

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s Diving Division Management Committee held on 2 December 2025 from 09:00 – 16:00 New Orleans and via Microsoft Teams

Members present or joining via videoconference are recorded in section 2, with the following also attending:

Jim Cullen	Technical Director	IMCA
Bill Chilton	Diving Manager	IMCA
Ali Macleod	Diving TA	IMCA
Dave Slater	Diving TA	IMCA
Kester Keighley	Diving TA	IMCA
Katie Kidd	Assistant Diving TA	IMCA
Dag Atle Ask	Guest	Subsea7

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

Name	Company	Feb 2025	Jun 2025	Sep 2025	Nov 2025
Simon Binsted	Subsea 7 (Chair)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Andy Butler	Boskalis (Vice Chair)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Darren Brunton	KB Associates	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Sean Brunton	McDermott	Apologies	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Maurizio Chimes	Saipem	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Leo Duran	Oceanica	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Steve Ginn	DOF Group	Apologies	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Chris Horn	Helix	N/A	N/A	Attended	Attended
Ian Hughes	HSS	Attended	Apologies	Attended	Apologies
Mike Jessop	OSC Marine	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
David Scott	TFMC	N/A	N/A	Attended	Attended
Steve Sheppard	Helix	Attended	Attended	N/A	N/A
Adriaen Winckers	Bluestream	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Marni Zarbarsky	Aqueos	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apologies

Legend:

 Attended	 Part-Time	 Substitute	 Apologies	 Absent	 N/A
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3 Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Approval of the minutes

The minutes were agreed and were duly signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by existing agenda items.

4 Un-minuted safety discussion

An un-minuted discussion took place.

5 DDMC Objectives

An update was given on the DDMC 2025 objectives as follows:

1	Pursue Brazilian Navy to acceptance and recognition of the IMCA Diving Supervisor qualification (e.g. by inclusion within NORMAM 222 Diving Regulations).	Bill Chilton met with Brazilian Navy July 2025. No appetite to amend NORMAN 222 but do want to work with IMCA on issue of in-water diver training.
2	Complete the review of the current IDRCF internationally recognised Bell Diver Training Standards. (Ongoing from 2024).	Complete
3	Produce and publish guidance on deck decompression chambers (Q1 2025). D085 Guidance on deck decompression chamber (DDC) operations for the therapeutic treatment of divers	D085 Published February 2025
4	Produce guidance on in-water diver training: How to set up a dive school that will issue in-water diver training certificates recognised by IMCA (Q2 2025). D087 Diver Training Schools: Assessment Procedure for IMCA Recognition of In-Water Diver Training Qualifications published in June 2025.	D087 Published May 2025
5	Produce guidance on in-water diver training: Procedure for conducting Experienced Diver Competency Assessments leading to award of IMCA recognised in-water diving qualification (Q3 2025).	Document complete, Ali Macleod to review before publication.
6	Resolve lifting terminology issues update DESIGN suite of documents to reflect changes (Q4 2025).	All proposed changes scheduled for February 2026. Members were encouraged to review and comment.
7	Review update and publishing of D041 Use of battery-operated equipment in hyperbaric conditions (Q4 2025).	Gavin Anthony to update D041
8	Review, update and publishing of D022 Guidance for Diving Supervisors (Q3 2025).	Document published Q3 2025

6 Review of progress with actions from previous meeting (3rd September 2025)

Actions from previous meeting were reviewed. Any actions not closed out have been carried forward to the Summary of Actions table found at the end of these minutes.

7 Diving Equipment Issues

7.1 Proposed annual revision to DESIGN suite / D018 Q1 2026

Dave Slater updated members on the annual DESIGN suite / D018 revision. Document control has improved with spreadsheets tracking changes, the sharing of change logs with the subcommittee and the emphasis on transparency in the revision process. The proposed revisions will be published in February 2026, and members will receive a reminder to review them.

Dave Slater

7.2 LARs systems with smaller basket for standby

The committee discussed updating twin basket guidance. It was agreed to draft a revised text for D023 to clarify operational arrangements and risk assessment requirements for single A-frame twin basket systems. This will be

circulated to the committee for ratification.

Dave Slater / Mike Jessop

7.3 D077 workgroup update

A detailed update on the review and empirical testing of emergency lung powered scrubbers. The D077 workgroup was formed to review section 5.1 of the document. JFD and NUI conducted empirical tests on scrubber performance at various depths.

