



ITALY

Commercial Diving Safety Update

Regulation is moving. Implementation is now the safety-critical phase.

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Country and organisation

ITALY

A national perspective covering offshore, coastal, port and inland-water operations.

AISI

Italian Diving Enterprises Association

- Founded in 2000 to promote safety, quality and innovation
- Represents industrial diving contractors, onshore and offshore
- Connects industry with **FINCO**, EDTC and UNI technical work



OUR ROLE AT EDTC

Bring the contractor perspective into European work on competence, medical fitness, operational practice and technical harmonisation.

2026: the system changed

Four developments define the Italian safety agenda

11 FEB

Law 9/2026

Italy's first unified national framework for underwater-activity safety enters into force and creates ASAS.

2026

Piano del Mare

The 2026-2028 national plan elevates the underwater dimension, skills and industrial capability.

8 AUG

DL 144, art. 24

Urgent measures support the first operation of ASAS while its organisational regulation is pending.

ONGOING

UNI technical work

UNI/CT 042/GL 58 continues work around the operational standard for industrial diving safety.

The opportunity

One national architecture for competence, health surveillance, technical rules and supervision.

Incidents and safety signals

1

fatal commercial-diving event highlighted

9 May 2025 · Porticello, Sicily

A 39-year-old specialist salvage diver died at approximately 49 m during preparatory work to recover the yacht Bayesian.

The investigation examined underwater cutting, worksite controls and alleged qualification / registration issues. No final legal finding is presented here.

DATA GAP

No dedicated national public series for commercial-diving injuries and near misses was identified.

- INAIL publishes general injury data by economic and insurance classifications
- Trend detection for commercial diving remains weak
- Near-miss learning is not yet centralised nationally

Priority: confidential, harmonised reporting to ASAS - with feedback to companies and EDTC.

Regulatory update: three layers to manage

IN FORCE

Law 9/2026

ASAS · operator register and qualifications · medical surveillance · digital logbook · interference management · technical rulemaking

TRANSITION

Implementing measures

Agency organisation and technical provisions still need to become operational; article 10 and parts of article 16 apply from 30 December 2027.

BASELINE

Existing safety framework

D.Lgs. 81/2008 · sector rules and Port Authority oversight · UNI 11366:2010 remains in force for industrial diving procedures.

Safety initiatives now in progress

01 Update operational practice

Continue UNI/CT 042/GL 58 work around UNI 11366 and the new legal framework.

02 Align equipment requirements

Track ISO/DIS 25640.2 for breathing apparatus used in diving and hyperbaric applications.

03 Map national capability

AISI proposal: contractors, vessels, ROVs, saturation, chambers and emergency-response availability.

04 Create a learning loop

AISI proposal: ASAS-industry technical forum, contractor qualification and incident / near-miss feedback.



Safety must cover diver-ROV-vessel interfaces.

An aerial photograph of a city harbor, likely London, showing modern buildings, a large bridge, and several ships in the water. The image is used as a background for the left side of the slide.

Next challenge: make implementation operational

RISKS TO CONTROL

- Fragmented enforcement during the transition
- Lowest-price procurement and unqualified providers
- Inconsistent medical, competence and emergency controls
- New diver-ROV-autonomous-system interfaces

EDTC COOPERATION REQUEST

- 1 **Common principles for qualification equivalence and medical fitness**
- 2 **A shared incident and near-miss taxonomy**
- 3 **Benchmark emergency arrangements, contractor qualification and equipment assurance**

TAKEAWAY

New institutions improve safety only when the technical rules are clear, enforceable and shared with industry.