



CMAS

CONFÉDÉRATION MONDIALE
DES ACTIVITÉS SUBAQUATIQUES

WORLD UNDERWATER FEDERATION

CMAS

**CMAS DELAYED SURFACE MARKER BUOY
COLOUR CODE SYSTEM**

(VERSION 2006/00)

Introduction

One of CMAS' major contribution was the introduction of internationally recognised hand signals. Clear and unambiguous signalling is still vital to diver safety.

Modern day diving is constantly changing with Nitrox becoming ever more popular and Trimix diving on the edge of following suit. In view of these and other advances the CMAS Technical Commission (TC) has reviewed the use of the Diver Delayed Surface Marker Buoy {DSMB} (an inflatable buoy that can be deployed from depth to provide a warning to surface users and their cover boat that they are ascending).

These DSMB are in popular use around the world without a common colour coding system to indicate the intention or need of the divers below. The TC considered it necessary to recommend two standard colours for signalling purposes. It was considered that simplicity is of paramount importance, and for this reason only two colours are recommended: Red and Yellow.

Recommended system of signalling using DSMB's

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|------------------------|---|--|
| Red DSMB | = | Indicates the position of a diver below ascending normal. |
| Yellow DSMB | = | Diver in distress, requires assistance. The buoy may be accompanied by an attached note determining the required help e.g. "More air". |
| Red DSMB + Yellow DSMB | = | Red DSMB is usually sent up first to indicate a normal ascent and to the diver's position. The second DSMB, Yellow, is deployed to say I now need assistance. Again a note may be attached to determine the required help. |

It is important that only this standard system and colour code are used. Diver should not use DSMB's with mixed colours i.e. red one side and yellow the other side are not used as DSMB or for that matter any other colours or combination of colours. This standard does not apply to buoys trailed on the surface by divers to mark their position throughout their dive.