
Minutes of a meeting of the Association's Lifting & Rigging Management Committee held on 3 December 2025 from 12:30 GMT via videoconference

1 Competition law compliance policy

The IMCA Competition Law Compliance Policy, which had been circulated with the meeting agenda, was drawn to the attention of all present.

2 Welcome and attendance

The chair welcomed members to the meeting. A quick round the table was carried out for the benefit of the new members

Meeting notes:

- **Committee Membership Updates and Representation:** Laura, Jennifer, and Henk-Jan discussed committee membership changes, including the introduction of Mike Barnfather as a new member, the need to confirm Peter Wolf's status, and ongoing efforts to fill the Asia Pacific representative position, with Rhys tasked to provide leads.
 - **New Member Introduction:** Mike Barnfather introduced himself as the new lead heavy lift engineer at Van Oord, replacing Martin Loman, and provided a summary of his professional background in lifting and offshore engineering.
 - **Status of Absent Members:** Laura and Jennifer noted the absence of several members, including Massimiliano Scarpellini and Peter Wolf, and discussed the need to check Peter Wolf's current role and availability for continued participation.
 - **Asia Pacific Representation:** Jennifer reported that following the global summit in Kuala Lumpur, there was interest in joining IMCA committees, but no specific candidates for the lifting and rigging group had been identified; Rhys will forward any leads as they arise.
 - **Committee Diversity Approach:** Laura emphasized the importance of maintaining a diverse committee and not filling positions solely for the sake of numbers, preferring to wait for suitable candidates, especially for the Asia Pacific seat.

Apologies for absence were recorded, with the latest meeting attendance now as follows:

Name	Company	Mar 2025	Jun 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Laura Lombardi (Chair)	Usha Martin Italia	Attended	Apologies	Attended	Attended
Jack Spaan (Vice Chair)	Boskalis	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Caspar Berends	TechnipFMC	N/A	N/A	Attended	Attended
Henk-Jan Bakkenes	Heerema	Substitute	Attended	Attended	Attended
Mike Barnfather	Van Oord	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended
Arjo van Putten	NOV	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Robin van Nieuwkerk	Huisman	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Richard Knight	McDermott	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Robert Askins	Global Maritime	Attended	Attended	Absent	Substitute
Sara Fletcher	Subsea 7	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Jesper Halberg	Cadeler	Attended	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Tom Dillerop	Heerema (Asia Pacific)	Attended	Apologies	Absent	N/A
Marco Pedroso	SBM (South America)	Apologies	Attended	Apologies	Apologies
Peter Wolf	Siemens Gamesa	Substitute	Absent	Absent	N/A
Michael Roberts	DNV (North America)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Massimiliano Scarpellini	Saipem	N/A	Absent	Absent	Absent

Legend:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part-Time	S Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apologies	Absent	N/A
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Also present or joining via videoconference were:

Mark Ford	IMCA	Secretariat
Jennifer Evans	IMCA	Secretariat Lead
Argiro Bell	IMCA	Technical Administration

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Approval of the minutes

The minutes and actions of the last meeting were agreed and were duly signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

- Review of Previous Meeting Actions and Document Status:** Jennifer and Laura led a review of outstanding actions from the last meeting, including updates on Asia Pacific representation, document translations, work group invitations, and the status of various technical documents such as LR006, LR008, and LR009.
 - Work Group Invitations:** Jennifer resolved technical issues with meeting invitations for the new work group on LR006, confirming that all volunteers should have received their invites for the January 29th meeting.
 - Document Review and Translation:** Jennifer reported that the cranes verification document review is scheduled for the first quarter of next year, and Marco has volunteered to handle the translation of lifting and rigging documents, though progress may be slow due to limited resources.
 - ROV Document Consistency:** Jennifer clarified that LR011 needs to be reviewed for consistency with LR010 by the ROV committee before publication, and that LR010 has not yet been reviewed or updated.

- **Committee Assignments and Handover:** Jennifer outlined her current committee assignments, including CEN 147, ISO 96, and BSI MHE 31, and noted that she is still transitioning responsibilities from Mark, who will retire in March.

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda

4 Lessons learnt – Safety related

The committee were offered the opportunity to share safety-related material and incidents involving lifting and rigging.

