



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

news|etter

November 2004

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IMCA moves house

The IMCA secretariat has now moved into its new offices in 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London.

While this shift was prompted by the sale and proposed redevelopment of former home Carlyle House, IMCA has grown substantially since moving there in 1997 in terms of membership (now more than doubled to stand at 257 companies and organisations), the general work programme, the establishment of three additional regional sections (which now provide a local forum for every member) and with additional secretariat staff recruited to support the Association's work. Carlyle House served us well but IMCA had outgrown the space available there.

All London secretariat staff are now together on the third floor of 5 Lower Belgrave Street, with a dedicated boardroom for hosting IMCA committee and workgroup meetings. We also have storage for the extensive stock of IMCA publications which continue to sell and are referred to increasingly by members and other organisations around the world.

The inclusion of a boardroom and an in-house teleconferencing system at IMCA's new premises means reduced costs for meetings in London and provides an additional benefit for members – a boardroom that is available, when not in use for IMCA meetings for members wishing to hold their own

meeting in London. This facility has already been used and will no doubt prove useful for those without a permanent London base. Also available is an area for office working, intended for those attending meetings and other visitors alike.

Please contact Nina.Adams@imca-int.com if you would like to make a booking. Please also remember to update your records to reflect our new details:

IMCA, 5 Lower Belgrave Street,
London SW1W 0NR, UK.

Tel. +44 (0) 20 7824 5520,

Fax. +44 (0) 20 7824 5521.

Please note the website (www.imca-int.com) and e-mail (imca@imca-int.com) addresses remain unchanged.



Singapore seminar

Don't forget – the IMCA Annual Seminar takes place in Singapore on 2-3 December. Time is running out to register.

Don't miss out, visit www.imca-int.com/events for the updated programme and online registration.

Global diver training scheme

IMCA continues to support the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) in developing its International Diving Personnel Qualifications Programme, aimed at establishing a recognised and internationally acceptable diver training scheme. Discussions continue on developing the programme, which it is hoped could be in effect early in 2005, with a steering committee comprising IDSA, IMCA, ADC International, DNV (as the intended third-party approvals body for training establishments under the programme) and a client representative working together towards this goal.

Below: Members of the IDSA Diving Personnel Qualifications Programme steering committee including IDSA, IMCA and ADC International, seeking to establish an internationally recognised programme with cross-industry support.



Below: Hugh Williams and Jane Bugler join International Diving Schools Association members for their annual meeting in La Spezia, Italy

IMO developments

Forthcoming meetings at the International Maritime Organization where IMCA will be in attendance include the IMO Council (15-19 November) and the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC, 1-10 December). The MSC meeting is unusually long this time, with eight days reserved instead of the usual five. A particular item to be considered by the committee relates to issues arising from the implementation of the International Ship & Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. There appear to be a number of instances where ports have been either over-zealous or one-sided in their interpretation of what they considered to be required by the code. IMCA has been collating feedback from members about similar issues and expects to contribute to the discussions, with briefing on any outcomes of interest to be provided.

Secretariat back online

The secretariat recently suffered a severe server failure which resulted in a loss of connectivity and the loss of some e-mails during the period 20-26 October. If you tried to contact the secretariat over this period but have had no response, please re-send your message.

UK pollution rules

The UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) wants feedback on proposed new regulations concerning the prevention of air pollution from ships' diesel engines and on bringing platforms and drilling rigs within regulations for the prevention of pollution. Information note *IMCA M 35/04 (SEL 38/04)* provides additional details, with further information available from Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com



New Australian regulatory agency

From 1 January 2005, there are to be changes in the regulatory regime covering offshore facilities in Australian waters (in both Commonwealth and state/Northern Territory waters). The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) will take over the regulation of safety for all offshore oil and gas facilities in Australia. This joint federal and state agency replaces the offshore functions of Australia's six state regulators.

IMCA Technical Director Jane Bugler has already met with key NOPSA officials to present the Association's work and discuss various issues now affecting members active in Australian waters.

As well as setting up this new authority, the opportunity appears to have been taken to amend the definition of a 'facility' that should attract the need for a safety case.

