

Basic Safety Training Requirements for Diving Personnel Employed in the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector

1 BACKGROUND

IMCA has recently received feedback from members of the North Sea offshore energy diving community that diving personnel are sometimes required to undertake additional and unnecessary basic safety training courses when they have already completed suitable basic safety training courses recognised by the offshore oil and gas industry.

IMCA C 018 *Basic Safety Training Requirements for Vessel Personnel Employed in the Renewable Energy Sector* clarifies the basic safety training requirements for personnel (including dive team personnel) employed in the offshore renewable energy sector. IMCA C 018 is recognised by IMCA and the G+ Offshore Wind Health and Safety Organisation (G+).

This information note provides further clarification aimed specifically at the offshore energy diving community and should be read in conjunction with the latest version of IMCA C 018.

2 DEFINITIONS

IMCA C 018 contains the definitions reproduced below.

Marine personnel

A seafarer holding STCW certification.

Personnel other than marine personnel

A person employed in the offshore renewable energy sector that does not hold STCW certification.

Training Standards

- Global Wind Organisation (GWO) training standards
 - Created by large manufacturers and owner operators of wind turbines, employing no less than 1000 workers or with a minimum 1GW of installed capacity.
 - <https://www.globalwindsafety.org/>
- OPITO
 - The skills organisation for the energy sector.
 - <https://opito.com/>

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- The Standard on Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW Code) or equivalent domestic certification for vessels under 500gt.
 - STCW is an Internationally accepted standard for the training of seafarers. Marine personnel are required by international law to be trained to STCW or equivalent domestic certification for vessels less than 500gt.
 - <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/HumanElement/TrainingCertification/Pages/STCW-Convention.aspx>

From the above, it is clear that divers and other dive team personnel (diving supervisors, LSTs, and dive technicians) fall under the definition of “Personnel other than marine personnel.”

3 BASIC SAFETY TRAINING MATRIX EXTRACTED FROM IMCA C 018

The Basic Safety Training Matrix shown in Table 1 below is extracted from IMCA C 018 *Basic Safety Training Requirements for Vessel Personnel Employed in the Renewable Energy Sector*.

Note: “Full access to offshore assets” means that personnel are required to have access not only to vessels and offshore foundations (transition pieces, jackets, or offshore platforms), but also to wind turbine towers and nacelles. In order to support diving operations, diving personnel may occasionally need to access above-water offshore foundations (transition pieces, jackets, or offshore platforms). However, “Full access to offshore assets” i.e., to wind turbine towers and nacelles is not required for diving personnel.

Table 1 – IMCA C 018 Basic Safety Training Matrix

	Marine Personnel	Personnel other than Marine Personnel		
Required training element	Access to vessel only	Access to vessel only (Construction, Service or Crew Transfer)	Access to offshore foundation (Transition Piece, Jacket or Offshore platform)	Full access to offshore assets <i>[Note: Full access is not required for diving personnel]</i>
Company and Client induction	All	All	All	All
Vessel specific safety induction	All	All	All	All
Medical fitness	As per STCW requirements or equivalent domestic certification for vessels under 500gt	Offshore industry specific medical certificate	Offshore industry specific medical certificate	Offshore industry specific medical certificate
Basic sea survival skills	As per STCW requirements or equivalent domestic certification for vessels under 500gt	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Sea survival	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Sea survival	GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Sea Survival

	Marine Personnel	Personnel other than Marine Personnel		
Required training element	Access to vessel only	Access to vessel only (Construction, Service or Crew Transfer)	Access to offshore foundation (Transition Piece, Jacket or Offshore platform)	Full access to offshore assets <i>[Note: Full access is not required for diving personnel]</i>
Fire awareness / basic firefighting skills	As per STCW requirements or equivalent domestic certification for vessels under 500gt	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Fire awareness	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Fire awareness	GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - Fire awareness
Basic first aid skills	As per STCW requirements or equivalent domestic certification for vessels under 500gt	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - First Aid	OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training or Further Offshore Emergency Training or GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - First Aid	GWO Basic Safety Training Standard - First aid
Vessel to vessel boat landing transfer skills	Training appropriate to the work being conducted to demonstrate safe transfer from vessel to vessel and recorded as part of a training record	Training appropriate to the work being conducted to demonstrate safe transfer from vessel to vessel and recorded as part of a training record	N/A	N/A
Manual handling skills	Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record	Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record	Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record or GWO Manual handling element	GWO Manual handling element
Working at height and rescue skills	As per STCW requirements or equivalent domestic requirements for vessels under 500gt and Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record	Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record	Training appropriate to the work being conducted and recorded as part of a training record or GWO Working at height element	GWO Working at height element

From a reading of Table 1, and in view of the fact that full access to offshore assets (i.e., to wind turbine towers and nacelles) is not required for diving personnel, it is IMCA's view that diving personnel in possession of the following certification do not require further training to the GWO Basic Safety Training Standards:

- an in-date OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET) or an in-date Further Offshore Emergency Training (FOET) certificate; and
- an in-date offshore industry specific medical certificate.

Where the work to be conducted requires personnel to have vessel to vessel boat landing transfer skills; manual handling skills; or working at height and rescue skills; the affected personnel (including dive team personnel) should have available a record of training appropriate to the work being conducted. It is emphasised that GWO training is not the sole means of demonstrating that personnel have been given adequate training in these skills.

4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is strongly recommended that standard basic safety training requirements covering those employed on-board vessels during the construction and maintenance support phases of offshore renewable energy projects are agreed between all relevant parties at the contract award stage. The requirements should be based on the guidance contained in IMCA C 018 and this information note.

Where countries have legislation that requires different standards or practices to be followed these must be observed. Where local or national laws are more stringent than the advice contained herein, they will always take precedence over this guidance.

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