

## Change Log

Version	Changes	Author	Date
1.0	Initial Issue	Tech CE	28 Aug 20
1.1	Added change log Removed ADPI from prerequisites for CCR TIs	Tech CE	24 Oct 20
1.2	Amended criteria to be SI on TIC Changed hours for AMGI, M2RI and M3RI Clarified policy on retention of reports and added GDPR section CCR MG Instructors automatically get ADPI	Tech CE	6 Jan 21
1.3	SI requirement amended to remove NI, add approved. Progression experience added. Modular TIC added.	Tech CE	17 Oct 24

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## **BSAC Technical Standards**

### **Introduction**

This document prescribes the standards for the conduct of BSAC Technical training. There are detailed sections on running technical events along with the processes for qualifying Technical Instructors (TIs) and Technical Instructor Trainers (Tech ITs).

### **Applicability**

BSAC Technical training includes all CCR, Mixed Gas courses and associated TI or Tech IT courses or assessments.

### **Course Standards**

All BSAC Technical courses are to be taught using BSAC Course Materials and to the standards laid down in the relevant Instructor Manual. Deviations are not permitted without the approval of the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

Failure to comply with BSAC Technical Standards may result in the suspension of qualification.

### **Equipment**

When required to demonstrate equipment specific skills, Technical Instructors (TI) and Technical Instructor Trainers (Tech IT) are to be wearing equipment in a similar configuration to their students. Typically, this includes the shallow skills element of most Technical courses.

If demonstrations are not required then TIs and Tech ITs are permitted to wear a different configuration to the student. In all cases, students must have adequate knowledge of the TI or Tech IT's equipment to rescue them should this be required.

### **Age**

The minimum age for all BSAC Technical courses is 18 years old.

### **Legal Requirements**

All BSAC TIs and Tech ITs are to comply with all legal requirements for the country in which the course is to be run. For example, in the UK, all instructors teaching commercially must comply with the HSE Diving at Work Regulations 1997 and the Code of Practice (ACOPS).

Instructors working within the BSAC Coaching Scheme in the UK are exempt from the HSE Diving

at Work Regulations 1997 providing they receive no reward for their work.

### **Safe Diving**

All BSAC TIs and Tech ITs are to fully comply with BSAC Safe Diving and all associated guidelines. This applies whether teaching within the coaching scheme in a branch or a commercial environment.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

BSAC GDPR policy is to be followed for the handling of personal information, including retention of reports.

### **Additional Information**

For further details please contact the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner through [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com).

## **BSAC Technical Events**

### **Technical Courses**

BSAC Technical Courses are run by branches, within regions and at commercial centres, and logged at HQ using the Technical Event Notification Form (TENF) to enable HQ to advise of other students requiring training.

### **Technical Instructor Courses (TICs)**

Technical Instructor Courses (TICs) can only be run as part of the Instructor Training Scheme (ITS) or by commercial centres. Divers who meet the pre-requisites may apply to attend and, subject to satisfactory performance, teach under direct supervision on BSAC Technical courses.

The staff for a TIC are to be qualified as follows, or be working under supervision:

- ITs must be Tech ITs who are endorsed to work on the TIC.
- The Senior Instructor (SI) must be Tech IT endorsed as the SI by the Technical Chief Examiner.

TICs are to be delivered using the materials available on the ITS website.

### **Modular Assessment**

Where a TIC is not available then the content of the TIC may be delivered by an SI on an ad-hoc basis with the prior approval of the Technical Chief Examiner. All of the content, including the theory and practical modules must be covered during the modular assessment with the student report completed as per the normal TIC.

### **Technical Instructor Trainer Development Course (Tech ITDC)**

Experienced Technical Instructors who hold the Open Water Instructor (OWI) qualification and have attended the Instructor Development Course (IDC) may be invited to attend a Technical Instructor Trainer Development Course (Tech ITDC). After attendance, and any post course development, they can become a Tech IT by working on a Technical Instructor Course (TIC) under the supervision of an experienced Tech IT.

The staff for a Tech ITDC are to be qualified as follows, or be working under supervision:

- ITs must be National Instructors and Tech ITs endorsed to work on the Tech ITDC.
- The Senior Instructor (SI) must be a National Instructor and Tech IT endorsed as the SI on a Tech ITDC.

Tech ITDCs are to be delivered using the materials available on the ITS website.

### **Event Notifications**

All BSAC Technical Events are to be notified to BSAC HQ using the [online Technical Event Notification Form](#).

### **Student Report**

Each BSAC Technical course has a student report that must be completed within 2 weeks of the course concluding. A copy must be given to the student and another sent to BSAC HQ, via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com).