The amended definition of a 'facility' now includes pipelay barges, accommodation barges and heavy-lift vessels. This means, from 1 January 2005, such vessels operating in Australian waters will be required to have an accepted safety case.

Briefing on this is provided in information note *IMCA SEL 37/04 (M 34/04)* and NOPSA has undertaken to include IMCA in its consultation on forthcoming guidance relating to how the changes affect vessel operators.

For more information contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Since the summer IMCA has clearly been back in the swing of things, moving house and pursuing many activities. You could say it's the price of success that IMCA now works on such a wide variety of topics and is continually asked to join other industry initiatives. Over the last few years IMCA has concentrated on building the global structure and doing the work required to deliver its key objectives to improve safety and operational practice across the offshore industry. Much of this work has a technical focus but as IMCA has matured into a global trade association for all marine contracting activities, the breadth of its agenda has had to expand to address political and commercial concerns.

As a large trade association dealing with some sensitive commercial issues, IMCA knows it must remain well within international rules and regulations that govern competition in business. It is unfortunate that IMCA has not yet been able to publish its guidance on contracting principles, which as you all know has been one of IMCA's key objectives for this year. Our professional advisers have however been unable to agree a final text due to small but significant concerns about how it will relate to some anti-competition law. Nevertheless, I remain confident a solution can be found such that the completed guidance can be issued shortly.

Other areas of IMCA's diverse workload currently include co-ordination with offshore operators, governments and other trade associations on operating

standards for dynamically positioned supply vessels, the EU working time directive, IMHH (an industry-wide facility to allow mutual hold harmless agreements between contractors when working on client facilities in the UK sector) and work with the International Diving School Association to develop a common standard for acceptance of diver training schools' certification that can fit with IMCA's own established guidelines on diving operations.

Over and above this, through its regional and technical committees, IMCA sustains a large body of ongoing work conducted to ensure the Association and its members remain up to date with all the technical and operating practices required to meet the constant challenges that confront the sector. All of this work, including that



related to some of the more difficult and sensitive political or commercial issues, deserves our support because without it IMCA could not maintain the Association's leadership at the heart of the industry.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming seminar in Singapore which looks set to be an enjoyable and productive meeting where IMCA members and clients will be able to meet and catch up on events.

IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: Steve Preston, Heerema Marine Contractors

Vice-President: Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group

Chairman SEL: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Cont.

Chairman TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip

Chairman Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Chairman Marine: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group

Chairman Offshore Survey: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Chairman ROV: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International

Chairman, Americas Deepwater Section:

Roy Sijthoff, Allseas Group

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania

Chairman, Europe & Africa Section: Robin Davies, Subsea 7

Chairman, Middle East & India Section: Steve MacMillan,

J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere

Vice-Chairman SEL: Mike O'Meara, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman TCPC: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering Int.

Vice-Chairman Diving: Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore

Vice-Chairman Marine: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman Offshore Survey: Will Primavesi, Saipem/Sonsub

Vice-Chairman ROV: Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech

IMCA Chief Executive: Hugh Williams

IMCA Technical Director: Jane Bugler

From the Chairman

Forged certificates linked to fatality incident

Information note *IMCA D 12/02* brought members' attention to the fact that forged IMCA/AODC certificates were in existence and are being used to gain employment. IMCA has now learnt that a person who is not in possession of a valid certificate has been involved in an incident in which a fatality occurred.

Whilst there is nothing to suggest that the lack of a relevant and valid certificate had any bearing on this incident, there could be serious legal implications for companies employing personnel without proper certification.

For legal reasons, IMCA is not able to disclose the names of any persons known to us for holding fraudulent certification, but the numbers of such certificates are listed on the members-only web-site and are being added to the public website under the heading '*Withdrawn IMCA/AODC Certificates*'.

Sadly, this list is not exhaustive and members are once again strongly advised to ask to see original certificates. Where there is any doubt, please always check their validity with IMCA.

