

International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving

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 committees 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 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 and runs a number of training and certification schemes. More details on specific activities are contained on this and other information sheets.

The offshore commercial diving industry, while providing services to the oil and gas industry, can be the subject of various regulations and standards imposed by national governments, clients, insurers and other outside bodies. In some areas of the world, however, there is little or no outside control of diving activities.

The IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving provides advice on ways in which diving operations can be carried out safely and efficiently. As such it is a key document for contractors and clients working in unregulated areas of the world and it has been instrumental in improving diving safety.

While national regulations naturally take precedence, the code may be used in a court of law to define good practice. Recommendations have also been included that will help clients and contractors to analyse the safety implications of commercial considerations. The minimum standards it outlines also create a safe 'level playing field' for all diving contractors.

The Code was produced under the direction of the Diving Division Management Committee and represents the substantial experience and expertise of IMCA members.

**IMCA International Code of Practice
for Offshore Diving** IMCA D 014
£10 – IMCA Members; £20 – 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.

Guidance on Offshore Diving & ROV Operations
CD Issue 3 - £30 (single copy)/£100 (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/diving/

Contents

Duties, Responsibilities & Relationships

On any one diving project there needs to be one company - the diving contractor - in overall control. The responsibilities of the diving contractor are outlined. The roles of the diving supervisor and other relevant personnel are also considered.

Equipment

Diving equipment is highly technical and is expected to operate with complete reliability in a harsh and corrosive environment. Safety considerations are given for key items, such as diving bells and communication equipment. The need for regular inspection maintenance is also highlighted.

Personnel

To work safely, efficiently and as a member of a dive team, personnel need to have a basic level of competence and appropriate qualifications, whether they actually enter the water or not. Team size is also discussed.

Medical

A minimum amount of medical equipment is needed at a dive site to provide first aid and medical treatment in an emergency. The role of suitably trained doctors is discussed and the health and fitness of divers is considered.

Work Planning

Before any diving is carried out, it is vital that a dive plan is prepared. This consists of the diving contractor's standard operating rules and any site-specific risk assessments and procedures. A number of safety-related issues that should be considered when preparing a dive plan are discussed, including: diving near remotely operated vehicles (ROVs); the safe use of electricity; and diving from dynamically positioned vessels.

Emergency & Contingency Plans

This chapter briefly highlights the need for the diving contractor's manual to include a section on the actions required in the event of a foreseeable emergency.

Documentation

Diving equipment has to comply with a range of standards and relevant certificates must be available at the dive site to demonstrate compliance. Other documentation includes pre- and post-dive checklists, equipment registers and logbooks for personnel.