- **Safety Moment and Incident Sharing:** The Team shared recent safety incidents involving both domestic and industrial settings, including fatal accidents during moving and crane operations, and discussed the risks and inspection challenges associated with synthetic fibre ropes and steel wire ropes.

5 Work Programme

5.1 2025 Objective Update

An update was given on the progress of the 2025 objectives:

1. Complete the revision to IMCA LR-008 – Guidance on the manufacture and safe use of cable-laid slings and grommets by August 2025 – **COMPLETED, released May 2025**
2. Complete the revision to IMCA LR-002 – Crane specification document by June 2025 – **COMPLETED, released Nov 2025**
3. Plan and hold a successful lifting and rigging seminar – October, London – **COMPLETED**
4. Working Group to develop a new guidance document on pulling eyes – TBD – **Forwarded to 2026**
5. Working Group to revise LR 006 – Guidelines for Lifting Operations – April 2025- **Kick Off meeting scheduled Jan 2026**

5.2 2026 Objective Ideas

Ideas were discussed for the committees 2026 objectives:

1. Working Group to develop a new guidance document on pulling eyes – **Q2 start?**
2. Working Group to revise LR 006 – Guidelines for Lifting Operations – April 2025 – Lifting terminology, lift categorisation, Human Operational Performance etc. – **Q4 2025 start – Q2 2026 complete**
3. Assist with the South America Regional committee with the translation a proof checking of LRMC documents
4. **2025-2026 Committee Objectives and Work Program:** Jennifer, Laura, Henk-Jan, and others reviewed completed objectives, discussed ongoing and future work items such as document revisions (LR008, LR002, LR009), the potential for new guidance on vision-based inspection systems, and the need to update synthetic sling guidance.

- a. **Completed and Ongoing Documents:** Jennifer confirmed the completion and publication of LR008 and LR002, and noted that the next major reviews will focus on LR009 and LR006, with document updates scheduled for 2026.
 - b. **Vision System Inspection Guidance:** The group discussed whether to develop an appendix or informative note on vision-based inspection systems for wire ropes, with Robin sharing experience and Laura suggesting a work group or informative note depending on available expertise.
 - c. **Synthetic Sling Guidance Update:** Henk-Jan proposed forming a work group to review and potentially update LR009 on synthetic slings, given recent incidents and technological advances, with Jennifer to circulate the current document for review.
 - d. **Document Structure and Integration:** Caspar and Laura debated whether to combine steel and fibre rope guidance into a single document or keep them separate, with consensus leaning toward separate documents but with cross-references for clarity.
5. **Continuous Professional Development and Training Initiatives:** Jennifer, Barnfather M. (Michael), Jack, Caspar, and Jesper Halberg discussed the lack of standardized lift planning training, the development of a learning management system for CPD, and the challenges of aligning training across the wind and oil & gas sectors.
- a. **CPD for Lift Planning:** The committee considered developing CPD modules for lift planning, noting the absence of global certification and the need for refresher training for both engineers and field staff, with plans to integrate this into IMCA's learning management system.
 - b. **Industry Training Gaps:** Barnfather M. (Michael) and Jesper Halberg highlighted the lack of accredited lift planning and crane operator courses specific to the offshore wind industry, and the challenges of setting company training matrices given diverse backgrounds of personnel.
 - c. **Alignment Across Sectors:** Caspar advocated for training that bridges the gap between oil & gas and wind sectors, suggesting IMCA could provide guidance applicable to both industries to reduce fragmentation.
 - d. **Implementation Timeline:** Jennifer clarified that while the learning management system is under development, CPD for lifting and rigging may not be implemented until 2027, as the system will first be rolled out for other disciplines.

5.3 Lifting Seminar 2025

The team discussed the success of the L&R seminar in London.

