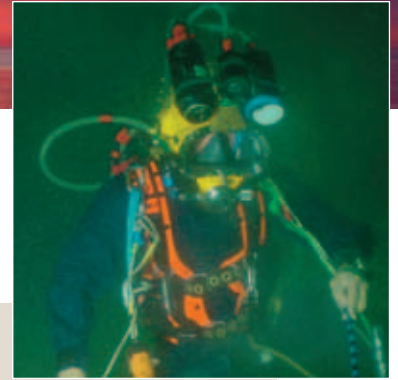


I want to be a ...

DIVER

the facts



IMCA receives numerous requests from people enquiring about aspects of commercial diver training. The purpose of this information sheet is to try to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Commercial divers perform many kinds of engineering tasks that can become complex when performed underwater, including welding, cutting, and other work on pipelines and subsea equipment that cannot be as easily accomplished using remotely operated vehicles.

IMCA was formed in 1995 with the merging of the Association of Offshore Diving Contractors (AODC) and the DP Vessel Owners Association (DPVOA). Offshore diving is a central activity for many IMCA members and IMCA plays an important role in producing guidance on diving procedures, equipment and personnel training for the commercial industry throughout the world. The fundamental diving qualifications are outlined below.

■ Education and Qualifications

The IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving recognises a number of diver training certificates (for the full list see www.imca-int.com/diving) but national or regional regulators may have additional requirements. Certain countries mutually recognise each other's certificates (see www.hse.gov.uk/diving) and this is the basis of the IMCA-recognised list and the following information for those wishing to enter the industry. To pass these courses, literacy and numeracy are required as well as physical work capability.

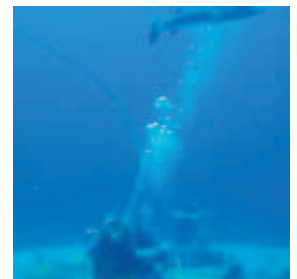
The IMCA code provides guidance that offshore divers should hold a current first aid certificate, as is the case under a number of regulatory regimes. Training for that should now be included as part of the diver's basic training but is only valid for three years. Divers working offshore may need to complete a refresher qualification before their certificates run out. PADI, BSAC and other sport diving qualifications or medical certificates do not count as far as commercial diving is concerned.

■ Skills and Training

Diver training exists in a variety of countries, and is generally found at four levels:

- SCUBA
- Inshore air diving
- Offshore air diving
- Offshore bell diving

IMCA is concerned only with offshore air diver training and bell diver training. Recognised diver training courses are quite expensive, but there is no short cut into the industry. For more details on training courses and certification, you will need to contact the relevant certification body – links to a number of these are on our website at www.imca-int.com/certification





I want to be a ...

DIVER

Personnel from many backgrounds attend and pass initial diver training courses. To work offshore as a diver the following minimum requirements should also be met:

- appropriate diver training certificate
- medical fitness certificate
- aptitude for construction-related tasks, including use of hand-held and power tools
- aptitude for physical work.

To work offshore in any capacity it is usually necessary to complete a basic offshore safety induction and emergency training (BOSIET) course. This generally includes first aid, safety at sea, the basics of fire and fire fighting and helicopter underwater escape training (HUET). In many regions, someone who has not successfully completed a course of this nature will not be permitted to work offshore.

■ Medical Fitness

All divers at work must have a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive issued by a suitable doctor. The certificate of medical fitness to dive must be renewed prior to expiry if a diver wishes to continue at work. The certificate of medical fitness to dive is a statement of a diver's fitness to perform work under water and is valid for as long as the doctor certifies, up to a maximum of 12 months.

The medical examination looks at the diver's overall fitness for purpose. It includes the main systems of the body – cardio-vascular system, respiratory system, central nervous system, and ears nose and throat, capacity for exercise and also dentition.

■ Working Conditions and Prospects

It should be understood that contractors tend to give preference to the more experienced divers and, therefore, finding employment in the first year or so can be very difficult for a newly qualified diver.

■ Further information

IMCA members include a number of diving contractors all over the world. For an up-to-date list, including links to their websites for contact purposes, see www.imca-int.com/members

Also available from IMCA:

I want to be ...

- Deck/engineering officer
- Diver
- DP operator
- Geophysicist
- Life support technician
- Offshore engineer
- Project manager
- ROV pilot/technician
- Surveyor
- Survey data processor
- Survey engineer/technician
- Technician

plus:

- My story case studies
- Make the move guides
- In depth feature articles

and much more online at:
www.imca-int.com/careers