### **Event Report**

Following all BSAC Technical courses, including TICs and Tech ITDCs, a report is to be submitted using the [online Event Report](#) within 2 weeks of completion.

### **Student QA Questionnaire**

The lead instructor/Senior Instructor is to request that all students complete a post course QA questionnaire using the online Student QA Questionnaire.

### **Assistant Instructor/Assistant IT Report**

Following the participation of an assistant instructor or assistant Instructor Trainer (IT) on a BSAC technical course or event, a report is to be completed that will provide them feedback for ongoing personal development. Should their performance merit the recommendation of award of instructor or IT status, it also provides a proper audit trail and quality assurance process. A copy of the report must be given to the student and another sent to BSAC HQ, via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com).

## **BSAC Technical Instructor**

### **Role & Responsibilities**

BSAC Technical Instructors (TI) are ambassadors for the sport of technical diving within BSAC and the role of may extend beyond the horizons of instruction.

The roles and responsibilities of a technical Instructor include:

- Training and mentoring technical divers
- Supporting BSAC Branches, the regional coaching teams and NDC Technical Group events in promoting BSAC technical diving.

It is imperative that technical instructors have a sound level of diving experience at the depths that they are qualified to train divers.

### **Becoming a BSAC TI**

To become a BSAC TI then the applicant must provide documented evidence of the following pre-requisites:

- Be a current BSAC member.
- Be a registered BSAC Technical Diver at the relevant grade, or have their alternative agency qualification recognised by BSAC HQ.
- Be a BSAC Open Water, or higher, instructor.
- Be a BSAC Accelerated Decompression Procedures Instructor (OC TI only)
- Have the minimum number of dives as laid down in the tables below.

Once the pre-requisites have been met then applicants are required to complete a BSAC Technical Instructor Course (TIC), or receive ad-hoc modular instruction by a Technical IT with prior approval from the Technical Chief Examiner. TIC details are published on the BSAC website.

The final element is to work with a Technical Instructor Trainer (Tech IT), appointed by the Technical Chief Examiner, to either:

- Teach a full course, or
- Complete an assessment covering all elements of the relevant course for which they are applying.

Once completed, a report recommending award of the appropriate Technical Instructor grade is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com). This will then be approved by the Technical

Chief Examiner.

### **Instructor Progression**

Existing BSAC Technical Instructors can progress to a higher grade, subject to the following:

- Show they have maintained their status as a BSAC Technical Instructor.
- Meeting the minimum diving experience requirements in Table 1 or Table 2 of Annex A.
- Meeting the minimum number of courses taught at their current level in Table 1 or Table 2 of Annex C.
- Satisfactorily teaching a course at the next level under the supervision of a Technical IT nominated by the Technical Chief Examiner OR
- Satisfactorily undertaking an assessment with a Technical IT.

Once completed, a report recommending award of the appropriate Technical Instructor grade is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com). This will then be approved by the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

### **CCR Mixed Gas Instructors**

Award of CCR Mixed Gas Instructor status will result in award of Accelerated Decompression Procedures Instructor status and may result in an Open Circuit Technical Instructor qualification. This is subject to the following restrictions:

- The CCR Mixed Gas Instructor must be qualified as an Open Circuit Diver at that grade
- It cannot allow qualifications to be awarded deeper than the grade of CCR Mixed Gas Instructor

### **Different Models of CCR**

An existing unit specific BSAC Closed Circuit Rebreather Instructor (CCRI) may acquire BSAC CCR Instructor status on a different unit by completing unit specific certification and then an additional 35 hrs of experience. Evidence of this is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com). This will then be approved by the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

### **Alternative Agency Equivalence Recognition**

Candidates qualified as a Technical Instructor with alternative agencies may crossover having fulfilled the following criteria:

- Be a BSAC member.



- Provide evidence of a Technical Instructor qualification from a BSAC recognised agency.
- Provide evidence of dive experience for the relevant technical instructor grade.
- Provide proof of having taught a minimum of five courses.
- Under the direct supervision of a BSAC Technical Instructor Trainer nominated by the Technical Chief Examiner, be assessed on a BSAC Technical Course.

Once completed, a report recommending award of the appropriate Technical Instructor grade is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com). This will then be approved by the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

### **Award of BSAC Technical Instructor Status**

Award of all BSAC Technical Instructor grades is at the discretion of the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

### **Maintenance of BSAC Technical Instructor Status**

BSAC Technical Instructor status will be maintained provided that the individual:

- Is a current BSAC Member.
- Remains currently registered as a BSAC Technical Instructor.
- Is able to provide evidences of activity as a BSAC Tech TI if required.
- Complies with BSAC policy for Technical training.

