

# Diving Certification Schemes

## Offshore Diving Supervisor & Life Support Technician

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 of 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.

IMCA aims to improve health, safety and technical standards throughout the offshore construction industry. Consequently, for it has run certification schemes for offshore diving supervisors and life support technicians for more than 15 years. So far, over 550 air diving supervisors, 700 bell diving supervisors and 650 LSTs have qualified through the schemes.

The schemes have found international acceptance, having been originally designed for UK diving operations, but modified over the years as more and more international clients began to ask for certification of personnel. They are formally recognised by the Diving Inspectorate of the UK Health & Safety Executive's Offshore Safety Division (OSD) and conform to the requirements of the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) and NORSOK for training and examining diving supervisors and life support technicians.

The schemes have proven extremely valuable in providing a standard for training of key personnel in the offshore industry and have, without doubt, contributed to the safety both of diving operations and divers.

Both schemes are supported by the guidance highlighted to the right.

IMCA's Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician certification schemes set down minimum requirements for certification. The key elements are basic theoretical training, documented diving experience, recommendation from their employer, supervised 'hands-on' experience offshore and a multi-choice theory examination. Candidates are expected to sit compulsory examination modules for air diving supervision, mixed gas (or bell) diving supervision, or life support.

Candidates also sit optional legislation modules relevant to the parts of the world in which they expect to work. Modules for Great Britain and Norway currently exist, with others to follow.

The **Diving Supervisor** Scheme covers all offshore personnel either acting as or training to be a Diving Supervisor or Superintendent. It applies to personnel supervising divers using surface-orientated (air) and mixed gas/bell diving techniques.

The **Life Support Technician** Scheme covers all personnel engaged in life support duties from new entrants through to the most senior grades. It also applies to certain onshore life support personnel.

### Guidance Document

The supporting guidance document covers the following topics for each of the schemes:

- ◆ Terminology, responsibilities and career structure
- ◆ Examinations
- ◆ Logbooks
- ◆ Training objectives

**IMCA Offshore Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician Certification Schemes:**  
Minimum Requirements for Certification

IMCA D 013 Rev. 1

£5 – IMCA Members; £10 – Non-members

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