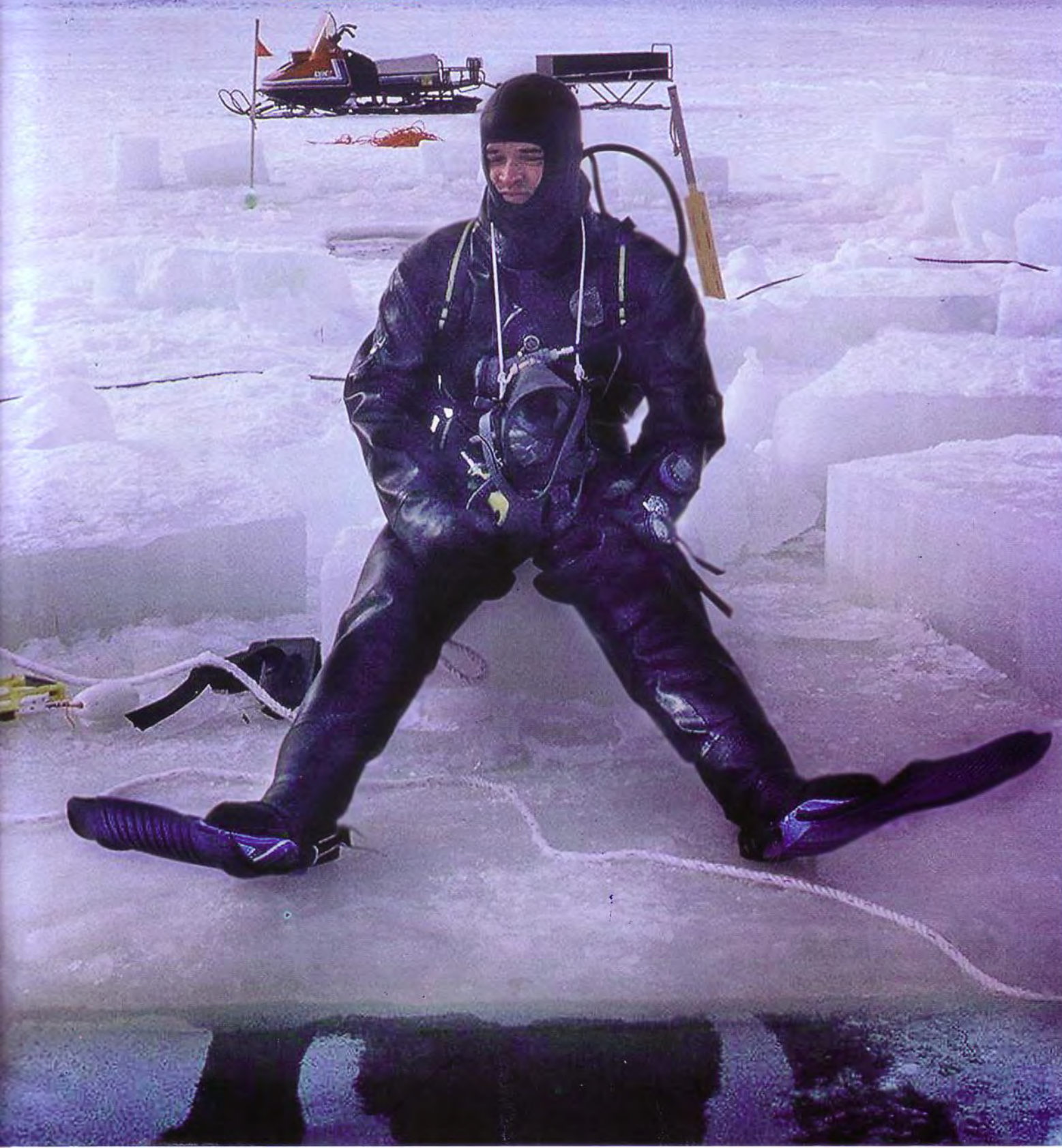


INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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ACCREDITED 'SELF-TEACH' UNDERWATER WELDING