5.4 Document revision status

- The working group for LR 002 have concluded their task and the revised document was released 24th Nov.
- First meeting for LR 006 is scheduled for Thurs 29th January.
- All LRMC documents will need updating where SWL is stated

Name	Guidance Refs	Latest Revision	Latest Update	Latest Version	Status Reason
Crane specification document	IMCA LR002, IMCA M171	24/11/2025	24/11/2025	3.0	Current

Guidance on open parachute type underwater air lift bags	IMCA D016, IMCA LR007	31/01/2022	30/11/2023	5.1	Current
Guidance on the manufacture and safe use of cable-laid slings and grommets	IMCA LR008, IMCA M179	15/04/2025	15/04/2025	2.0	Current
Guidance on the selection, safe use and inspection of high performance fibre slings used for engineered lifts	IMCA LR009, IMCA M237	31/08/2020	26/02/2024	1.1	Current
Guidelines for lifting operations	IMCA D060, IMCA HSSE019, IMCA LR006, IMCA M187	31/08/2022	20/06/2023	2.1	Jan 26
Recommended practice for remotely operated vehicle load testing and inspection	IMCA LR010, IMCA R021	31/08/2024	15/08/2024	1.3	Current
Recommended practice for the examination of steel wire rope through magnetic rope testing (MRT)	IMCA HSS023, IMCA LR004, IMCA M197	29/02/2024	30/07/2024	2.0	Does it need reviewing? 2026
Recommended practice on the use of chain lever hoists in the offshore subsea environment	IMCA D028, IMCA LR005	30/06/2023	30/05/2024	3.1	Current
Recommended practice on wire rope integrity management for vessels in the offshore industry	IMCA HSS022, IMCA LR001, IMCA M194	01/10/2023	04/10/2023	4.0	Does it need reviewing 2026
The initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV launch and recovery systems	IMCA LR011, IMCA R011	30/09/2021	30/11/2023	2.1	Current
Guidance on pulling eyes	IMCA LRXXX				New

5.5 LRMC document downloads

Apologies were given as new download figures are still not available.

6 General discussion & new technology

7 Involvement with Other Organisations

7.1 BSI/ISO/EN matters

The committee were updated as follows:

- **New Work Item Proposal - Amendment for EN 13852-1**

- several minor errors and incorrect references in the standard which were not considered as editorial comments and thus not accepted by the publication proofing team. These minor errors and incorrect references were unfortunately not detected prior to FV.
- **BS 7121 Series**
 - As the series has been developed over many years, there has been drift between the various parts and there now arises an opportunity to 'reset' the series – to bring the general guidance (Part 1) up to date and to include the learning from the industry best practice guidance that has been developed for specific equipment, and to subsequently review the existing equipment specific parts to refine and improve, whilst following a to-be-developed standardised structure.
- **ISO/TR 25201 Crane Wind Loads – Guidance about effect of surrounding buildings**
 - ISO/TR 25201 in meeting papers
 - Committee internal balloting till 12th Dec. (Comment sheet in Meeting Papers)

7.2 LEEA

No further updates. MOU in place on reciprocal event promotion.

7.3 OMHEC

The last OMHEC meeting was on Tuesday, 11th November 2025, via Teams.

- Jennifer introduced & Marks final meeting
- Minutes from the meeting are in the meeting papers.
- The next OMHEC meeting will be held on Mon 13 April 2026, in person & via Teams.

7.4 API – Update from Matt McClean of McDermott

API continues to develop 2CIM – Crane Integrity Management meeting was 22 October 2025.

7.5 Centre of Offshore Safety (COS) Lifting Subcommittee

No updates

7.6 DNV

DNV-ST-E273 2.7-3 Portable offshore units. Presently undergoing general update with focus on materials, alignment with other DNV standards and update of references. This was expected to go to external hearing in Q4 of 2024 but this is was delayed. As of December 2025, it is still delayed with no indication when it will go to external hearing.

DNV-ST-E281 Transportation and installation aids. I have heard back from the author who has said that the main goal for this document is to ensure that requirements in DNV-ST-N001 are fulfilled in verification/certification of structures and equipment that will be used in operations approved according to DNV-ST-N001. One main challenge is to ensure that load (and operational) limits expressed in the verification/certification (e.g. SWL/WLL) are compatible with the requirements in DNV-ST-N001. Unfortunately the proposed ST-E281 does not relate to this – it is just another certification standard. It is possible that DNV needs this standard, but it is not a substitute to the document (presently planned as a service specification) we are making. Hence, we are continuing our work without taking any position regarding the need for ST-E281 or not.

