

Diver and Diving Supervisor Certification

This information note supersedes IMCA D 16/16 and earlier versions of IMCA D 01/18, which are now withdrawn, and supplements section 5.1 of IMCA international code of practice for offshore diving (IMCA D 014).

1 Diver Certificates

The acceptance criteria for diver training certificates to be recognised by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) for offshore diving are set out in [Information Note 1385 Diver training certificates – IMCA acceptance criteria](#). The following certificates are currently recognised by IMCA for offshore diving under the *IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving* (IMCA D 014):

Surface-Supplied Diver Certificates:

- ◆ ADCI Entry Level Diver/Tender – International Endorsement
- ◆ ADCI Surface-Supplied Air Diver – International Endorsement
- ◆ ADCI Surface-Supplied Mixed Gas Diver (HEO₂) – International Endorsement
- ◆ Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme Part 3
- ◆ Brazilian Curso de Especialização em Mergulho para Praças
- ◆ Brazilian Curso Especial de Escafandria para Officiais
- ◆ Brazilian Curso Básico de Mergulho Raso Profissional: Brazilian certificates to be supported by a Brazilian Navy stamped diver's logbook
- ◆ Canadian Category 1 Diver
- ◆ Canadian Surface Supplied Mixed Gas Diver to 70m
- ◆ Canadian Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver to 50m
- ◆ French Class 2 Mention A
- ◆ India – Commercial Surface Supply Course, Kochi (run from September 2002 to 12 January 2013)¹
- ◆ Netherlands Certificaat Duikarbeid Categorie B4²
- ◆ New Zealand Construction Diver Part 3³
- ◆ Norwegian NPD Surface Diver
- ◆ Norwegian PSA Class 1 Surface Oriented Diver
- ◆ South African Class II
- ◆ Swedish B 50 Våtklocka (VK)
- ◆ TSA or MSC Basic Air Diving
- ◆ UK HSE Surface Supplied Diving Top-Up
- ◆ UK HSE Part I
- ◆ UK Transitional Part I (issued between 1 July to 31 December 1981)
- ◆ IMCA Surface Supplied Diver:
 - Certificates issued with the approval of IMCA following the competence assessment of experienced surface supplied divers in accordance with IMCA D 06/00 subsequently IMCA D 26/01 from July 2000:
 - Interdive
 - National Hyperbaric Centre
 - Diving Diseases Research Centre
 - KB Associates
 - Certificates issued under the 'Verification of experienced ACDE surface supplied and bell divers' undertaken by The Ocean Corporation or KB Associates (Europe) with the approval of IMCA.

¹ The Commercial Surface Supply Course run at Kochi, India, has ceased to be recognised by IMCA from 12 January 2013;

² Netherlands certificates changed with the introduction of the *Arbeowet* regulations. **The previous certificates 'Part 1' and 'Part 2' have been replaced by 'Category B' (Category B4 from 2012) and 'Category C' from January 2003;**

³ New Zealand certificates have also changed, with those in use previously having been withdrawn. The above lists have been updated to show the new Part 3 and Part 4 certificates in the place of those previously recognised.

Closed Bell Divers Certificates:

- ◆ Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme Part 4
- ◆ Brazilian Curso Especial de Mergulho Saturado:
Brazilian certificate to be supported by a Brazilian Navy stamped divers logbook
- ◆ Canadian Category 3 Diver⁴
- ◆ Canadian Bell Diver
- ◆ French Class 3 Mention A
- ◆ Netherlands Certificaat Duikarbeid Categorie C^{Error!}
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- ◆ New Zealand Construction Diver Part 4³
- ◆ Norwegian NPD Bell Diver
- ◆ Norwegian PSA Class 2 Bell Diver
- ◆ South African Class 1
- ◆ TSA or MSC bell diving
- ◆ UK HSE Part II
- ◆ UK HSE Closed Bell
- ◆ UK Transitional Part II
(issued between 1 July to 31 December 1981)
- ◆ IMCA Bell Diver:
Certificates issued under the 'Verification of experienced ACDE surface supplied and bell divers' undertaken by The Ocean Corporation and KB Associates (Europe) with the approval of IMCA.

Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) Certificates Issued Since 1993

Certificates issued by US training schools which are accredited by the ACDE in respect of training/assessments performed in accordance with US Standard ANSI/ACDE-01-1993 and its successor standard ANSI/ACDE-01-1998. These schools are independently audited and certificates from them can be accepted as showing suitable basic training. Subsequent diving experience needs to be demonstrated by logbook entries. A list of currently accredited schools can be found at www.acde.us/schools.htm.

No other diver training certificates are currently recognised by IMCA.

2 Diving Supervisors

2.1 IMCA Diving Supervisor Certification Scheme

IMCA has run the IMCA Offshore Diving Supervisor Scheme for a number of years (see [IMCA D 013 IMCA offshore diving supervisor and life support technician certification schemes](#)). Two levels of IMCA supervisor certificate are available:

- ◆ IMCA Air Diving Supervisor;
- ◆ IMCA Bell Diving Supervisor.

For a supervisor to hold an IMCA diving supervisor certificate, they must sit and pass an IMCA examination. To be eligible to sit the examination, they must:

- ◆ Meet minimum entry criteria (including holding the appropriate diver qualification and having appropriate experience);
- ◆ Complete and pass an IMCA-approved trainee diving supervisor training course;
- ◆ Then complete a minimum number of panel hours under direct supervision offshore as a trainee supervisor;
- ◆ Be recommended by their company following satisfactory offshore reports.

These certificates are **only** issued by IMCA.

Diving supervisor and life support technician (LST) certificates issued by AODC (which merged to form IMCA in 1995) remain valid (except for those listed as withdrawn and suspended by IMCA). AODC certificates are **not** replaced with IMCA certificates.

⁴ This list has been updated to remove Canadian Category 2 Diver – category 2 refers to a mixed gas diver who may have no training or experience in closed bell diving so is not considered an appropriate qualification.

IMCA approves trainee diving supervisor courses run in accordance with IMCA G 010 – *IMCA assessment procedure for training course approval* – and associated documents, as listed at www.imca-int.com/trainingcourses. Training providers issue their own certificates on successful completion of the course. Such certificates are **not** valid diving supervisor certificates and only show completion of the trainee diving supervisor course.

2.2 Comparable Certificates

IMCA has entered into recognition arrangements with the following organisations:

- ◆ Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS)
- ◆ Diver Certification Board of Canada (DCBC)
- ◆ Netherlands Diving Centre Certification Institute (NDC-CI).

Under these arrangements, the following certificates are recognised by IMCA as being appropriate for diving supervisors for the purposes of compliance with IMCA guidance:

- ◆ ADAS offshore diving supervisor
- ◆ DCBC offshore diving supervisor
- ◆ NDC-CI offshore diving supervisor (category B4 - surface demand equipment to 50 metres including wet bell).

2.3 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

In 2021 IMCA introduced a mandatory diving supervisor CPD scheme. In order to be considered ‘in-date’ by IMCA, all diving supervisors who wish to maintain the validity of their IMCA recognised certificates are required to undertake appropriate CPD in accordance with the requirements of the IMCA Diving CPD scheme, and to satisfy IMCA that this has been done. Details on the scheme are available at www.imca-int.com/cpd.

The IMCA Diving CPD App provides a platform to facilitate this. App registration is open to all IMCA certified diving supervisors, and registrations are also accepted from ADAS, DCBC, and NDC-CI certified diving supervisors. Users can share their progress and CPD status via the app.

IMCA only recognises IMCA and comparable diving supervisor certificates for work with an IMCA member company when the holder’s CPD status is ‘in-date’.

3 Verification of Certificates

IMCA-issued certificates can be verified online at www.imca-int.com/verify, which includes the CPD status (‘in-date’ or ‘out-of-date’) of diving supervisor certificate holders.

Additionally, some diver and supervisor certificates have expiry dates and need to be periodically renewed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant issuing authorities. IMCA does not recognise certificates that have passed their expiry dates.

See also:

- ◆ [IMCA Information Note 1609 Verification of diver qualifications](#)
- ◆ [IMCA Information Note 1571 Verification of IMCA certificates](#)

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