



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM  
**PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON SPORTS SCUBA DIVING**



**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-001**

**AMENDED GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONS OF DIVE ESTABLISHMENTS AND  
LIVEBOARD DIVE BOATS UNDER A COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

WHEREAS, on 09 October 2020, the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD) issued Administrative Order (AO) No. 2020-001 or the "*Guidelines on the Operations of Dive Establishments under a Community Quarantine*;"

WHEREAS, PCSSD AO No. 2020-001 mandated a Test-Before-Travel Requirement wherein guests of Dive Establishments are required to present a negative result from an RT-PCR test prior to arrival in the Dive Establishment;

WHEREAS, to augment efforts to promote the recovery of the tourism and diving industry, and upon consultation with stakeholders concerned, there is a need to amend the said Guidelines and expand the coverage of the Guidelines to include Liveboard Dive Boats;

WHEREAS, under the IATF-EID Resolution No. 95 dated 15 January 2021, the requirement for DOT Certificate of Authority to Operate (CAO) has been removed and only hotels and accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients for legitimate purposes under a state of public health emergency;

WHEREAS, under IATF-EID Resolution No. 101 dated 26 February 2021, testing shall not be mandatory for travelers except if the Local Government Unit (LGU) of destination will require testing prior to travel;

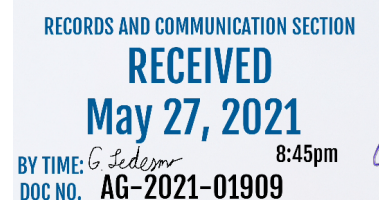
NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, and pursuant to PCSSD Resolution No. 2021-005 adopted on 24 March 2021, these Amended Guidelines on the Operations of Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats Under a Community Quarantine are hereby issued:

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Order shall be known as the "*Amended Community Quarantine Guidelines for Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats*"

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of these Guidelines, the term:

- (a) "Accommodation Establishments" shall refer to establishments operating primarily for accommodation purposes including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartment hotels, mabuhay accommodation establishments (e.g. tourist inns, motels, pension houses, bed and breakfast, and vacation homes) and homestays.
- (b) "Community Quarantine" refers to the restriction of movement within, into, or out of the area of quarantine of individuals, large groups of people, or communities designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19 among persons in and to persons outside the affected area. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*)
- (c) "Dive Center" refers to any establishment engaged in all of the following activities:
  1. Importation and/or wholesale of major diving equipment;
  2. Renting out of scuba diving equipment;
  3. Provision of air-filling service;
  4. Service and repair of scuba diving equipment;
  5. Conduct of scuba diving courses; and



6. Conduct of dive tours.

- (d) "Dive Establishments" refer to facilities involved in SCUBA diving, such as, but not limited to, Dive Centers, Dive Shop/Facility, or any business establishment licensed by the Local Government Unit (LGU) engaged in the conduct of sports scuba diving activities in the Philippines, whether or not for a fee.
- (e) "Dive Shop" refers to any establishment engaged in any one or more of the following:
1. Sale or retail of scuba diving equipment and accessories;
  2. Renting out of scuba diving equipment;
  3. Provision of air-filling service;
  4. Service and repair of scuba diving equipment;
  5. Conduct of scuba diving courses; or
  6. Conduct of dive tours.
- (f) "General Community Quarantine" or GCQ refers to the implementation of temporary measures limiting movement and transportation, regulation of operating industries, and presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (g) "Liveaboard Dive Boat" refers to any motor-run or sail operated boat with live-aboard facilities used for scuba diving purposes, duly registered with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).
- (h) "Minimum Public Health Standards" refers to guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH), under Administrative Order No. 2020-0015, as well as sector-relevant guidelines issued by national government agencies as authorized by the IATF, to aid all sectors in all settings to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), which refer to public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, which individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population to mitigate COVID-19 (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (i) "Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine" or MECQ refers to the transition phase between ECQ and GCQ, when these temporary measures are relaxed: stringent limiting movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols become less necessary (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (j) "Modified General Community Quarantine" or MGCQ refers to the transition phase between General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and the New Normal when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (k) "Operational Capacity" refers to such a number of employees or workers who can be permitted or required to physically report to work on-site in a particular office or establishment. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (l) "Recreational Diving" or sports diving is the kind of diving conducted for enjoyment or leisure, and conducted using SCUBA equipment.

(m) “RT- PCR Test” or “Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction Test” refers to a PCR test designed to detect, measure and study RNA viruses (*DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0014*).

**Section 3. Scope and Application.** – This Order shall apply to all Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats in the Philippines in areas under Community Quarantine.

**II. RECREATIONAL DIVING UNDER DIFFERENT COMMUNITY QUARANTINE CLASSIFICATIONS**

**Section 4. Dive Operations in Areas Under ECQ and MECQ.** Recreational Diving in areas declared to be under ECQ and MECQ shall be strictly prohibited.

