

Why Learn & Use SeaSigns World Wide?



Is it appropriate to learn for use in your country and around the world?

Yes, it is appropriate to learn American Sign Language (ASL) based SeaSigns for a couple of reasons:

1. **Divers from different certifying agencies often have a hard time communicating** under water because of the differing signs among agencies. SeaSigns uses the signs for up, down, and out of air upon most which agencies and ASL books seem to agree. For other signs we chose ASL signs so the signs would be understood by the largest number of people. If you check the manuals of the different certifying agencies you will find that different certifying agencies use different signs for the same word & different words for the same sign. Also some agencies have signs for words that are not used by any other agency.

SeaSigns chose WORDS that could be used in the widest variety of underwater circumstances.

SeaSigns chose the SIGNS that met the following criteria:

- * Were easy to make underwater and in full gear,
- * Were easy to read underwater and in full gear,
- * Were easy to remember how to make,
- * Could be made with one hand, if such a sign is available.

If divers speak the same language on the surface at least they can communicate on the surface. If you travel solo as SeaSigns originator did, you may be buddied with a person you are unable to speak with on the surface or under the water. With ASL based SeaSigns as a standard, divers around the world could communicate both above and beneath the surface no matter what language they use (including other sign languages).

2. **Because there are so many things that a diver needs to do with his hands**, having one hand free as much of the time as possible for things other than signing is a distinct advantage.

ASL is strongly one-handed as are French and German sign languages. The alphabet and many signs are one-handed. In many 2-handed signs both hands make the same motion so these signs are easy to understand when made one-handed. Even the 2-handed signs where the hands do different things are easier to understand when done on the hand which is holding something, if need.

Unfortunately, Japanese sign language like British Sign Language (BSL) as well as Australian Sign Language and the variant used in Quebec Canada (which I understand are primarily based on BSL), are very two handed sign languages.

Why might deaf persons from different countries want to learn SeaSigns?

Deaf divers can already communicate underwater to other divers who use the same sign language as they do. The main reason deaf divers might want to learn SeaSigns is be able to communicate underwater and on the boat with other divers no matter what language they normally sign, speak, read, or write. This means leaving SeaSigns in ASL and translating the materials into various printed and spoken languages.

SeaSigns is always looking for people to translate the written and spoken language on the materials. Since these are direct translations they are automatically approved by the agencies.

If you have any questions we would love to hear from you.

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