

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s Diving Division Management Committee held on 4 March 2026 from 9am GMT at IMCA office, London and via Microsoft Teams

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	Mar 2026	Mmm-Y	Mmm-Y	This
Simon Binsted	Subsea7	Attended	N/A	N/A	N/A
Andy Butler	Boskalis	Attended			
Darren Brunton	KBA	Attended			
Sean Brunton	McDermotts	Apologies			
Marizio Chimes	Saipem	Attended			
Leo Duran	Oceanica	Attended			
Steve Ginn	DOF	Attended			
Chris Horn	Helix Well Ops UK	Attended			
Ian Hughes	OEG	Attended			
Mike Jessop	OSC Marine	Attended			
David Scott	TFMC	Attended			
Adriaen Winckers	OEG	Attended			
Marni Zabarsky	Aqueous	Attended			

Legend: ✔ Attended ✔ Part-Time S Substitute ✉ Apologies Absent N/A

Also present or joining via videoconference were:

Bill Chilton	IMCA	Diving Manager
Ali MacLeod	IMCA	Technical Advisor
David Slater	IMCA	Technical Advisor
Kester Keighley	IMCA	Technical Advisor
Katie Kidd	IMCA	Assistant Technical Advisor
Gavin Anthony	IMCA	Diving Consultant
Steve Sheppard	IMCA	Diving Consultant

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 Meet the new IMCA secretariat members

The committee were introduced to the new IMCA secretariat members; Jo Deal, Mark Holmes and Josh Purnell.

Jamie and Iain provided a comprehensive update on IMCA's strategic direction, including the development of a five-year strategy, prioritization of technical pillars (diving, DP, ROV), governance restructuring, and the introduction of new leadership roles, with input and support from the DDMC and other committee members. IMCA Diving Manager and DDMC Chair to present at the Board meeting on the 18th March.

5 Discussion of recent diving safety-related incidents

The committee discussed recent diving-related safety incidents, discussed root causes, corrective actions, and the importance of education and guidance updates, with contributions from multiple members on incident investigations and risk mitigation.

6 Review of progress with actions from previous meeting

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 Update on 2026 Objectives

7.1 Refresh Accredited Dive System Inspector Scheme

At the previous meeting, it was noted that the ADSI scheme has not been performing effectively. Since then, two training institutions—NHC and Interdive—have applied to begin offering the courses. The NHC course was approved and will begin teaching soon. Interdive have been asked to make some changes and resubmit.

The primary concern remains ensuring that participants acquire the requisite experience. It is anticipated that NHC's systems and in-house supervision will help with this. The situation will continue to be monitored closely.

DDMC

7.2 IMCA D0XX *Diving operations in support of decommissioning and dismantling projects*

The decommissioning and diving document is undergoing final drafting based on operator feedback, with a section on NORM and various other topics being added. The document has been circulated for DDMC review with a one-month comment period before publication.

Bill Chilton

7.3 IMCA D041 *Batteries in hyperbaric conditions*

Following Gavin's presentation at the previous meeting a document has been drafted and reviewed. Feedback has been taken onboard and a second draft is now ready for DDMC review and approval before publication.

Gavin Anthony/Steve Sheppard/Dave Slater

7.4 IMCA D0XX *Diver / ROV simultaneous operations (SIMOPS)*

IMCA ROV team will be taking the lead on looking at diver / ROV SIMOPS. Dave Slater will be the diving secretariat focal point and will pull in resources from DDMC and the wider industry as required. Dave requested that the committee provide any relevant documentation relating to this be uploaded to the SharePoint site.

Dave Slater/ROV team

7.5 Loop currents and solitons

The updated information has been drafted and is out for DDMC review. It was noted that it would be valuable to share this with operators for their comments. This was approved by DDMC. The work produced will be either be added to IMCA D067 *The effects of underwater current on diver performance and safety* or housed in a standalone document.

