

# Code of Practice for The Safe and Efficient Use of Remotely Operated Vehicles

IMCA is the international trade association representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies. It seeks to:

- ◆ promote the common interests of its members
- ◆ resolve industry-wide issues
- ◆ provide a single authoritative voice for its members

Members include pipelay, heavy lift, diving, remotely operated vehicle, survey and offshore construction contractors, plus a variety of contractors operating specialist marine equipment.

IMCA sections embrace the key offshore regions of:

- ◆ Americas
- ◆ Asia-Pacific
- ◆ Europe & Africa
- ◆ Middle East & India

IMCA has two core activities in which all members participate:

The Safety, Environment & Legislation Core Committee monitors the output of national and international bodies, circulates relevant information to members and advances the industry position wherever necessary.

The Training, Certification & Personnel Competence Core Committee oversees a major scheme devoted to promoting safety by defining and encouraging competence in key safety-related jobs.

Members choose to participate in the work of one or more of IMCA's four technical divisions:

- ◆ Diving
- ◆ Marine
- ◆ Offshore Survey
- ◆ Remote Systems & ROV

IMCA has published substantial and comprehensive guidance based on its members' experience in a range of related areas, including certain training and certification schemes. More details on specific activities are contained on this and other information sheets.

One of IMCA's key aims is to promote safety in the offshore working environment. This document – *Code of Practice for the Safe and Efficient Operation of Remotely Operated Vehicles* – has played a vital role in providing the international community with a common set of guidelines and recommendations that provide a high level of safety and efficiency.

The document is one of IMCA's best-selling codes of practice and is now in use throughout the world. While local or national regulations naturally take precedence over the Code, it continues to provide a vital source of sensible advice and practical suggestions for topics that are not directly regulated.

The ROV industry is one of the most dynamic. New equipment is constantly entering the market and ROVs continue to find new applications. As the industry moves towards more and more diverless intervention, their role in construction and maintenance will increase, along with their more traditional use for underwater inspection and observation.

This Code has therefore been created with that dynamism in mind. As and when needed, the guidance is updated, ensuring that the industry has a perpetual source of relevant safety information.

## **Code of Practice for the Safe and Efficient Operation of Remotely Operated Vehicles**

IMCA R 004 Rev. 2  
£15 – IMCA members; £25 – non-members

The Code is now also available to members on an annually-updated CD, which also includes the text of all referenced IMCA, AODC and DMAC guidance together with a range of other member-only documentation, including safety flashes from 1997 onwards.

## **IMCA Guidance on ROV Operations**

CD issue 4 – £20 (single copy)/£75 (set of five)  
Only available to IMCA members

For a complete list of available publications, please contact the IMCA office or visit our website at [www.imca-int.com/rov/](http://www.imca-int.com/rov/)

## CONTENTS

### **ROV Classification**

The term 'remotely operated vehicle' (ROV) covers a wide range of equipment, and no single vehicle can be described as typical. This Code only considers unmanned vehicles (manned submersibles being subject to separate requirements) and identifies five ROV classifications.

### **ROV Tasks**

ROV capabilities are constantly expanding as technology improves and it is impossible to detail all the tasks an ROV may carry out. Within this Code, therefore, ROV tasks are divided into five categories specifically relevant to the offshore industry: observation, survey, inspection, construction and intervention.

### **ROV Tools**

ROV tools are continually being developed and upgraded. This chapter provides a brief introduction to some of the more commonly used tools.

### **Environmental Considerations**

The safe and efficient deployment and operation of ROVs depends on suitable environmental conditions. A number of specific environmental aspects are highlighted, but it is emphasised that there is no substitute for practical experience.

### **ROV Operations**

It is necessary to consider ROV operations in ensuring the safe and efficient use of ROVs in the demanding offshore environment. This chapter covers the need for risk assessment, operational procedures and documentation. It also deals with different ROV operating sites, from DP monohulls through to fixed installations.

### **Certification & Maintenance**

Various standards and codes are used to examine, test and certify offshore plant and equipment. Much of the equipment used in an ROV operation will need to comply with those standards. This chapter highlights pre- and post-dive checks and planned and periodic maintenance.

### **Personnel**

The qualifications and competence of personnel working with ROVs are discussed and team sizes are considered. Other subjects covered include working periods, training and the use of logbooks to record experience.

### **Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the ROV contractor, the ROV supervisor and other personnel working on ROV operations are presented.