It is also expected that Technical Instructors will teach a minimum of three technical courses within a three year period.

## Annex A – BSAC Technical Instructor Experience Prerequisites

**Table 1. Open Circuit Mixed Gas Instructor Experience Prerequisites**

Instructor Grade	Total Hrs	Total Dives		
		45-50 m	55-60 m	70-80 m
BSAC Sports Mixed Gas Instructor (SMGI)	50	50	-	-
BSAC Explorer Mixed Gas Instructor (XMGI)	80	50	30	-
BSAC Advanced Mixed Gas Instructor (AMGI)	100	50	30	25

The potential Technical Instructor must have both the total hours and the total dives

Dives to greater depths can be used to replace shallower ones, i.e someone wishing to become a SMGI who has 40 dives in the range in the range 45-50 m and 10 in the range 51-60 m is considered to meet the requirement.

**Table 2. Rebreather Instructor Experience Prerequisites**

Instructor Grade	Total Hrs	Total Dives
Unit Specific BSAC Semi Closed Rebreather Diver Instructor (SCRI)	100	50
Unit Specific BSAC MOD 1 CCR Instructor (M1RI)	100	100

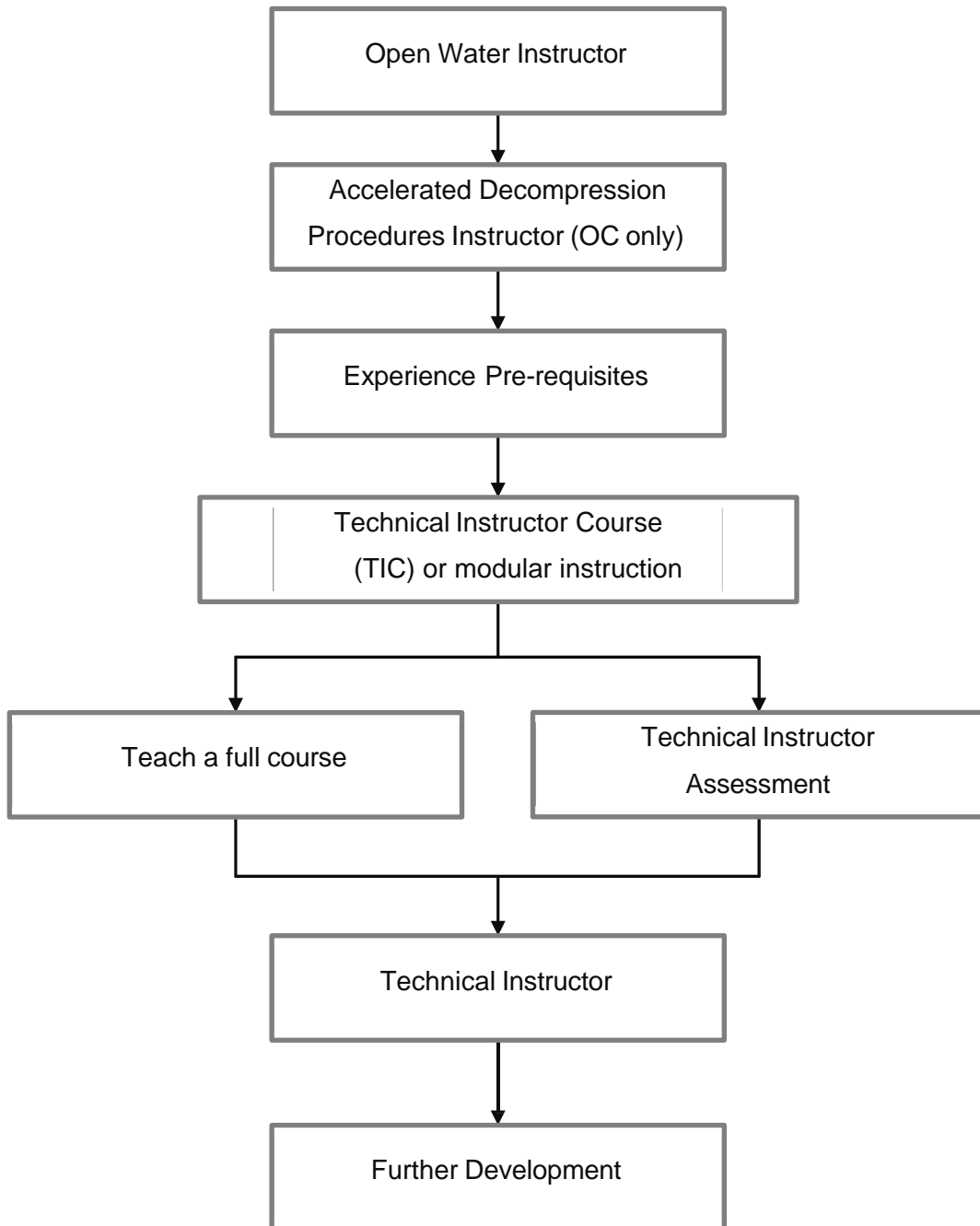
**Table 3. Rebreather Mixed Gas Instructor Experience Prerequisites**

