

UKOOA v Diving medical standards

Asthma

- BTS levels 1 and 2 acceptable.
- Levels 3,4 and 5 normally incompatible with offshore work, but each case assessed individually.
- Levels 1 and 2 acceptable only if free of symptoms, normal spirometry, negative exercise test

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Chest x-ray

- Not required unless specific clinical indication
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Issues

- Would applying these standards reduce incidence below already predicted levels
- How to deal with individuals who would be fit to work offshore but not to undergo training

Conclusions

- Risk to an individual of having to deploy airpocket plus in an emergency and developing pulmonary barotrauma is very low and should be viewed against the potential risk of drowning. Additional medical screening is not justified on this basis

Conclusions

There is a small but finite risk of pulmonary barotrauma during underwater training at depths over 1 meter. Such training, as part of HUET exercises is however desirable to ensure correct usage of equipment in an emergency. Training using airpocket plus has now been mandated as part of the survival training syllabus but without the use of a compressed air cylinder. Under these circumstances there is no requirement for additional medical standards.