



Scuba Shops – Equipment, Training and Lessons

As described in the accompanying letter, *Business Owners Against Terrorism* is based on the idea that certain legitimate businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease, or somehow appropriate certain material, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following examples of activity relating to your specific business, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Cash purchase of expensive scuba equipment by individuals who do not appear to be knowledgeable in the sport. Individual purchases of common dive gear in excessive quantities
- Purchase of scuba equipment that is incompatible for diving in water temperatures or in a climate where a customer claims the equipment will be used (e.g., body suits designed for cold water use being purchased allegedly for a tropical scuba vacation)
- Attempts to rent advanced gear without the required certifications, or attempts to rent gear that is inconsistent with the stated purpose of the diving trip
- Purchase of underwater communications equipment (i.e., diver to diver)
- Purchase of re-breathers (i.e., equipment which allows divers to remain underwater without creating bubbles that can easily be seen on the surface.)
- Volume purchasing inquiries related to Swimmer Delivery Vehicles (SDVs) and Diver Propulsion Vehicles (DPVs)
- Exclusive purchases of darkened gear, or after-market painting
- Attempts to purchase large magnets, large diameter PVC pipe, or empty compressed gas cylinders (or theft of same)
- Participation in scuba lessons by individuals who suddenly/inexplicably drop out before graduation/certification
- Unusual or inappropriate questions posed by individuals participating in scuba lesson classes or a disinterest in understanding aspects of scuba training that are normally important to students
- Requests for specific specialty training, including odd inquiries that are inconsistent with recreational diving
- Requests to learn the advanced skills associated with combat swimming, including training with re-breathers, deep diving, conducting “kick counts” or receiving navigation training
- Queries about obtaining special equipment for underwater construction (e.g., underwater welding) by individuals who do not seem to be involved in that specialized industry
- Training conducted in remote or atypical locations or restricted areas
- Threats, coercion, or attempts to bribe trainers for certification
- Employment attempts at diving equipment dealers or rental shops



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Your impressions and assessment, based upon your professional/business experience, are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern or set of circumstances is unusual.

The conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Please remember if you suspect something, do not take direct action, confront the individual, or reveal your suspicions. Record as many details as possible about the suspect/vehicle/locations and report them to the Orange County Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit at 407-504-6764 or email Intel@ocfl.net.