Instructor Grade	Total Hrs	Total Dives**	
		55-60 m	70-80 m
BSAC MOD 2* CCR Instructor (M2RI)	150	30	-
BSAC MOD 3* CCR Instructor (M3RI)	200	30	25

\* MOD 1, 2 & 3 are the working titles for the CCR courses being developed to align with the new international standard (ISO). They currently align with the air diluent, Explorer Mixed Gas and Advanced Mixed Gas courses.

\*\* Dives to greater depths can be used to replace shallower ones, i.e, someone wishing to become a M2RI who has 10 dives in the range 70-80 m and 20 in the range 55-60 m is considered to meet the requirement.

## Annex B – Technical Instructor Flow chart



## **BSAC Technical Instructor Trainer**

### **General**

BSAC Technical Instructor Trainers (Tech IT) are ambassadors for the sport of technical diving. The role of the technical instructor trainer extends beyond the horizons of instructor development. There is an expectancy that the technical instructor trainer will be directly involved in supporting some of these additional functions.

The roles and responsibilities of a Tech IT include:

- Technical Instructor mentoring and development
- Staffing Technical Instructor Courses (TIC)
- Course maintenance and development
- Supporting the regional coaching teams
- Promoting technical diving.

Technical instructor trainers are accountable to the Technical Chief Examiner.

### **Becoming a BSAC Tech IT**

To become a BSAC Tech IT then the applicant must provide documented evidence of the following pre-requisites:

- Be a current BSAC member.
- Be a current registered BSAC Technical Instructor.
- Meet the minimum experience requirements as shown in Table 3 or Table 4 of Annex C

The applicant must also either be registered as an Instructor Trainer (IT) or complete the Technical Instructor Trainer Development Course (Tech ITDC).

The final element is to work on a Technical Instructor Course (TIC) under the supervision of an experienced Tech IT. Once satisfactorily completed, a report recommending award of either OC or CC Tech IT status is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com). This will then be approved by the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

Divers already qualified as either an OC or CC Tech IT who wish to gain the other qualification are still required to work on the appropriate TIC and be recommended for the Tech IT award.

## **Qualification**

A BSAC Tech IT is qualified to instruct on TIC courses under the supervision of an appropriate Senior Instructor (SI).

In addition, Tech ITs can recommend the following awards to suitably qualified individuals who have met all the necessary pre-requisites:

- OC Tech IT – Sports Mixed Gas Instructor
- CCR Tech IT – Mod 1 CCR Instructor (M1RI)

## **Post Qualification Development**

To be recommend higher level TI qualifications, or to fill other roles such as the Senior Instructor on a TIC, Tech ITs must be endorsed at that level. They must meet the experience requirements in Table 3 or 4 and be recommended by an existing Tech IT already endorsed at that level. A recommendation is to be submitted to BSAC HQ via [itsman@bsac.com](mailto:itsman@bsac.com) explaining why the Tech IT is considered suitable. This will then be considered by the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner.

## **Maintenance of BSAC Technical IT Status**

BSAC Tech IT status will be maintained provided that the individual:

- Is a BSAC Member.
- Is an active BSAC TI and Tech IT
- Is able to provide evidence of activity as a BSAC Tech IT if required.
- Complies with BSAC policy for Technical training.

## Annex C – BSAC Course Experience Prerequisites

**Table 4 – Open Circuit Tech Instructor or IT**

Status	Courses Taught		
	SMG	XMG	AMG
OC Tech IT	5		
OC Tech IT – XMGI Endorsed	5	3	
OC Tech IT – AMGI Endorsed	5	3	2