By the same token, anyone who knows of any person who they believe may be working with forged certification should contact IMCA with the relevant details. Any such disclosure will be treated in strict confidence.

Implementing competency schemes

IMCA continues to help members with their implementation of competence assurance and assessment schemes based on the IMCA framework of guidance. You can read elsewhere in this issue about the information pack which has been developed to help include freelance and agency-supplied personnel in company schemes – a particular issue for those in the offshore survey and ROV sectors.

The TCPC committee remains keen to work with and for members to help them meet the requirements for demonstrating competency increasingly made by clients and regulators around the world. To this end is encouraging the use of the TCPC discussion forum on the members-only website for raising, discussing and resolving any issues you may be facing in your own company.

Please complete your simulator questionnaire!

An important item on the TCPC current work programme involves studying the use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment.

To help gather information on members' use, experience and views of simulators, IMCA has circulated a questionnaire (see information note *IMCA TCPC 18/04*).

Would all members making use of simulators please complete the questionnaire and return it to Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

The results of this work will help to guide the committee's future work in this area so your input at this stage is important.

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering International

Monique Laros, Allseas Group
Philip Hargreaves, Stolt Offshore
Darren Bown, Subsea 7
Mark Elder, Subsea 7
Gavin Smith, Subsea 7
Mike Lloyd, Technip
Brian Robertson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section:
Lou Cranek, Institute of ROVs

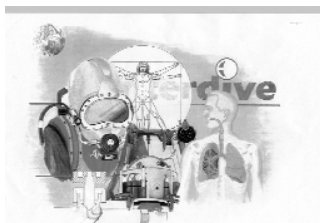
Asia-Pacific Section:

Leslie Wong Wui, Seacor Marine (Asia)
IMCA Schemes Administrator:
Vicki Graham

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TCPC Information Notes

published since Issue 32

TCPC 16/04 Employing Company Induction (ECI)
TCPC 17/04 USCG Ballast Water Management Practice Regs
TCPC 18/04 Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence

Safety statistics – better figures in revised report

We reported in the previous issue on the safety 2003 statistics for IMCA members. Unfortunately, due to an interpretation error of one company's statistics and an adjustment by that company of the figures provided, it has been necessary to recalculate and reissue the statistics (see information note *IMCA SEL 29/04*). However, with this correction, the report now shows an even better picture of improving safety performance in our sector, with the overall LTIFR falling to 0.99 – a continued improvement and less than one fifth of the rate reported back in 1997. Of course, there is much work still to be done and IMCA looks forward to assisting members in reaching the zero-injury goal.

Web-based forum

The discussion forums on the members-only website have attracted a number of registrations and visitors, but are not yet being widely used.

The SEL core committee has expressed its enthusiasm for the development of these forums and wishes to encourage all members to get involved in them. In particular, discussion of the lessons learned from incidents and arising from IMCA safety flashes has been suggested as an area in which the forums could prove particularly valuable to members. You can make a difference – see <http://members.imca-int.com/forums/>

SEL Information Notes *published since Issue 32*

- SEL 32/04 Employing Company Induction (ECI)
- SEL 33/04 Freshwater Storage & Distribution
- SEL 34/04 USCG Ballast Water Management Practice Regulations
- SEL 35/04 The Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence Assessment
- SEL 36/04 Personnel Transfer by Basket
- SEL 37/04 Changes to Regulations and Enforcement of Offshore Safety Cases in Australia
- SEL 38/04 Proposed UK Regulations on Pollution Prevention

Cable-laid slings and grommets

The use of heavy lift slings in UK waters was previously the subject of guidance contained in the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) document PM20. This document has been withdrawn by HSE and its intended replacement, European Standard EN 13414-3, states that it only covers ferrule-secured cable-laid slings up to 60mm, despite there being significant information in the standard about slings bigger than 60mm. An IMCA workgroup is being formed to examine the new standard and review the old PM20 guidance, in order to see if the new standard is sufficient or where it might be improved.

Malaria

IMCA is involved in a work-group liaising with the OGP (International Association of Oil & Gas Producers) safety committee on the development of guidance for companies working in areas where there is a risk for employees of contracting malaria. This work is well advanced and guidance should be ready in the new year.