**Section 5. Dive Operations in Specific Areas Under GCQ.** Recreational Diving in specific areas declared to be under GCQ shall be allowed, subject to the following guidelines:

A. **Limitation to Specific Areas.** Pursuant to IATF-EID Resolution No. 78 which provides that DOT shall determine the specific destinations in GCQ areas where recreational diving may be allowed, Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats in **Batangas Province**, insofar as the area is still under GCQ, are hereby determined to be permitted to accept guests for Recreational Diving, taking into consideration the general preparedness of the area and its impact on the tourism industry; provided, that travel shall be subject to the regulations of the LGU concerned.

The DOT may issue subsequent amendments to this Order to include other GCQ areas where Recreational Diving may be permitted.

B. **Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats Permitted to Operate.** Only Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats with a valid PCSSD Accreditation are permitted to accommodate Recreational Diving under GCQ. In case the Dive Establishment is ancillary to an Accommodation Establishment or a resort, the said Accommodation Establishment or resort must have a valid DOT Accreditation.

C. **Operational Capacity.** Operations shall be at 75% Operational Capacity, subject to the boat capacity and restrictions imposed by the LGU and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) having jurisdiction over the area.

D. **Permitted Guests.** Individuals of all ages from GCQ and MGCQ areas who are fit to dive may engage in recreational activities in Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats, subject to the following conditions:

<b>Permanent Disqualification</b>	<b>Temporary Disqualification</b>	<b>Conditional Disqualification</b>
Individuals with the following conditions shall not be permitted to dive under any circumstance: a. Stroke and transient ischemic attacks b. Intracranial aneurysm, arterial-venous malformation or tumor	Individuals suffering from the following symptoms shall not be permitted to dive: a. Fever or chills b. Cough c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing d. Fatigue	Individuals with the following conditions may be permitted to dive only upon presentation of a medical certificate or clearance from a Dive Physician: a. Exercise-Induced Asthma

Permanent Disqualification	Temporary Disqualification	Conditional Disqualification
c. Exertional angina, postmyocardial infarction with left ventricular dysfunction, congestive heart failure, or dependence on medication to control dysrhythmias	e. Muscle or body aches f. Headache g. New loss of taste or smell h. Sore throat i. Congestion or runny nose j. Nausea or vomiting k. Diarrhea	b. Cancer c. Diabetes Insulin Dependent d. Pregnancy e. Patent Foramen Ovale f. Psychiatric disorders
d. Postcoronary bypass surgery with violation of pleural spaces		
e. History of spontaneous pneumothorax		
f. Seizure disorders of any kind		
g. Epilepsy		

- E. **Health Declaration Form.** All guests of Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats shall fill-out an online Health Declaration Form not more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to arrival in the Dive Establishment or Liveboard Dive Boat.
- F. **Test-Before-Travel Requirement.** Unless revised by subsequent IATF-EID rules and regulations, testing shall not be mandatory except if the LGU of destination will require testing prior to travel.

**Section 6. Dive Operations in Areas Under MGCQ.** Recreational Diving is allowed in all areas declared to be under MGCQ; provided, that only PCSSD-Accredited Dive Establishments, Liveboard Dive Boats, or Dive Establishments in Accommodation Establishments or resorts that have a valid DOT Accreditation, may accommodate bookings of guests who have complied with the Health Declaration Form and Test-Before-Travel Requirement, if applicable, in the preceding section; provided, further, that operations shall be at 100% Operational Capacity, subject to the boat capacity and restrictions imposed by the LGU and MARINA having jurisdiction over the area.

### III. OTHER PROVISIONS

**Section 7. Supplementary Application of PCSSD Memorandum Circular No. 2021-002.** Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats admitting guests for Recreational Diving shall comply with the protocols and standards under PCSSD Memorandum Circular No. 2021-002 entitled Amended Health and Safety Guidelines Governing the Operations of Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats in the New Normal and its subsequent amendments, which is deemed to apply to this Order by analogy or in suppletory character.

**Section 8. Compliance with Other Relevant Issuances.** Dive Establishments and Liveboard Dive Boats shall comply with other relevant IATF-EID, DOT, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), or Department of Health (DOH) issuances on health and safety standards, as well as rules and regulations imposed by the LGU having jurisdiction over the Dive Establishment or Liveboard Dive Boat.

**Section 9. Penalties.** Any violation of this Order shall subject the Dive Establishment, the Accommodation Establishment as may be applicable, Liveboard Dive Boat, or Dive Individual

to the appropriate fines and penalties including revocation of its PCSSD or DOT Accreditation, in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

**Section 10. Separability Clause.** If any portion or provision of this Order is declared null and void or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

**Section 11. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette, with three (3) copies hereof filed with the Office of National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the UP Law Center and shall remain effective until otherwise superseded, amended, or repealed accordingly.

**Section 12. Repealing Clause.** This Order repeals other PCSSD issuances inconsistent herewith.

For guidance and strict compliance.

27 May 2021



**BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT**  
Secretary, Department of Tourism  
Chairperson, PCSSD

