

IMCA is the international trade association representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

It seeks to:

- strive for the highest possible standards with a balance of risk and cost in: health and safety; technology; quality and efficiency; environmental awareness and protection;
- achieve and sustain self-regulation in the industry;
- ease the free movement of equipment and personnel globally;
- achieve equitable contracting regimes;
- provide the framework for training, certification, competence and recruitment to support and sustain the industry globally;
- resolve industry issues; and
- promote co-operation across the industry.

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

IMCA has two core activities in which all members participate:

- Competence & Training includes a comprehensive framework devoted to promoting safety by defining and encouraging training and competence in key safety-related positions.
- Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) includes monitoring national and international regulatory bodies, circulation of relevant information to members and advancement of industry positions where necessary

Members join in one or more technical divisions relevant to their own activities:

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

IMCA works with a global focus, but also has regional sections covering the key offshore areas: Asia-Pacific, Central & North America, Europe & Africa, Middle East & India and South America.

IMCA has published substantial and comprehensive good practice guidance on marine operations based on its members' experience in a range of related areas. More details on specific activities are set out on these factsheets.

Marine contractors undertake a wide variety of operations offshore, all of which require highly skilled and competent personnel to work with sophisticated equipment onboard or working from specialist vessels.

IMCA undertakes a variety of initiatives to help ensure those undergoing training emerge with the skills required by industry.

Development of course syllabi

IMCA has developed a number of documents setting out proposed syllabi for training courses. Each is prepared based on member needs, as identified at meetings held globally, with drafts reviewed by committees and workgroups with input from a range of contractors, suppliers and training establishments operating around the world.

Topics include:

- ◆ Basic safety training and vessel induction for non-marine personnel ([IMCA SEL 007](#))
- ◆ High voltage training ([IMCA C 010](#))
- ◆ Outline syllabus for training of personnel in supervisory positions ([IMCA C 011](#))
- ◆ IMCA scheme for recognition of diver medic training – Guidance for training establishments ([IMCA D 020](#))
- ◆ The training and experience of key DP personnel ([IMCA M 117](#))
- ◆ Academic requirements for surveyors working in the offshore survey sector ([IMCA S 005](#))
- ◆ Entry level requirements and basic introductory course for ROV personnel ([IMCA R 002](#))
- ◆ Outline syllabi for ROV-related training courses ([IMCA R 010](#))

IMCA offshore diving supervisor and life support technician certification schemes

IMCA runs certification schemes for the positions of offshore diving supervisor and life support technician, which lay down minimum requirements for certification in each position. These include relevant diving experience, basic theoretical training, supervised hands-on experience offshore and an examination set and marked independently of employing contractors by IMCA. See www.imca-int.com/divisions/diving/profile/personnel/training/supervisorlst.html for more information.

Working with training providers

IMCA facilitates communication between contractors and training providers, to help ensure industry needs are understood and met. This can be through dedicated workshops, consultation exercises and circulation of minutes and notes of relevant committee and workgroup meetings.

A dedicated Training Establishment (S*) membership category with reduced subscription rates is available, which enables training providers to gain access to the wide range of IMCA documentation relevant to their sector, helping in the development of syllabi and course materials and ensuring they stay up-to-date and 'in the loop'.



‘Not reinventing the wheel’

IMCA’s work often overlaps with that of other trade associations, industry bodies and national/international regulators. Where suitable training is defined by others, IMCA makes reference to it and provides members with the information they need. Examples include basic offshore safety training (BOSIET) and helicopter underwater escape training (HUET), together with regional supplementary requirements on which IMCA provides briefing, and the Nautical Institute scheme for dynamic positioning system (DP) operator training.

Offshore diving sector

Offshore diving involves particularly safety-critical roles – none more so than that of a diver. A number of regulators and related organisations run national certification schemes, with IMCA publishing a list of certificates it recognises for offshore diving personnel.

For three specific positions where no appropriate external training and certification existed previously, IMCA (and its predecessor AODC) has developed and run schemes involving auditing and approval of training providers, gaining of offshore experience and a written examination. These positions are air diving supervisor, bell diving supervisor and life support technician. Details on the certification schemes and currently approved schools are available on our website and in our publication [IMCA D 013](#). Training courses for diver medics are also audited and recognised, as set out in [IMCA D 020](#), with courses listed on our website.

For further details on IMCA’s training initiatives, please visit our website:

www.imca-int.com/training