Dave Slater

7.6 D045 *Safe use of electricity underwater*

A working group has been approved by IMCA's COO to review D045 *Safe use of electricity underwater* following Serica's presentation/comments last year. Steve Sheppard will be the secretariat focal point for this. Various DDMC members have nominated specialists from their respective organisations to assist.

Steve Sheppard

7.7 Diving emergency drills

Kester Keighly will be reviewing current guidance and proposing potential ways forward (i.e. new document or revise existing documents). This has been covered in at least two CPD modules so material from those can be used as a starting point.

Kester Keighley

7.8 Mental fitness to dive

Katie is looking at mental fitness to dive and considering whether this should be a standalone document or included within D061. It was noted that D061 was due for review and now would be a good time to do this.

A mental fitness module was released as a CPD module in unit 1 2026.

Katie Kidd

7.9 Inclusive Diving Operation workgroup (Is current IMCA guidance fit for purpose?)

The inclusive offshore diving operations work group has been formed. The purpose of this work group is not to produce a stand alone document but to review the current guidance and make sure that it is suitable for all. It was noted that it might be worth involving a military representative within the group.

Marni Zabarsky/Ali Macleod

7.10 IMCA DOXX Recovery of an incapacitated diver during closed bell diving operations

IMCA DOXX Recovery of an incapacitated diver during closed bell diving operations was first drafted 12 years ago but never issued. This document is to be updated following recent trials and operational feedback. A work group will be formed to review this. The introduction of new recovery hoists and associated operational documents was noted.

Ali Macleod/Katie Kidd/DDMC tbc

7.11 IMCA DOXX IMO Code for Diving – An Explanatory Guide

It was noted that although getting the 2023 Diving Code was a significant achievement, the wider industry are uncertain about what was involved. A simplified guide to the code was suggested. Mike Jessop and Andy Butler noted a good deal of work pertaining to this matter had been completed. An action to complete and publish this document was raised.

Bill Chilton

8 Diving Equipment Issues

8.1 Proposed annual revision to DESIGN suite / D018 Q1 2026

Updates to the DESIGN suite have delays due to additional issues that were found concerning detail sheet 32. Meetings will be arranged to discuss these issues.

DDMC also discussed the updates to lifting and rigging terminology in technical documents, referencing IN1665 for definitions and ensuring alignment with class society and IMO standards. DDMC members were encouraged to review and provide feedback before final publication.

8.2 LARs systems with smaller basket for standby

DDMC members were requested to comment on the proposed updated wording. Following this discussion it was noted that anything in the pre-read that requires a decision should be highlighted in bold to indicate the expectation.

DDMC members

8.3 D077 lung powered scrubbers workgroup update

The D077 workgroup has closed; Dave thanked everyone for their contributions. During completion of this scope of work, issues regarding thermal balance workgroup were raised, and the workgroup requested that a new workgroup be created to assess the issues relating to this.

Dave Slater/Bill Chilton

8.4 Lift bag inverter lines

A number of Member companies had received a significant number of challenges as to how they managed the application of inverter lines within their operations, namely the application of the 1.5 x SWL of the Air Lift Bag. The committee was presented with the original data sets used by an Air Lift Bag Manufacturer and the minutes of a meeting held in Aberdeen and online on the 25th Feb 2026, where a group of industry stakeholders convened to discuss the issue. The outcome of that meeting was to draft a revised text on Lift Bags to clarify the intent of the guidance on inverter lines within the IMCA D016 document.

It was decided that this did not require a formal work group but would be drafted by the group who attended the 25th Feb 2016 meeting and presented to DDMC for consideration.

S.Binsted / A Butler

9 Diver Training Issues

Ali raised concerns about the recognition of experienced diver competency assessments (EDCA) conducted by external organisations, questioning the equivalence of their standards to IMCA's requirements. A meeting with various stakeholders leadership teams will be arranged to clarify prerequisites and assessment quality.

Ali Macleod

IMCA received a complaint regarding inappropriate language in training materials, prompting a warning to all schools to review and update their content. The importance of maintaining professional standards and the existence of a complaints procedure were emphasised.