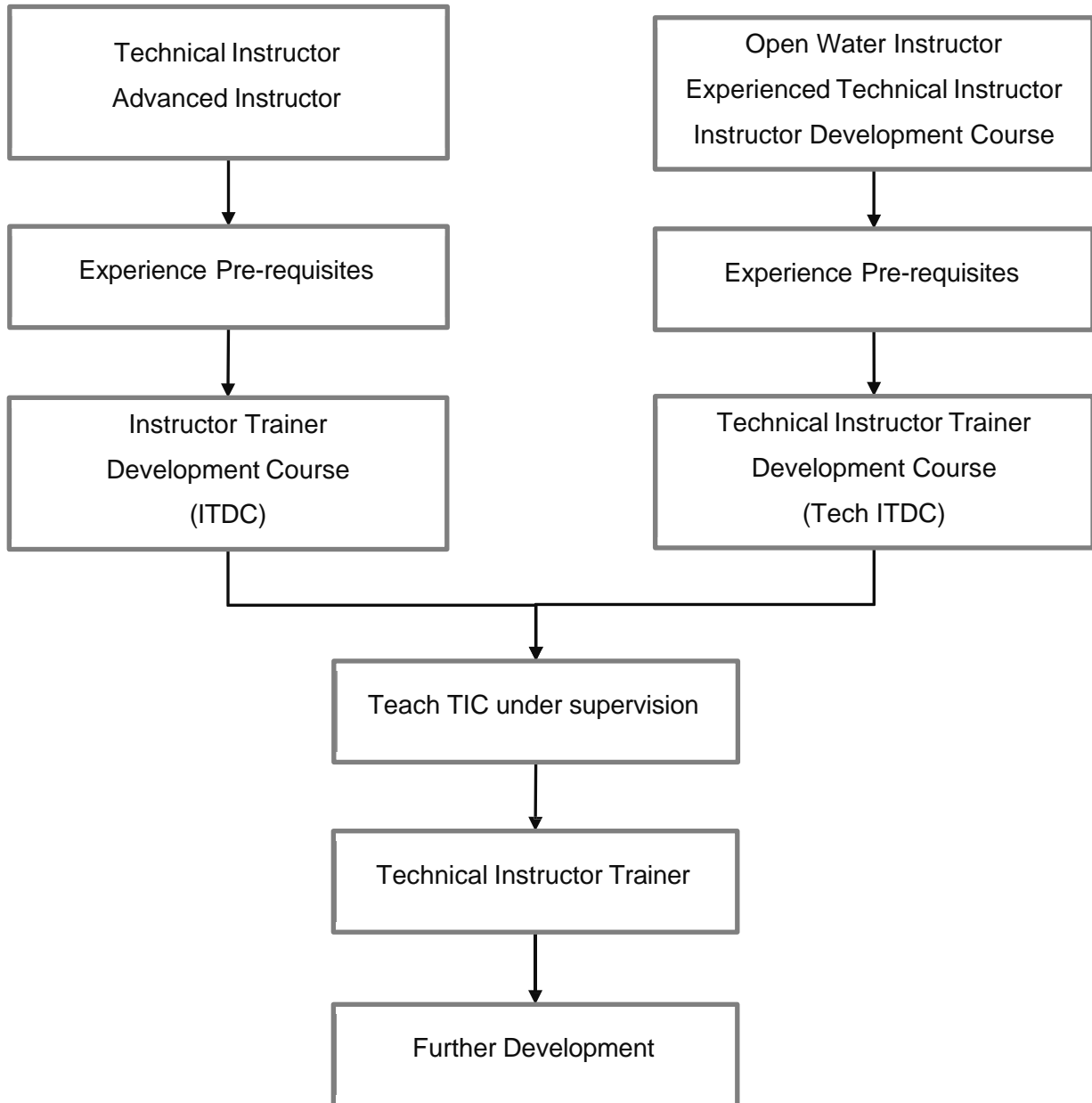
**Table 5 – Closed Circuit Tech Instructor or IT**

Status	Courses Taught		
	MOD 1	MOD 2	MOD 3
CC Tech IT	5		
CC Tech IT – M2RI Endorsed	5	3	
CC Tech IT – M3RI Endorsed	5	3	2

M2RI – MOD 2 Rebreather Instructor

M3RI – MOD 3 Rebreather Instructor

### Annex D – Technical Instructor Trainer Flow chart





## **BSAC Technical Course Development**

### **General**

It is important that BSAC Technical courses are developed in conjunction with international standards, known best practices and using information from equipment manufacturers. To ensure this happens at the highest standard, draft courses are to be widely circulated within Technical Group before they are published.

### **Process**

The process for development of a new course is as follows:

- Gain agreement from BSAC Technical Group Lead that a course can be developed
- Draft a course syllabus that is circulated until agreement is achieved
- Draft Visual Aids, Instructor Manual and Student Manual. Circulate for comment until agreement is achieved
- Final materials sent to HQ for publication and release

### **Pilot Courses**

Pilot courses may only be conducted with the prior approval of the BSAC Technical Chief Examiner. Written feedback is to be produced and circulated to Technical Group.