More pocket safety cards

The popular series of IMCA pocket safety cards continues to be extended, with a new card highlighting the effects of the misuse of drugs and alcohol about to be issued and further cards under development.

Safety seminar

The Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) Core Committee is organising another major safety seminar, to take place on 3-4 February 2005 at Ajax's stadium in Amsterdam.

Following previous events at the stadia of Manchester United and Newcastle United, and a joint event in Houston with the 2003 annual seminar, this meeting will, as ever, aim to bring together a wide range of personnel to discuss current safety issues, successful company and industry initiatives, analysis of offshore incidents and how the industry can continue to improve its safety performance.

An exciting programme is being developed, which will be issued to members shortly.

Previous events have introduced new formats which have been found to provide additional opportunities for sharing and learning from experience. This time will be no exception, to help bring home the health and safety message.

If you would like to make a suggestion for the programme, please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com as soon as possible.

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Contractors
Vice-Chairman: Mike O'Meara, Subsea 7

Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors
Philip Bradbury, Integrated Subsea Services
Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere
Sal Ruffino, Saipem/Sonsub
Ken London, Stolt Offshore
Allan Hannah, Technip
Wallace Robertson, Well Ops UK
Foeke Tulner, Workshops Contractors

Americas Deepwater Section:

Lynn Lehmann, Saipem/Sonsub

Asia-Pacific Section: Vacancy

Middle East & India Section: Mohamed Osman, Maridive & Oil Services

Middle East & India

At the September 2004 section meeting members expressed concern about understanding of the IMCA membership structure, particularly in relation to diving contractor members. A standard letter has now been developed to explain the categories and divisions of membership and to provide an overview of the assessment process undergone by applicants for diving contractor membership (because of the reference to membership category made in some client contracts).

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the letter or requiring further information please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

The section meets again on 14 December at the Jebel Ali Hotel, Jebel Ali, UAE.

Its agenda continues to broaden, with all of IMCA's core activities and technical divisions now included. Representatives to sit on the world-wide TCPC and ROV committees have yet to be identified, but nominations will be considered at the meeting with a view to further extending the involvement of members based in the region in the Association's global work.

Americas Deepwater

Craig Broussard, Vice-President for the Gulf of Mexico of Subsea 7, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Americas Deepwater Section, working with Chairman Roy Sijthoff to advance the interests of IMCA and its members in the region. Craig replaces Dick Martin, who served as Vice-Chairman from the section's formation in 2002 and is moving to a new role within Subsea 7. Dick made a significant contribution to the successful growth of the section – in terms of membership, work programme and greater recognition in the region – IMCA would like to thank Dick and wish him well in his new role. It's now over two years since the Americas Deepwater Section was established and in that time much has been achieved. There are now six sub-groups, mirroring the world-wide committee structure, which have made a fantastic start by reviewing existing IMCA guidance to provide valuable feedback which has enhanced its world-wide applicability. Please get involved; contact the secretariat to ensure you are up-to-date.

The section will meet next on Thursday 20 January 2005 at Allseas' offices in Houston. The afternoon will include a presentation and briefing session for clients and potential members, particularly focusing on IMCA's recent work on contracting and risk issues.

Asia-Pacific

The IMCA Annual Seminar on 2-3 December which follows a section meeting on 1 December provides a first opportunity for many members in the region to meet with often Europe-based representatives from IMCA's world-wide committees.

After over two years serving as Vice-Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Section, Des Power is returning to the UK in a new role with Subsea 7.

IMCA's thanks go to Des for his enthusiastic commitment, particularly to the regular section meetings and the key role he has played in making arrangements for next month's seminar. Voting members in the region have been sent an invitation to nominate a new vice-chairman.

A new representative for the committee will also be required for the world-wide Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) committee, for which nominations will be considered at the next section meeting.

Regional Section Officers

Middle East & India Section

Chairman: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott E. Hemisphere
Vice-Chairman: Charlie Rogerson, Consolidated Contractors Co.