No DDMC action. Being handled by IMCA complaints

The committee discussed the formation of the diver training sub-committee to review course submissions, handle disputes, and ensure robust oversight of training quality. Experienced trainers from various regions will be invited to participate and terms of reference are being developed.

Ali Macleod

10 Liaison with other organisations / meetings / events

IDIF

Following the conflict in the middle east IDIF is currently looking for alternative venues for the next meeting. The committee discussed the value of continued participation in the IDIF forum, citing a lack of outcomes and imbalance in chairing and agenda-setting. Suggestions were made to reset the forum, involve new stakeholders (e.g. G+), and rotate leadership roles to restore balance and effectiveness.

DMAC

Ali described the ongoing review of DMAC documents, with the inclusion of version history. The next meeting will be held on 8th May at DEEP Campus.

11 Any Other Business

Use of wet bell required for mixed gas diving

The following question was raised: Is the use of a wet bell required for mixed gas diving, or is it necessary only when diving deeper than 50 meters? Following discussion it was concluded that IMCA guidance is clear that if using mixed gas a wet bell is required.

Proposal for IMCA as certifying organisation

Bill presented a proposal for IMCA to directly certify diving qualifications, citing issues with mutual recognition arrangements and the proliferation of substandard training. The committee discussed the implications, including regulatory acceptance, resource requirements and the need for DDMC support. This will be presented by Simon Binsted and Bill Chilton at IMCA board meeting in March 2026.

Future DDMC meetings

The committee discussed the importance of keeping the DDMC meetings in person as opposed to one face to face meeting and three online.

Crane communication requirements

The committee discussed the requirement for hardwired communications between diving supervisors and crane operators. The group agreed to update guidance to reflect that hardwired comms are preferred where possible, but wireless is acceptable with appropriate risk assessment aligning with IMO code.

Dave Slater/DESC

12 Summary of Action Items

What	Who	When
<p>IMCA DOXX <i>Diving operations in support of decommissioning and dismantling projects</i></p> <p>The decommissioning and diving document is undergoing final drafting based on operator feedback, with a section on NORM and various other topics being added. The document has been circulated for DDMC review with a one-month comment period before publication.</p>	Bill Chilton	Publication by Q2 2026

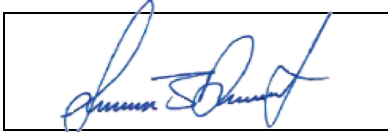
<p>IMCA D041 Batteries in hyperbaric conditions Following Gavin's presentation at the previous meeting a document has been drafted and reviewed. Feedback has been taken onboard and a second draft is now ready for DDMC review and approval before publication.</p>	Gavin Anthony, Steve Sheppard, Dave Slater	Q2 2026
<p>IMCA D0XX Diver / ROV simultaneous operations (SIMOPS) IMCA ROV team will be taking the lead on looking at diver / ROV SIMOPS. Dave Slater will be the diving secretariat focal point and will pull in resources from DDMC and the wider industry as required. Dave requested that the committee provide any relevant documentation relating to this be uploaded to the SharePoint site.</p>	Dave Slater / ROV Team	Q4 2026
<p>Loop currents and solitons The updated information has been drafted and is out for DDMC review. It was noted that it would be valuable to share this with operators for their comments. This was approved by DDMC. The work produced will be either be added to IMCA D067 <i>The effects of underwater current on diver performance and safety</i> or housed in a standalone document.</p>	Dave Slater	Q2 2026
<p>D045 Safe use of electricity underwater A working group has been approved by IMCA's COO to review D045 <i>Safe use of electricity underwater</i> following Serica's presentation/comments last year. Steve Sheppard will be the secretariat focal point for this. Various DDMC members have nominated specialists from their respective organisations to assist.</p>	Steve Sheppard	Q3 2026
<p>Diving emergency drills Kester Keighly will be reviewing current guidance and proposing potential ways forward (i.e. new document or revise existing documents). This has been covered in at least two CPD modules so material from those can be used as a starting point.</p>	Kester Keighley	Q4 2026
<p>Mental fitness to dive Katie is looking at mental fitness to dive and considering whether this should be a standalone document or included within D061. It was noted that D061 was due for review and now would be a good time to do this. A mental fitness module was released as a CPD module in unit 1 2026.</p>	Katie Kidd	Q4 2026
<p>Inclusive Diving Operation workgroup (Is current IMCA guidance fit for purpose?) The inclusive offshore diving operations work group has been formed. The purpose of this work group is not to</p>	Marni Zabarsky / Ali Macleod	Q4 2026