Section 5.1 has been rewritten to incorporate test results, and a new flow chart was added to guide dynamic decision-making for divers in emergency scenarios. The document now emphasises the need for contractors to validate performance through their own testing. Additional data from NUI is expected by year-end to finalise the document.

Feedback highlighted the need to address thermal balance and the suitability of survival suits, particularly in regions like Norway and Asia. The workgroup plans to extend its terms of reference to include these topics, with ongoing collaboration with technical experts and suit manufacturers.

Dave Slater

8 Discussion on proposed 2026 objectives

The committee discussed proposed objectives for 2026. Resources related to these objectives can be found on the DDMC SharePoint site [Committee - Diving - Files - DDMC Workstream repository and documents for review - All Documents](#)

8.1 Refresh accredited dive system inspector scheme

The committee examined the challenges and potential improvements to the ADSI scheme. Potential solutions could include desktop audits, client references and simulation based assessments to verify competence. Some training providers already require audits on their own systems, but oversight and verification remain inconsistent.

A subcommittee will be established to review the scheme, consider alternative qualification routes and ensure quality is maintained.

DESC/DTSC

8.2 IMCA D0XX Decommissioning guidance

Bill proposed drafting a signpost document on decommissioning and diving, focusing on management of change procedures and historical information gathering, with input from operators and inclusion of relevant MOC registers.

Bill Chilton

8.3 IMCA D041 Batteries in hyperbaric conditions

With oversight from Dave Slater and the assistance of Steve Sheppard, Gavin Anthony is revising IMCA's guidance on the use of batteries in hyperbaric conditions. With the aim to balance safety, practicality, and technological realities. The Committee agreed to provide feedback and support the drafting process. Dave Slater is the Secretariat focal point.

Gavin Anthony / Steve Sheppard / Dave Slater

8.4 IMCA D0XX Diver / ROV SIMOPS

The committee identified the need to update guidance on diver/ROV simultaneous operations, following incidents and evolving practices. Roger Moore (ROV) and Dave Slater will be Secretariat focal points.

Roger Moore/Dave Slater

8.5 IMCA D067 The effects of underwater current on diver performance and safety

A subgroup will address loop current guidance, particularly relevant to North America, by integrating existing documents and involving regional experts.

Dave Slater**8.6 IMCA D045 Safe use of electricity underwater**

Work will commence when Katrina Wood (Serica) returns from maternity leave. Bill Chilton will be secretariat focal point.

Katrina Wood / Dave Scott / Bill Chilton**8.7 IMCA D0XX Diving emergency drills**

Kester will be leading efforts to produce guidance on consolidating and standardising diving emergency drills

Kester Keighley**8.8 IMCA D0XX Mental fitness to dive**

The committee discussed the issue of mental fitness in diving with a view to incorporating a section within IMCA D061 as part of a holistic approach. It was discussed whether this was an IMCA diving division issue or it should be tackled as part of a wider industry initiative. It was agreed that initial research and fact finding would begin whilst the senior leadership team decide on an approach to this issue.

Katie Kidd**8.9 IMCA D0XX Female divers: Guidance on regulatory and operational issues**

With an increase in female saturation divers, it was decided that Marni Zabarsky will take the lead on a workgroup to examine what guidance should be in place/amended for female saturation divers. Ali Macleod will be the Secretariat focal point.

Marni Zabarsky/Ali Macleod**8.10 IMCA D0XX Recovery of incapacitated diver during closed bell diving operations**

This document was started more than ten years ago but fell off the radar. The scope of this document currently ties into current Subsea7 and Boskalis projects. Ali Macleod and Katie Kidd will be joint Secretariat focal points.

DDMC/Katie Kidd/Ali Macleod**9 Diver Training Issues**

Ali Macleod gave an update on diver training.

9.1 Diver Training, Certification and subcommittee formation

The committee discussed global challenges in diver training and certification, including visa restrictions and the need for flexible training standards.

A permanent diving training subcommittee was proposed to handle divers training queries, assess individual cases and develop solutions such as experienced diver competency assessments or alternative training protocols, ensuring alignment with local regulations and maintaining standards. The discussion covered the complexities of mutual recognition of qualifications, the role of national regulators and the need to avoid diluting standards while providing flexible pathways for divers in regions with limited training infrastructure.