Asia-Pacific Section

Chairman: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania
Vice-Chairman: Vacancy

Europe & Africa Section Steering Committee

Chairman: Robin Davies, Subsea 7
Vice-Chairman: Ian Stevenson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section

Chairman: Roy Sijthoff, Allseas Group
Vice-Chairman: Craig Broussard, Subsea 7



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Europe & Africa

Following the well attended seminar in June, workgroups on decommissioning and renewable energy issues are now being formed. A number of responses have been received and initial programmes of work drawn up, with the first meeting of each group scheduled to take place shortly. Anyone wishing to be involved should contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

Competence of freelance personnel

As reported under the Offshore Survey Division, an information pack on competence assurance and assessment has been developed for experienced freelance personnel. When applied to the ROV sector, it includes inserts for the positions of ROV Supervisor, Senior Pilot Technician, ROV Pilot Technician Grade I and ROV Pilot Technician Grade II – the four positions identified under the IMCA framework.

Each insert sets out the portfolio of evidence freelance personnel require (in terms of competence appraisal, work records, witness testimonies, essential knowledge and CV) to assist them as they move around the industry.

This is then followed by an overview of the competence requirements set out in the IMCA framework, identifying how competence against each requirement can be demonstrated using the evidence gathered as above. Also included are sample achievement records, competence appraisal forms and questionnaires, tailored to each position.

Set the agenda for the division's work programme

The end of each year is a time for reflecting on the past twelve months' work and for looking forward to what lies ahead. While overseeing one of IMCA's smaller technical divisions, the ROV management committee has been busy on a number of issues this year, with new and updated guidance in the pipeline and liaison ongoing with a number of relevant organisations to promote the interests of IMCA's vastly experienced ROV contractor members to those with a regulatory or other guiding role.

While maintaining its work on these projects, the committee is also starting to formulate its work programme for 2005. Members' input is always welcome – so if you would like to propose a possible work item, please contact the secretariat, which will put your suggestion forward to the committee.

In the Americas, the ROV subgroup has provided valuable feedback which has enhanced the international applicability of existing guidance and is now turning its attention to new projects, including the development of a draft generic ROV support vessel contract and input on the issue of safe manning levels. In other regions too membership and participation continue to be on the increase. See the committee list for details of your local representative.

Manning levels

With the ever broader range of tasks assigned to ROV operators (see right), the topic of safe manning levels continues to be an issue raised with IMCA and its members. With this in mind, the guidance set out in the *IMCA Code of Practice for the Safe and Efficient Operation of Remotely Operated Vehicles (IMCA R 004 Rev. 2)* is being reviewed to ensure it reflects current practice and requirements. Additional data is sought on the new types of task being undertaken and the safety hazards/concerns associated with them. Members active around the world are invited to provide input. Please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com.

Please note that any sensitive/commercial information will be duly anonymised prior to consideration by the relevant workgroup.

R&D

The ROV industry continues to face and meet ever tougher technical and physical challenges, with an increasingly wide range of tasks fulfilled in ever deeper waters.

With this in mind, the work of IMCA's Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee is always ongoing in order to ensure that existing guidance is always kept up-to-date and that IMCA promptly addresses new issues relating to the latest in operational developments.

With ROVs now working in deeper and deeper water, the current umbilical designs are being pushed to their limits. Exciting opportunities exist with umbilical design to achieve access and deliver interventions in even deeper water.

Remote Systems & ROV

Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee

Chairman: Kevin Kerins,
Oceaneering International

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Beveridge
Rovtech

Nigel Wilmott, Cal Dive/
Canyon Offshore
John Rossier, Covus
Dave McKay, Fugro Survey
John Davies, Global Marine Systems
Keith Robathan, Sonsub
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Vernon Fawcett, Subsea 7
Dave Walker, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section:

Robert Keith, Saipem/Sonsub

Asia-Pacific Section: Neil Forbes,
Technip Oceania

Remote Systems & ROV Information Notes published since Issue 32

R 03/04 The Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence Assessment

Diving in contaminated waters

Commercial divers working offshore are sometimes required to dive in situations where there may be contamination in the water or on the seabed. This contamination can be due to the presence of drill mud and cuttings or can be due to the work the diver is required to carry out, such as recovering drums of chemicals, breaking of flanges, working on pipelines etc. It may also be due to general contamination by heavy metals, chemicals, radioactivity, biological material or similar in the area where the work has to be carried out.

