



Diving with Rebreathers during seminars and events of Swiss Cave Diving



Swiss Cave Diving (SCD) has not admitted any CCR equipment to its courses, specifically for the Guided Tours guests in France, for a variety of reasons, mainly due to liability problems and the inadequate technique for a long time. However, the training management of SCD has communicated from the beginning that the situation is being permanently re-examined and evaluated.

In the meantime, the technology has improved considerably and currently there are various devices on the market that meet the PSA guidelines, resp. are CE certified. In addition, manufacturers and various organizations offer formalized, mostly device-specific training courses

However, it must be reminded once more that all types of CC or OC devices are covered by the **European PSA Directives**, which are also valid in Switzerland. In Switzerland, the "**Act on the Safety of Technical Facilities and Equipment**", **STEG, SR 819.1**, as well as the related **ordnance STEV, SR 819.11** are also applicable. Further information on their applicability and consequences is given by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (seco).

Therefore, the Board of Directors of SCD at its meeting of 27 December 2014 decided that future guests, who want to dive with CCR, are welcome under the following conditions:

- For groups with CCR devices, all group members must have at least a HT3 (Full Cave Diver) certificate from an organization recognized by SCD.
- The CCR diver has to show proof of a formal training (certificate, written confirmation) on exactly the device with which he/she wants to dive with during the SCD event.
- Only „true“ CCR devices are accepted (explicitly no pSCR) and only those for which a correct CE conformity declaration of the manufacturer / importer / supplier exists and can be shown.
- The user has to prove at least 100 hours of diving experience with CCR devices, of which at least 50 hours with exactly the device, which is to be used during the SCD event. When used in a cave during an SCD seminar, the user has to prove at least 20 hours of previous experience with this device in a comparable cave environment.
- Both, the group leader and the CCR diver(s) must previously have been diving in the concerned cave or the focused area with OC SCUBA at least 3x within the past 12 months.
- Mixed groups (CC and OC divers) always have to observe the limiting conditions of the type of equipment which is more stringent; the same applies to the diving limits, which result from the certification level of each individual team member (depth, mixture, deco, cave zone, etc.).
- In the entire overhead environment, each CCR diver must always carry sufficient bailout gas in form of an off-board/offline system (with OC regulator) for himself/herself or the partner for the entire return.
- Upon request, the CCR user must be able to understandably explain and faultlessly demonstrate with his/her CCR to the responsible group leader and to the other group members its main functions and control units, the pre-dive checks and all emergency procedures
- For CCR divers, all other common and applicable general safety regulations apply as well as for OC divers, also concerning the medical fitness for diving.
- As is the case with the OC divers, a reasonable, transparent dive planning (in particular regarding gas management) must be submitted, which corresponds to all safety requirements.
- The CCR diver commits himself/herself to apply the rule of thirds also to the onboard/inline O₂ supply and to the (residual) endurance of the scrubber content.
- In any case, the wish/intention to dive with CCR must be communicated together with the registration.

The rules for the use of CCR during the actual training courses in the cave area (Cave I to Cave III) are defined in the standards.

Thus, the way for the safe use of such devices by the guests during our seminars and events should be free.

Rudolfstetten 28.12.2014

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Beat Müller
President Swiss Cave Diving

Walter Gallmann
Training Director

Important: These rules replace all earlier rules and regulations for the use of CCR during SCD events.