

Minutes of a meeting of the Association's MASS Committee
held on 16 September 2025 from 1300hrs UTC +1 via videoconference

Committee Members	
Name	Company
Gary Sanders (C)	Ocean Infinity
Dan Stoyle (VC)	BP
Graeme Russell	TechnipFMC
Lucas Marino	Petrobras
Torsten Marten	UTEC
Raimund Bjordal	Equinor
Nicolas Chasiotis	Allseas
Kristian Breidfjord	Reach Subsea
Shepard Smith	XOcean
Mohammad Saslia	Safeen Subsea
Peter Solvang	DP Marine
Richard Purser	IMCA
Jennifer Evans	IMCA
Margaret Fitzgerald	IMCA
Jim Cullen	IMCA
Argiro Bell	IMCA

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 Apologies for Absence and Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were recorded, with the latest meeting attendance now as follows:

Name	Company	Committee Meeting Attendance				
		Feb 2024	July 2024	Feb 2025	May 2025	Sept 2025
Gary Sanders (C)	Ocean Infinity	Substitute	Absent	Attended	Attended	Attended
Dan Stoyle (VC)	BP	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Absent
Graeme Russell	TechnipFMC	Attended	Absent	Attended	Absent	Attended
Lucas Marino	Petrobras	Absent	Absent	Absent	Attended	Attended
Torsten Marten	UTEC	Absent	Absent	Attended	Attended	Attended
Raimund Bjordal	Equinor	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Nicolas Chasiotis	Allseas	Attended	Absent	Attended	Attended	Attended
Kristian Breidfjord	Reach Subsea	Attended	Absent	Attended	Attended	Absent
Shepard Smith	XOcean	Attended	Attended	Absent	Absent	Absent
Mohammad Saslia	Safeen Subsea			Attended	Attended	Absent
Peter Solvang	DP Marine			Attended	Attended	Attended

2.1 Apologies for Absence

Absentees were noted.

2.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held in May 2025 were agreed and will be duly signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

3 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting (DP & Marine Combined)

- ◆ Finalise and publish USV Inspection Feedback Document (August 2025)
- ◆ Attend and present at Sea-Works event (June 2025)
- ◆ M257 to be reviewed (December 2025)
- ◆ Begin exploration for a 2026 IMCA MASS Event (September 2025)
- ◆ Define USV DP classification standards (initial draft/discussion) (September 2025)

4 Updates from IMO

- ◆ Margaret reported that the draft IMO MASS Code is nearly complete except for Chapter 15 on personnel, with a dedicated session planned to finalise it and a four-year non-mandatory experience-building phase to follow.
- ◆ The committee noted that the code primarily targets convention-sized/type cargo vessels (500 GT and above), with limited direct applicability to smaller USVs, and that national administrations may adapt or directly adopt the code for smaller vessels. Members expressed concern that some flag states may apply the code indiscriminately to all vessel sizes/type, potentially leading to inappropriate requirements for special craft, and Margaret encouraged reporting specific issues as they arise.
- ◆ Margaret clarified that the MASS code is supplementary to existing conventions like SOLAS and COLREGs, and does not override them, emphasizing the need for credible evidence to support any proposed changes during the experience-building phase.

5 Work Programme

5.1 Update of USV Working Group

- ◆ The committee discussed the recent publication of two USV inspection documents and an information note, with Adam leading the integration of guidance into ECMID, and the group agreed to gather feedback during an experience-building phase.
- ◆ *Document Publication Status:* Richard confirmed that two USV inspection documents have been published, and Adam converted a third guidance note into an information note, with the intention to integrate it into the main ECMID guidance for unified use.
- ◆ The committee will act as content custodians; operational aspects to be coordinated with the eCMID committee/IMS team
- ◆ USV working group will now be closed.

Action: USV Work Group

5.2 Review of M257

- ◆ The committee agreed to prioritise the review of document M257.
- ◆ The committee decided that the review of M257 will be handled by existing committee members, with the option to involve additional organisational representatives as needed.
- ◆ A tentative timeline was set to complete the review by the end of December 2025, with ongoing collaboration and sharing of the document via the Teams share folder.

5.3 IMCA MASS Event 2026

- ◆ Richard proposed integrating MASS topics into the 2027 DP conference, dedicating a half-day to MASS issues to reflect the growing overlap between DP and MASS operations.

5.4 Collaborations

- ◆ The committee agreed to leverage existing industry events for MASS-related presentations and networking, with plans to attend and report back from the North Sea Symposium and potential slots at Mass at Moorgate.

Action: IMCA

6 Any Other Business

6.1 DP Classification and Use in USVs

- ◆ Ongoing ambiguity where vessels use DP functionality without DP class notation.
- ◆ View expressed that class notation should remain the threshold for applying the ECMID DP Supplement; otherwise use the USV CMID with appropriate assurance.
- ◆ Client risk appetite often dictates requirements; smaller USVs may be treated as workboats (lower collision energy), larger USVs may attract DP/class expectations.
- ◆ Terminology: prefer “dynamic station keeping” when describing USV behaviours to avoid confusion with DP class notations

6.2 Training and Competence Standards for Remote Operations

- ◆ The committee discussed the current state of training and competence standards for remote operators and technicians, referencing frameworks like MGN 703 and DNV 0324, and highlighted the lack of a global standard while sharing approaches to in-house and simulator-based training.
- ◆ *Existing Frameworks:* Participants referenced MGN 703 as the main recognised framework in the UK, with some organisations developing in-house training aligned with DNV 0324 for remote operator competence.
- ◆ *Simulator and Practical Training:* The committee discussed the use of digital twins, simulators, and partnerships with training centres to provide practical experience.
- ◆ *Approval and Accreditation:* It was noted that flag state approval is often required for training programmes, and the MCA is encouraging operators to seek accreditation under MGN 703, regardless of USV size.

6.3 AUV and USV Inspection Document Overlap

- ♦ Richard suggested that future document revisions may combine AUV and USV inspection requirements, possibly through annexes or supplements, to streamline audit processes and address hybrid operational scenarios.

Action: IMCA/Committee

7 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
Collect and review field feedback on the newly published USV inspection documents (layout, content, application)	Committee	Ongoing
Define grandfathering criteria and minimum experience for AVIs conducting USV/ROV inspections; coordinate with IMS	eCMID/IIMS	Ongoing
Level 1 Autonomy Audit Threshold, possible caveat	Committee/IMCA	
Review & update M257 (incorporate MASS/DP interfaces, lessons from experience phase)	Committee/IMCA	Q1 2026
DP Classification Guidance for USVs	Committee/IMCA	Ongoing

8 Date and location of next meetings

December 2025 (date TBC)

Signed as a true record	Name	Date