One of the problems faced by diving contractors is that the operator, owner of the area or client may not be able to provide any detailed information to the diving contractor about the exact composition of the suspected contaminants.

IMCA assembled a workgroup to consider the evidence available and to develop comprehensive guidance, just published as *IMCA D 021 Rev. 1*, addressing issues such as decontamination procedures, etc., which need to be addressed when diving in potentially contaminated waters.

All Diving Division members will receive a copy and can also download the guidance from the members-only website.

New committee

Diving Division has a new management committee, with some familiar faces returned in the recent election alongside a number of new members. Alan Forsyth of Subsea 7 and Georges Arnoux of Stolt Offshore remain as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The full committee is shown in the panel to the right.

Review of IMCA D 030 – Surface Supplied Mixed Gas Diving Operations

Last year, IMCA published guidance on surface supplied mixed gas diving operations, one of the first documents to be drafted by the Asia-Pacific Section prior to review and approval through the usual IMCA committee processes. This document sought to provide guidance on good practice to achieve safe working during surface supplied mixed gas diving operations, setting out the limitations of the technique and areas to be considered when developing dive plans.

The guidance is now being reviewed in the light of use and additional input. A wealth of operational experience held by contractors is being used to help extend the guidance to include information for conducting a DESIGN Audit on such systems and improve its applicability world-wide.

A workgroup with representation from each regional section has been established, which is documenting the varying regional approaches to the use of surface supplied mixed gas diving techniques, considering the hazards and identifying the risks associated with each approach and aiming to define control measures to eliminate risk. Anyone wishing to contribute this review please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Diving Information Notes published since Issue 32

- D 09/04 The Evaluation and Testing of the Environmental Control of Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems
- D 10/04 US Gulf of Mexico-Based Diving Personnel
- D 11/04 Diving Division Management Committee
- D 12/04 The Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence Assessment

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore

John Rossier, Covus

Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services

Darren Brunton, KB Associates

Ian Mackenzie, National Hyperbaric Centre

Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Derek Beddows, Technip
Steve Nairn, Well Ops (UK)

Americas Deepwater Section: Allan Palmer, Stolt Offshore

Asia-Pacific Section: RP Singh, Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/PT Komaritim

Middle East & India Section: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott E. Hemisphere

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EUROPE & AMERICAS

Divex Ltd

Contact: Graeme Clark

Email: gclark@divex.co.uk

Tel: + 44 (0)1224 740145

Web: www.divex.co.uk

ASIA & AUSTRALASIA

Divex Asia Pacific Pty Ltd

Contact: Doug Austin

Email: doug@divex.com.au

Tel: + 61 8 9437 6800

Web: www.divex.com.au

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Divex Oceanics Pty Ltd

Contact: Scott Jamieson

Email: scottj@divex.co.uk

Tel: + 971 508 819 481

Web: www.divex.co.uk



Americas personnel arrangements

In 2003, the IMCA Americas Deepwater Section set up its Diving Division Sub-Group. At that time, it was recognised that there were some differences in the US methods for training and subsequent experience of diving personnel compared with those recognised by IMCA.

The Diving Division Management Committee recognised the need to develop an interim set of arrangements for IMCA contractor member companies operating in the US Gulf of Mexico to enable their own experienced offshore diving personnel to gain the certification set out in IMCA documentation. Special arrangements were subsequently developed (based on a review carried out by the DDMC) by the sub-group and through discussion and agreement with the DDMC. Information note *IMCA D 10/04* includes a table setting out a summary of these special arrangements, available to IMCA contractor members only.

