

INDUSTRIAL DIVING: THE 'SICILY MODEL'

and the New National Safety Law



PALERMO (18 February 2026) - Italian industrial diving is experiencing a historic turning point. With the entry into force, February 11, of Law No. 9 of January 26, 2026, the State has established an organic framework for the safety of underwater activities and the protection of critical infrastructure.

This national pillar is completed by Sicilian Regional Law 07/2016, the only one in Italy to guarantee the "regulated training" now essential to meet the professional qualifications required by national legislation. While Law 9/2026 governs safety policies and equipment, training competence remains regional. The Sicilian model (L.R. 07/2016 and d.p.R.S. 31/2018) is no longer just a local regulation, but the operational tool for implementing national provisions: without certified training pathways, the new professional qualifications would lack a verifiable technical basis aligned with international standards.

Page 7 clarifies a key technical aspect: regulated pathways are open to all centres, but with different modalities. Schools that are not Full Members must follow a much more demanding training table in terms of the number of dives. By contrast, the **Cedifop Study Centre**, a professional training institution for indus-

trial diving operating within the Port of Palermo, by virtue of its status as an IDSA Full Member, is authorized to use a reserved table that optimizes the training process. This advantage is not a bureaucratic privilege, but the result of constant international audits that IDSA conducts exclusively on its members to ensure strict application of protocols, such as IDSA Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver), recommended by IMCA (doc. IN 1384).

The meeting point between national law and the labor market is the Register of Commercial Divers of the Sicilian Region. This online list allows immediate verification of professional qualifications, meeting the transparency requirements imposed by Law 9/2026. To date, Cedifop remains the only institution capable of training divers who meet both the requirements of the Harbour Master's Offices and those of the regional Register. With the launch of the national regulatory framework,

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the "Sicily Model" could become the benchmark for the entire Italian industrial diving sector, providing maritime companies with operators whose skills are certified and legally recognized worldwide.