



5* IDC Store Frequently Asked Questions

Q – My store is 5* IDC but it's been a few years since we have run an IDC? Will our store rating be downgraded?

A – A PADI 5*IDC store has until 31st December 2024 to conduct an IDC to retain its rating in 2025. If a 5*IDC store is not conducting IDCs annually it is paying too much for its annual renewal and will save money by re-grading from the start of 2025 to demonstrate the level of training offered.

Q – Will re-grading to 5* affect my product purchase level?

A – This will not affect the level of discount offered on PADI materials, which will remain at 10%. Re-grading will not affect Member Purchase level, which will now be determined by **either** spend **OR** certifications (excluding DSD's).

Q – We are a 5* IDC store and conduct online learning. We then refer candidates to a different 5* IDC store to complete the practical and water-based elements of their IDC and attend an IE. Will we lose our 5* IDC rating?

A – To retain the PADI 5* IDC rating from the beginning of 2025, a store is required to meet the standards set out in the PADI Retailer Association Membership Standards. This means a 5*IDC store must *"conduct at least 5 PADI instructor-level courses or programs per year, including a minimum of one complete PADI Instructor Development Course."*

Q – Our affiliated Course Director never offers any courses.

A – It is the responsibility of the PADI 5* IDC store to advertise and conduct pro level courses. A PADI 5*IDC store may affiliate with more than one Course Director if it wishes to do so.

Q – What will this new recognition do for me?

A – A PADI 5*IDC store that meets the 5* IDC Recognition criteria, will be awarded recognition for their productivity in 1Q of the following year. They will be awarded an eBadge, web banner and digital certificate. These digital assets can be used on social media channels, websites and uploaded to the Dive Shop Locator to show the dive store's commitment to professional level training.

Q – What certifications can a 5* store process?

A – A PADI 5* store can conduct training up to Assistant Instructor level and Specialty Instructor training. The only difference between PADI 5* and 5* IDC stores is the authorisation to conduct IDCs and, due to the nature of the program, the PADI IDC Staff Instructor course.