The approach set out in the special arrangements is based on a recognition of the quality of diving personnel in the few companies engaged in support of offshore oil and gas projects in the Gulf of Mexico and recognises the input and responsibility for their training and competence that these employers have. It distinguishes between these experienced offshore personnel and others in inshore diving, possibly working for smaller companies or those outside the Gulf of Mexico, that may have acquired diver certification or competence of less relevance.

Information pack for experienced freelance personnel

Following a well attended meeting between offshore survey and ROV contractors and personnel agency representatives, IMCA has developed an information pack for experienced freelance personnel, which aims to introduce them to the IMCA competence assurance and assessment framework and to assist the inclusion of such personnel in contractors' in-house competency schemes.

The introduction explains that the requirement for demonstration of competence is becoming more common every day. Some clients demand it, QA systems plus various regulations require it and legal considerations make it more and more necessary. Indeed, offshore workers tell us that they want to know that their colleagues, working alongside them in safety-critical positions, are competent too. In due course it may well become impossible to work offshore without demonstrating competence, e.g. by holding a record of competence/logbook, in the same way as medicals, offshore safety and survival certificates are pre-requisites today.

The pack then includes an insert for each position under the IMCA framework in the two sectors, including for offshore survey workers the role of Party Chief and the various grades of surveyor, data processor, survey engineer and pipeline inspection engineer.

The pack sets out the information which individuals can assemble into a portfolio of evidence of experience and assessments. It is hoped that this common format will assist freelance personnel transferring between companies, as it follows the IMCA framework on which members and others are increasingly basing their in-house competency schemes.

The pack has been made available to IMCA contractor members and a range of personnel agencies. It will also be made available for downloading from the IMCA website. The pack is also being launched to agencies at a workshop on 24 November.

Any feedback on the pack, particularly in the light of its use, would be welcome.

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee

Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem/Sonsub

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey

Bob Downing, Maritech

Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore

Ray Morgan, Oceanteam

Pino Baldini, Saipem/Sonsub

Americas Deepwater Section:

Stephen Browne, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific Section: Dave Scott,

Fugro Survey

Middle East & India Section: Phil

Hillier, Fugro Survey (Middle East)

DGPS health checks

The utilisation of long-range high accuracy DGPS systems, based either on dual-frequency solutions or on enhanced orbital and clock modelling, is increasing around the world. With increased accuracy available (at the 10-30cm level) with such systems, the now traditional technique of health-checking vessel based systems against known survey points whilst alongside can, in some cases, be invalid. This is due to the accuracy of the co-ordinates of the quayside stations being less than the accuracy of the DGPS system in use, or due to a mismatch in the geodetic datums that are in use.

Information note IMCA S 05/04 has been developed to explain the background to this potential problem, including recommendations on how to ensure a reliable health check.

Offshore Survey Information Notes *published since Issue 32*

S 04/04 The Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence Assessment

S 05/04 DGPS Health checks

Updating IMCA guidance

IMCA M 117 – The Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel – is currently under review and a number of suggestions that have been made are being considered. This guidance involves a significant section of the industry and input is arriving from both members and other parties such as vessel operators, training providers, clients, the Nautical Institute and additional trade associations.

The Common Marine Inspection Document (IMCA M 149) is also being updated, together with the worked example giving guidance on its use (*IMCA M 167*).

Having incorporated information about the experience of usage for each of the current documents, updated drafts are now with the Marine Division Management Committee for review.

If you would like to provide input to these reviews, please contact Phillip.Wiggs@imca-int.com as soon as possible

FMEA management guide nears completion

The development of an IMCA management guide for failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) continues apace.

A well supported and highly productive workshop was attended by a range of industry professionals and all participants were able to discuss various issues involved.

Following this a draft guide has now been circulated to a range of stakeholders for consultation, including vessel operators, clients, consultancies, regulators and other industry bodies.

Once finalised, the guide is intended to help decision makers and implementation professionals to assess quickly and easily the minimum requirements for carrying out an FMEA on a new vessel and ensure that existing FMEAs either already meet the standards or are reviewed and updated to the required level.

