The Dutch Law for Labour under pressure (PART5)
(Decisions Factories Act 1994)

Article 6.13 Definitions and application

1. Diving labour: labour in fluid or in a dry clock for which gaseous breathing is required at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure
2. Caisson labour: do labour is a space which has a pressure of at least 10^4Pa above atmospheric pressure
3. Other labour under pressure (pressure at least 10^4 Pa above atmospheric pressure).

Article 6.15 Safety regulations

1.Whenever labour under pressure is done there should be

a. close to the location where the dive labour is carried out a work instruction present
b. employers should have good and well kept equipment to their disposal and gas of a good quality
c. Close to the location of dive labour a certified dive medical person present
d. First aid kit should present

2. This dive medically trained person should be able to immediately contact a medical doctor if necessary, who is capable of treating acute disorders related to labour under pressure

Article 6.16 Diving Labour

1. Diving labour is done by 1 or more divers assisted by a spare diver and a team leader
2. Spare diver may only assist the diver and/or save the diver when he/she is in problems
3. Team leader should have sufficient knowledge and experience to supervise a diving operation
4. Team leader may also be the spare diver in water not deeper than 9 m depth or max current velocity of 0.5 m/s, whenever there is little risk that the divers come into troubles.
5. Logbook
6. Divers and spare divers have a certificate for diving labour, appropriate for the kind of labour they have to do, which is issued by OUR MINISTER or a certifying institution

7. At least 1 person of the diving team should have a certificate for dive medical assistance issued by OUR MINISTER or a certifying institution
8. The certificate of dive labour and the certificate dive medical assistance must be present on the dive location
9. Number 6 is not applicable on those who are in the framework of an education to become a diver , do diving labour. But this is only allowed under the supervision of a person who already has the certificate mentioned in 6
10. To the ministerial regulation further rules can be added with regard to the equalization of certificates (diving labour, medical assistence)which have been issued abroad.

Article 6.18 Compression chamber dive labour

1. On the location where dive labour will be carried out on a depth of more than 15 m or in another fluid under pressure of 1.5 times 10^5 Pa above atmospheric pressure, is a suitable compression chamber, provided with a person sluice gate, present.
2. Compression chamber is used in the correct way.

The main objectives of the scientific diving community to the dive labour law in the Netherlands concern:

1. Certificates.
2. Safety rules regarding the presence of a compression chamber at the dive location whenever dives deeper than 15 m are needed.

Ad 1.The obligation (since 1994) of having a professional/commercial diving certificate which are required for professional divers in the offshore is not well received in the community of scientific divers. To meet this criticism the certified professional dive education is divided in 2 separate courses; Category A: SCUBA (5wks full-day training, 7000 DFL), Category B: SCUBA and additional techniques (10 wks full-day training, 16000 DFL). These courses are however still completely focussed on training of professional/commercial divers and not of scientific divers. So scientific divers do not take these courses as far as I know. By the Inter University Advice Committee with respect to safety-and environment laws exemption of the DIVE LABOUR act has been requested. Exemption with respect to dive certificates and compression chamber presence regulations were indeed given by the Official Labour Inspection to several Dutch universities but not to fresh water and marine science research institutes such as the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), Netherlands Institutes of Ecology, such

as NIOO-CEMO, NIOO-CL. This implies that scientists and student from universities are allowed to do diving labour with sport diving certificates or other training (required diving experience: 700min underwater time between 0-20m, of which at least 300min are spent at a depth between 10-20m and of which at least 200min were spent at 20m or more and with at least 1 dive deeper than 28m). This policy is not very inconsistent. Moreover this exemption regulation does not help the motility of scientific divers in Europe.

Ad 2. The exemption for having a compression chamber at the dive locations has also been given to the universities, under the restrictions that no decompression dives are made and that the availability and the attainableness of a compression chamber is determined in deliberation with a medical doctor