The most recent industry-wide workshop took place in November 2000. The major entities involved with recreational enriched air diving met to discuss the issues surrounding enriched air nitrox use and training. The Divers Alert Network sponsored the two-day meeting in Durham, North Carolina, USA, which was chaired by Michael A. Lang of the USA’s Smithsonian Institution.

The workshop included papers, presentations and discussion by leaders in dive training, medicine, operations and equipment with respect to enriched air nitrox. Attendees included representatives from PADI and PADI’s corporate affiliate, DSAT (Diving Science and Technology).

At the end of the two days, the workshop achieved a dive community consensus with respect to issues regarding the training of recreational enriched air divers, the use of enriched air with modern scuba equipment and some medical questions.

The PADI Enriched Air Diver course follows the community standard consensus this important workshop achieved; consensus findings follow.

For copies of the papers presented and the discussions, contact the Divers Alert Network, 6 West Colony Place, Durham, NC 27710, USA, or your local DAN office for a copy of DAN Nitrox Workshop Proceedings, Michael A. Lang, editor.

**Consensus Recommendations**

For entry-level, recreational open circuit nitrox diving:

- No evidence was presented that showed an increased risk of DCS from the use of oxygen enriched air (nitrox) versus compressed air.
- A maximum PO₂ of 1.6 ata was accepted based on its history of use and scientific studies.
- Routine CO₂ retention screening is not necessary.
- Oxygen analyzers should use a controlled-flow sampling device.
- Oxygen analysis of the breathing gas should be performed by the blender and/or dispenser and verified by the end user.
- Training agencies recognize the effectiveness of dive computers.
- For recreational diving, there is no need to track whole body exposure to oxygen (OTU/UPTD).
- Use of the “CNS Oxygen Clock” concept, based on NOAA oxygen exposure limits, should be taught. However, it should be noted that CNS oxygen toxicity could occur suddenly and unexpectedly. [Note: Virtually all modern EANx computers calculate oxygen exposure based on oxygen “clock,” NOAA limits and/or OTU/UPTD.]
- No evidence was presented, based on history of use, to show an unreasonable risk of fire of ignition when using up to 40% nitrox with standard scuba equipment. The level of risk is related to specific equipment configurations and the user should rely on the manufacturer’s recommendations.