*(Certified by UK's
leading Engineering
Qualification
Awarding-Body)*

*By David J. Keats
DipEng, EngTech,*

*TechWeld Speciality
Welds Limited
Suite 18e IMEX centre
Balme Road,
Cleckheaton,
BD19 4EZ
United Kingdom*

INTRODUCTION

The training of commercial divers, with regards to underwater welding, has for many years and to a large extent even now, only played a small part of the overall diver training process. This has led on occasions to a questionable mixture of training standards and abilities taught and sometimes may have led to very little or no welding skills being acquired. Speciality Welds, experts to the welding industry, has received approved Test Centre status from the UK's leading engineering awarding-body EAL for their WeldCraft-Pro® underwater welding course. The company is also a registered ISO 9001 approved organization and David is the official welding surveyor, approved by Zurich Insurance Risk Services, UKAS/SAFed accredited inspection laboratories.

WHAT IS BEING OFFERED?

Mr David J. Keats, president of Speciality Welds has been involved in the welding industry for over 33 years, of which, 25 have been connected with underwater. David has been teaching wet welding skills since 1990 and has produced an industry first, with the first ever approved self-teach training package. David will present this unique programme of diver-welder training, one that allows all approved diver training schools and other interested training organisations to deliver the course themselves, and in so doing, will permit the issue, by EAL, of an international welding qualification.

WHO ARE EAL?

EAL (EMTA) - Engineering & Marine Training Awards, part of the SEMTA Group – Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Awards are licensed by the Secretary of State for Education and are the UK's leading qualification authority, issuing over 80% of all engineering vocational qualifications and are a recognised worldwide authority.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN AWARDING BODY?

To consult with industry, employers and Government. To develop qualifications that recognise achievement and provide credibility to Industry. Support and encourage education through approved test centres to ensure the highest standards are delivered to meet industry demands.

WHO RUNS THE COURSE?

This is the USP of this training programme; you run it, we audit it, EAL certify it. Now for most approved diving schools this will be business as usual, as they no doubt already include welder training, to one standard or another. But by adopting this programme, a diving school or training provider can now provide a standardized platform for teaching all underwater welding skills that permits a consistency for training and ensures high standards of welding ability is offered to industry.

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www.specialwelds.com

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(continued from page 17)

HOW DOES THE SELF-TEACH METHOD WORK?

As you might expect a number of quality control systems are involved. But briefly, the process follows the following format. An interested party completes an application form, which then generates the need for a site audit to be conducted, together with a briefing of all welding teaching staff. This provides a familiarisation for Speciality Welds of the schools staff and facilities and for the teaching staff to become familiar with the teaching manuals and audit documents. (There is no obligation for a school to progress to approved status following this site visit and the site visit is presently being offered at travel expenses only). However, following approval the school needs to sign a legal licence agreement to protect all IP, after which Speciality Welds will issue the teaching syllabus, coursework materials and examination/question papers. The school then registers all new students with Speciality Welds, which will then generate the necessary test record and issue identification numbers. The school then commences training. Upon completion the school provides the necessary evidence of student ability and course work. Where appropriate, certification is then issued.

The process may sound complex but is very straight-forward to implement. The programme is presently running in two recognised schools one in the UK and one in the USA. The course has also run in Sweden and in Greece and we presently have registered interest in Spain, Belgium, Finland and Norway. David has also presented a paper at the Italian Welding Institute in Genoa on behalf of a company in Varese.

WHAT QUALIFICATION IS ISSUED?

EAL issue certificates under the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and the European Welding Federation (EWF) guideline document 570-01 for fillet welder – plate, with certificates of approval issued under our Zurich (UKAS/SAFed) accreditation to either: AWS D3.6-99
ISO 15618-1:2002

*For more information on the WeldCraft-Pro® welding course please visit
www.specialwelds.com*