<p>produce a stand alone document but to review the current guidance and make sure that it is suitable for all. It was noted that it might be worth involving a military representative within the group.</p>		
<p>IMCA DOXX Recovery of an incapacitated diver during closed bell diving operations IMCA DOXX <i>Recovery of an incapacitated diver during closed bell diving operations</i> was first drafted 12 years ago but never issued. This document is to be updated following recent trials and operational feedback. A work group will be formed to review this. The introduction of new recovery hoists and associated operational documents was noted.</p>	<p>Ali Macleod / Katie Kidd / DDMC tbc</p>	<p>Q4 2026</p>
<p>IMCA DOXX IMO Code for Diving – An Explanatory Guide It was noted that although getting the 2023 Diving Code was a significant achievement, the wider industry are uncertain about what was involved. A simplified guide to the code was suggested. Mike Jessop and Andy Butler noted a good deal of work pertaining to this matter had been completed. An action to complete and publish this document was raised.</p>	<p>Bill Chilton</p>	<p>Q3 2026</p>
<p>LARs systems with smaller basket for standby DDMC members were requested to comment on the proposed updated wording. Following this discussion it was noted that anything in the pre-read that requires a decision should be highlighted in bold to indicate the expectation.</p>	<p>IMCA Secretariat / DDMC</p>	<p>Q2 2026</p>
<p>D077 lung powered scrubbers workgroup update The D077 workgroup has closed; Dave thanked everyone for their contributions. During completion of this scope of work, issues regarding thermal balance workgroup were raised, and the workgroup requested that a new workgroup be created to assess the issues relating to this.</p>	<p>Dave Slater / Bill Chilton</p>	<p>Q2 2026</p>
<p>Lift bag inverter lines A number of Member companies had received a significant number of challenges as to how they managed the application of inverter lines within their operations, namely the application of the 1.5 x SWL of the Air Lift Bag. The committee was presented with the original data sets used by an Air Lift Bag Manufacturer and the minutes of a meeting held in Aberdeen and online on the 25th Feb 2026, where a group of industry stakeholders convened to discuss the issue. The outcome of that meeting was to draft a revised text on Lift Bags to clarify the intent of the</p>	<p>Simon Binsted / Andy Butler</p>	<p>Q2 2026</p>

<p>guidance on inverter lines within the IMCA D016 document.</p> <p>It was decided that this did not require a formal work group but would be drafted by the group who attended the 25th Feb 2016 meeting and presented to DDMC for consideration.</p>		
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<p>The committee discussed the formation of the diver training sub-committee to review course submissions, handle disputes, and ensure robust oversight of training quality. Experienced trainers from various regions will be invited to participate and terms of reference are being developed.</p>	Ali Macleod	Q2 2026
<p>Crane communication requirements The committee discussed the requirement for hardwired communications between diving supervisors and crane operators. The group agreed to update guidance to reflect that hardwired comms are preferred where possible, but wireless is acceptable with appropriate risk assessment aligning with IMO code</p>	DESC / Dave Slater / Mike Jessop	Q3 2026

13 Date and Location of Next Meetings

Next meeting 3rd June 2026 at the IMCA office, London.



Signed as a true record

Simon J Binsted

Name

3-June-2026

Date