DP guidance for OSVs

IMCA has been liaising with owners and users of offshore support vessels (OSVs) with a view to developing guidance on the use of dynamic positioning (DP) aboard such vessels.

This was initially intended as a supplement to *IMCA M 103 – Guidelines for the Design and Operation of Dynamically Positioned Vessels*. However, it soon became clear that cross-industry support would be helpful in respect of this type of vessel.

A consultation of stakeholders around the world has led to the establishment of a cross-industry working group, co-ordinated by IMCA, which is now taking forward the development of some draft guidance.

Further information for members and other interested parties is available from Phillip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

Automated Welding Technicians and Other Offshore Construction Personnel



PAE

1 Scotts Road #19-01 Shaw Centre, Singapore 228208
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Marine Information Notes *published since Issue 32*

- M 29/04 Employing Company Induction (ECI)
- M 30/04 Freshwater Storage & Distribution
- M 31/04 USCG Ballast Water Management Practice Regulations
- M 32/04 The Use of Simulators in Relation to Training, Certification and Competence Assessment
- M 33/04 Personnel Transfer by Basket
- M 34/04 Changes to Regulations and Enforcement of Offshore Safety Cases in Australia
- M 35/04 Proposed UK Regulations on Pollution Prevention

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David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service
Ken McLean, Poseidon Maritime
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Pete Fougere, Transocean

Americas Deepwater Section: Vacancy

Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania

Middle East & India Section:

Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

New members

IMCA welcomes:

- C & C Technologies
- Essar Shipping
- Horizon Survey Company (FZC)
- TAG Sealogistics
- Timsah Shipbuilding Company
- Unidive Offshore

Introducing new members

Timsah Shipbuilding Co.

A subsidiary of Suez Canal Authority, Timsah Shipbuilding Co. specialises in shipbuilding, off-shore and onshore works. The company's involvement in offshore and diving activities, working with oil and gas companies, stretches back as far as 1967. The company's fleet comprises a crane barge, AHTS, work boats, tug boats, service launches and a dredger and the company employs 1570 people, including management, design engineering, project, financial, safety, administrative and legal departments.

Member news

PT Komaritim Indonesia, a subsidiary of Stolt Offshore, is pleased to announce that its employee George Lubis is the first Indonesian national to qualify as an IMCA Offshore Air Diving Supervisor.

The company has arranged for several Indonesian diving personnel to attend an IMCA standard trainee air diving supervisor course conducted by National Hyperbaric Centre Aberdeen (UK) in Indonesia.

PT Komaritim has also encouraged them to obtain on-the-job training on the company's offshore diving projects under the supervision of qualified diving supervisors.

When the first five trainees were considered ready to take the air diving supervisors exam, it then arranged an intensive three-day refresher training period with KB Associates of Singapore, an IMCA-approved training provider.

Timsah's management system includes QC/QA ISO 9001 and application of the ISM Code to its fleet. The company is very proud and delighted to have joined IMCA as Contractor member in the Diving Division.

Contact: M Abdel Moneim, Diving
Department Manager
Tel: +20 3583 5948
Fax: +20 3582 8292
Web: www.timsahshipbuildingoffshore.com

The company's management intends to continue offering both encouragement and finance for the training of Indonesian nationals with the aim of raising the standard of diving operations in Indonesia to the international level recommended by IMCA.

PT Komaritim wishes to congratulate George Lubis for his own dedication and hard work in realising this achievement.

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Contact: Tim Patro
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IMCA news

Published quarterly to promote knowledge of safety and technical matters affecting the marine, underwater and engineering industry.

Succinct, positive contributions of potential interest to a wide cross-section of IMCA members are welcome.

Views expressed on these pages don't automatically reflect policies or positions of IMCA itself.

Edited & produced by Hannah Pearce,
freelance journalist <zintl@gn.apc.org>

Membership

as of 31 October 2004

International Contractors (ICO)

Allseas Group
Cal Dive International
Heerema Marine Contractors
Saipem
Stolt Offshore
Subsea 7
Technip

Contractors

Algoasibi Diving & Marine Services
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Shell Petr. Dev. Co. of Nigeria
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