 3.1 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 Training Programme may be given by every CMAS Cave Diving Instructor 2 (CMAS Full Cave Diving Instructors) in active status with a minimum of a CMAS Two Star Instructor

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3.2 The CMAS Two Star Instructor with a minimum of a CMAS Cave Instructor 1 (CMAS Cavern Instructor) and CMAS Cave 3 Diver level may be assisted by but not more than one (1) assistant per one (1) instructor by a CMAS Dive Leader that complies with the CMAS standards.

### 3.3 Student - Instructor ratios:

3.3.1 In open water, confined area: max. four (4) students per one (1) instructor

3.3.2 Max. three (3) students per one (1) instructor under normal (average) conditions, limited by Nitrox 32 as breathing gas and - 30 m as max.depth

3.3.3 It is in the responsibility of the instructor to monitor students at all times during the dive; with the exception for restrictions or small bends.

## 4. Competencies of a certified CMAS Cave Diver 3 (Full Cave Diver)

4.1 A CMAS Cave Diver 3 (Full Cave Diver) has knowledge of the correct usage of required equipment as well as the skills to safely plan and organise cave dives in Zone 3 and execute them in the company of other certified cave divers of same or higher level.

4.2 A CMAS Cave Diver 3 (Full Cave Diver) upon completion of this course may engage in cave diving activities without direct supervision as long as the following limits are adhered to:

4.2.1 Penetration is limited to the one-third (1/3) breathing gas rule;

4.2.2 Forty (40) meters maximum equivalent air depth;

4.2.3 No gear removal in cave;

4.2.4 Safety and decompression stops when appropriate or necessary;

4.2.5 Maintain a continuous guideline;

4.2.6 Proper Cave diving equipment is used.

4.3 The CMAS Cave Diver 3 has the competence to act as a dive master and to guide other certified cave divers of equal or lesser level into their appropriate zones. In the presence of a designated back-up team, they are able to carry out temporary single-diver explorations/penetrations.

4.4 The use of Nitrox mixtures or 100% oxygen for deco reason is highly recommended, provided that at least the required CMAS Advanced Nitrox Diver certification or equivalent has been previously obtained;

4.5 All cave dives have to be planned and executed in a way that any impairment of the flora and fauna of the cave is reduced to a bare minimum and the original state is maintained.

## 5. Prerequisites for participation in the training programme

5.1 In order to gain access to the Cave Diving Training Programme, the participant shall:

5.1.1 Be at least eighteen (18) years of age; there is no upper limit;

5.1.2 Hold a CMAS Three Star Diver or equivalent certification;

5.1.3 Hold a CMAS Cave Diver 2 or equivalent certification, or successfully passed assessment;

5.1.4 Hold a CMAS Advanced Nitrox Diver certification or equivalent;

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- 5.1.5 Have the aptitudes as described in the CMAS Technical Skills course;
- 5.1.6 Hold one of the recommended specialty certificates: CMAS Gas Blender or equivalent, CMAS Sidemount Diver or equivalent;
- 5.1.7 Have a minimum (hundred) 100 open water dives, ten (10) cave dives in at least four (4) different caves since Cave Diver certification;
- 5.1.8 Complete the medical history/statement form required by the CMAS Federation prior to participating in any in-water activities;
- 5.1.9 Sign the appropriate form(s) as required by the CMAS Federation acknowledging and assuming the risks of SCUBA diving prior to participating in any in-water activities.

## 6. Requirements for certification

- 6.1 In order to be certified as a CMAS Cave Diver 3 the student shall:
  - 6.1.1 Comply with all prerequisites for participation in the training programme as prescribed by Clause 5 of this Standard;
  - 6.1.2 Successfully complete the theoretical assessment according to the CMAS standards;
  - 6.1.3 Successfully complete the practical skills assessment according to the CMAS standards.

## 7. Required theoretical knowledge and diving skills

- 7.1 The participant shall receive tuition in the theoretical knowledge and practical skills as prescribed by the CMAS standards.

## 8. Theoretical training parameters

- 8.1 The CMAS Instructor shall conform to the standard theoretical training parameters as prescribed by the CMAS standards.

## 9. Practical training parameters

- 9.1 The CMAS Instructor shall comply with the practical training parameters as prescribed by the CMAS standards.

## 10. Assessment

- 10.1 Knowledge
  - 10.1.1 The participant shall demonstrate to the CMAS Instructor knowledge of CMAS Cave Diver 3 diving theory and techniques by passing an oral or written examination. This examination shall measure CMAS Cave Diver 3 diving theory and techniques as prescribed by the CMAS standards.

## 10.2 Practical skills

10.2.1 The participant shall demonstrate to the CMAS Instructor their mastery of CMAS Cave Diver 3 practical skills, as prescribed in CMAS standards, during a practical skills assessment session.

## **11. Certification**

11.1 Upon successful completion of the training programme the participant shall be awarded with a CMAS Cave Diver 3 C-card.