This was agreed by DDMC. Ali Macleod will be the Secretariat focal point

Ali Macleod**10 Liaison with other organisations / meetings / events****10.1 IDIF meeting April 2026**

Bahrain is no longer going ahead. IOGP trying to host in KSA. IMCA offered to host IDIF at the IMCA global summit in Antwerp in October 2026.

10.2 Meeting scheduling and coordination with external bodies

The committee coordinated the annual meeting calendar, aligning DDMC meetings with major industry events and discussing liaison with organisations such as IOGP, HSE and DMAC providing updates on external committee activities.

The committee will attempt to align meetings with the global summit and other key events. It was agreed to communicate dates to external bodies to avoid scheduling conflicts.

11 Any other business

11.1 IMCA Global Summit 2026

IMCA Global Summit has been scheduled for w/c 26th October 2026 in Antwerp. IMCA's SLT have indicated that there will be a strong diving component.

11.2 Proposal for 30m offshore diving qualification in AsiaPac region

A proposal was discussed to introduce a 30m offshore diving qualification, particularly for the renewables sector, to address sustainability and access issues. The group debated the implications for training content, recognition and the need for clear exclusions and gap analysis. This will be discussed further amongst the new diver training and certification subcommittee.

Ali Macleod/DTSC

11.3 Umbilical measurement clarification

It was noted that there was a discrepancy between a module within the IMCA CPD app and IMCA guidance. Simon will consult with Martin Yarrow to clarify and update the guidance on the datum point for umbilical measurement in D078, and will circulate the proposed revision for committee validation.

Simon Binsted

12 Summary of new action items

Diving Equipment		
Action	Responsible	Target
Issue a reminder to review the proposed changes to DESIGN	Dave Slater	
Draft revised text for D023	Dave Slater / Mike Jessop	
Expand the D077 work group Terms of Reference	Dave Slater	
Diver Training / CPD		
Action	Responsible	Target
DDMC members to liaise with Katie Kidd on any topics/safety flashes that may be deemed suitable for the diving supervisors' CPD app	DDMC	Ongoing
Set up a permanent diver training and certification subcommittee	Ali Macleod	Q1 2026
Review the proposal for 30m offshore diving qualification within the new diver training and certification subcommittee	Ali Macleod	Q2 2026
Diving Medicine		
-	-	-
Other		
Consult with Martin Yarrow to clarify and update the guidance on the datum point for umbilical measurement in D078	Simon Binsted	Q1 2026
Set up sub-committees, workgroups as required to deliver 2026's scopes of work.	Chilton / Macleod / Slater / Keighly / Kidd	Q1 2026

13 Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at IMCA's offices in London on Wednesday 04 March 2026 at 0900hrs local time.

	Simon J Binsted	4-March-2026
Signed as a true record	Name	Date

Action	Responsible	Target
Equipment		
Working group for duration of lung powered scrubbers: TOR agreed. Next meeting likely Q4 2024. JFD conducted the first test on the ELPS and identified some issues with the test protocols. The results will be discussed at the next D077 work group meeting. Additionally, there were some issues with getting a gas supply to NUI, which have now been resolved.	SB/DS	Ongoing
Duplication of testing requirements: Current practice of duplicating testing requirements throughout the DESIGN documentation suite which has introduced significant challenges in maintaining uniform testing standards. Provide examples of what this would look like at next DDMC meeting	DS	Q4 2024
Lifting and Rigging Terminology: IMCA Information Note 1665 to be updated to explain that both SWL / WLL will be acceptable to IMCA in the interim period (suggested 12 months but clarify with IMCA's lifting and rigging committee). ADSIs to be informed of update – Ongoing	DS	Q4 2024
Updates to D040 and D023 to reflect evolution of daughter craft diving vessels: Explanatory note in D015 (mobile/portable/daughter craft surface supplied systems) required.	SB	Q4 2024
D077 Guidance on prevention and mitigation of lost bell emergencies: Update to include guidance on actions divers should take in this scenario. TFMC to provide checklist, DS to update document for comment - Open but actioned	AB/DS	Q3 2025
D064 Guidance on Diving Cylinder and Valve thread Compatibility: D064 to be updated to clarify exactly what it is applicable to and what it is not applicable to	DS	Q3 2025
Training		
Wet Bell Training: Defining the Parameters: DDMC agreed that as long as suitable training exercises were undertaken then depth of wet bell was immaterial. Ali Macleod to assist with details of training exercises when required.	AM	Ongoing