



APA Evaluation & Fielding Guidelines for Dive Institutions

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Desert Star Systems actively supports evaluation and fielding of APA by your dive institution. Here are some process recommendations & guidelines:

1. **Review Materials:** Start by reviewing the material on the APA web site. The APA Manual (DSO and Technical Reference Manual) provides a detailed discussion of the device, including recommendations for DSO. The Operating Instruction Card illustrates the level of training or instruction that will be required to familiarize divers with the technology.
2. **Order Evaluation Sets:** Order a suitable number of APA evaluation sets through our web site. The cost is \$1000 per set. Desert Star approval is needed to process your order. This establishes that the equipment is distributed only to qualified dive institutions that will provide suitable training to their divers. You have the option of returning the evaluation sets to Desert Star Systems within three months for a refund. This refund policy is limited to a reasonable number of devices; please contact us for details. Once evaluation is completed and an 'institutional profile' has been defined for your devices, your evaluation units can also be upgraded to that standard.
3. **Test Dives & DSS On-Site Support:** Run a series of APA test dives. We recommend that you start with an introductory class supported by Desert Star Systems. Here, we will explain the technology, recommendations for use based on our own experience, options for customization of the devices to meet your institutional standards and limitations of the technology. The class should include diving. Diver input is collected following completion of the dives.
4. **Define and test of the 'Institutional Profile' for your APA devices:** The standard pressure thresholds for the 'CAUTION' and 'LOW AIR' alerts are 750PSI and 600PSI. Your institution may require other values. The visual and audible alerts including tone and blink patterns and repeat frequency can also be modified as needed. These should generally mirror other signals already known to your divers. APA is a fully programmable device, and so specialized capabilities can also be discussed. Once your profile is defined, we will program your evaluation devices accordingly. As needed, one or more rounds of optimization and dive testing may be done to establish your final profile.
5. **Writing the Instructional Materials:** All APA documents including the DSO / technical manual and the instruction card are available in source format (.DOC, .JPG, .PSD). You may edit these files to develop instruction materials for your organization. The operating instruction postcard, in its standard version, is available in printed form free of charge for your instructional needs.
6. **Ordering APA Sets For Your Dive Teams:** Once your evaluation is completed, you can order and re-order APA sets as needed to meet your inventory requirements. A special part number will be assigned to APA sets for your organization. Using this part number as a reference, Desert Star Systems will program and label the devices to reflect your institutional profile.