DNV-RP-N202 Motion compensating systems. No change since last meeting. This was issued in June 2024. Previously it was mentioned that there will be a round table with the JIP participants involved in the development of the RP with this originally scheduled for the end of January 2025 but this has been delayed. The author would like to know if there is any feedback to the RP from IMCA members – technical comments or how it has been received. I have been given approval to send a copy of N202 for IMCA to upload to their library but this is requested as a read only so that IMCA members can review and give comments.

DNV-OS-E303 Offshore Fibre Ropes. An update has been made (formatted to align with other standards and updated with clarifications) but similar to October update, this has yet to be checked, approved and published.

7.7 G+ Renewables

No further updates

7.8 ABS

New revision of the Guide for the Certification of Lifting Appliances released May 2025. Located in Meeting Papers folder.

7.9 Other organisations

Step Change in Safety

- Q4 – well being and work environment
- Marine Transfer of Personnel -in the meeting papers

8 Any other business

- **Planning and Logistics for Future Meetings and Seminars:** Jennifer, Laura, and several members discussed the schedule and format for 2026 meetings, the possibility of a face-to-face meeting in September, and the logistics of hosting in various locations, with a preference for the Netherlands to ease travel for most members.
 - **Meeting Schedule:** Jennifer outlined proposed meeting dates for 2026, with quarterly meetings in March, June, September, and December, and solicited preferences for a face-to-face meeting.
 - **Location Preferences:** Members suggested various locations for the face-to-face meeting, including London, Skidam, Copenhagen, and Houston, with a consensus forming around the Netherlands for logistical convenience.
 - **Hybrid Meeting Option:** Laura confirmed that all meetings would continue to offer an online participation option to accommodate those unable to travel.

9 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
Asia Pacific Committee Representation: Identify and propose a new representative from Asia Pacific to replace the outgoing member.	Jennifer Evans, Rhys Jones	Awaiting name
Committee Membership Update: Check with Peter Wolf regarding his current position and availability to continue in the committee or identify a replacement if needed.	Jennifer	2026
LR006 Terminology Discussion: Discuss and resolve terminology concerns (e.g., safe working load vs. working load limit) within the LR006 working group.	LRMC Members, Caspar, Jack	2026
Committee Membership Update: Ask Peter Smith if he could take the place of Massimiliano from Saipem in the committee.	Jennifer	2026
Pulling Eyes Guidance Document Review: Review Mark's draft of the pulling eyes guidance document and assess committee participation interest.	LRMC Members & Jennifer	Q1 2026
Document Review and Workgroup Formation: Send out LR009 to all members for review and request feedback on whether to initiate a workgroup for updating the document in 2026.	Jennifer	2026
Wire Rope Inspection Technology Update: Consider including vision system technology for steel wire rope examination in LR004 or related documents and interpret results with caution.	LRMC Members	2026
Discard Criteria Guidance: Develop informative guidance on rope discard criteria and reference it back to LR001, and consider adding this to 2026 objectives	LRMC Members, Jennifer	2026
Document Review and Workgroup Formation: Send out a reminder to all members to consider potential companies and experts for participation in an informative note or appendix on vision systems for rope inspection, and revisit the topic in the next meeting.	Jennifer	2026
Loader Update Feedback: Look for and, if not already done, share the link for companies to provide feedback directly to Loader regarding their update process.	Jennifer	2026
Establish a working group to produce a new guidance document on pulling eyes	Jennifer Evans	Awaiting availability
Meeting schedule: Look for alternative December date which does not collide with Subsea LR conference, if too many meeting declines	Jennifer	Nov 25
2026 face to face meeting. Email LRMC for alternative locations, and preferred date for 2026. This is due to no LR Seminar in 2026, so open to suggestions	LRMC Members, Jennifer	Q1 2026
Seminar Outcomes and Guidelines Update: Contact Sara Fletcher to inquire if she has any proposals or further ideas regarding the wire rope integrity management guideline and outcomes from the seminar	Laura	2026
Machine Regulation Monitoring: Monitor and check for updates on the transition from the Machinery Directive to the Machinery Regulation and its implications for the committee.	Jennifer	2026

10 Date and location of next meetings

2026 Prospective Dates – Subject to change

- Q1 Wednesday 4th March 2026
- Q2 Wednesday 3rd June 2026
- Q3 Wednesday 9th Sept 2026
- Q4 Wednesday 2nd December 2026

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Signed as a true record

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Name

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Date