

Minutes of a meeting of the Association's Diving Division Management Committee held on 3 September 2025 from 09:00 – 16:00 IMCA Office London 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
Gavin Anthony	Diving Consultant	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 attendance

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

Name	Company	Feb 20	Jun 20	Sep 20	Nov 20
Simon Binsted	Subsea 7 (Chair)	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Andy Butler	Boskalis (Vice Chair)	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Darren Brunton	KB Associates	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Sean Brunton	McDermott	Apologies	Attended	Attended	
Maurizio Chimes	Saipem	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Leo Duran	Ocea ni ca	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Steve Ginn	DOF Group	Apologies	Attended	Attended	
Chris Horn	Helix	N/A	N/A	Attended	
Ian Hughes	HSS	Attended	Apologies	Attended	
Mike Jessop	OSC Marine	Attended	Attended	Attended	
David Scott	TFMC	N/A	N/A	Attended	
Steve Sheppard	Helix	Attended	Attended	N/A	
Adriaen Winckers	Bluestream	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Marni Zarbarsky	Aqueos	Attended	Attended	Attended	

Legend:

☒ Attended
 ☒ Part-Time
 ☒ S Substitute
 ☒ Apologies
 ☒ Absent
 ☒ N/A

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. Simon Binsted to share translated copy of NORMAM 222.
2	Complete the review of the current IDRCF internationally recognised Bell Diver Training Standards. (Ongoing from 2024).	Document is now complete and out for final review.
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 June 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).	Draft document to be updated following DDMC comments before final review
6	Resolve lifting terminology issues update DESIGN suite of documents to reflect changes (Q4 2025).	Ongoing
8	Review, update and publishing of D022 Guidance for Diving Supervisors (Q3 2025).	Document in final review stages

6 Review of progress with actions from previous meeting (18th June 2025)

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

The following points were discussed:

6.1 Investigation of Fraudulent Diving Certificates

Darren explained that TMJ International in Batam had been issuing fake certificates, including those bearing IMCA and ADAS logos, to Indonesian divers who paid significant sums without attending training. Some individuals managed to convert these certificates into recognised qualifications through a crossover scheme.

Discussion included the need for improved due diligence by certification bodies and employers, as some certificates were accepted in error before being retracted. The group acknowledged the challenge of verifying training histories and the importance of robust cross-checking.

Ali Macleod and Katie Kidd to review Darren's evidence and develop a plan for further action.

Ali Macleod and Katie Kidd

6.2 Medical Examiner Qualifications and Training

The committee discussed concerns regarding the maintenance and renewal of medical examiner qualifications, regional differences in training and the need for improved communication and local champions to ensure ongoing competence. It was agreed to raise these issues with DMAC, consider adding footnotes to regional lists, and explore ways to improve communication and support for medical examiners globally.

7 Diving Equipment Issues

7.1 Update on diving equipment sub-committee (DESC)

Dave Slater gave an update on the diving equipment sub-committee.

- A new action tracker system is being developed, including a QR code for members to submit issues directly. The subcommittee is working with IT to establish a collaborative workspace and streamline the review and notification process.
- All equipment issues raised by members are logged, reviewed, and discussed by the subcommittee, with recommendations brought to the DDMC for ratification. No changes are made to documents without committee approval.
- The subcommittee is focusing on improving industry standards, clarifying equipment requirements, and enhancing communication tools. Updates to terminology and document structure are ongoing, with plans to better communicate changes to the wider industry.

Inward Opening Medical locks

Two options for updating the DESIGN documents regarding inward opening / square medical locks were considered. The committee agreed to adopt option one, supplemented with a clarifying note from option two, to ensure clear guidance on when interlocks are required.

Dave Slater / DESC

Role of an Auditor during a DESIGN Audit

- It was agreed that guidance on the auditor's role should be incorporated directly into IMCA D011, rather than as a separate appendix or information note, to ensure visibility and ease of reference.

Dave Slater / DESC

Bell Diving Diver Gas Supply Issue with Terminology in Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note (DESIGN)

- The committee discussed whether to retain prescriptive requirements for secondary motors on bell winches or move towards a system-level, goal-based approach, considering both classed and unclassified systems.
- The current IMCA guidance differs between surface supplied and saturation diving, with a prescriptive requirement for a secondary motor in saturation systems. The rationale for this requirement is unclear, and some class societies are moving towards system-level safety assessments.
- The group agreed to draft a proposal for a goal-based requirement, allowing for alternative means of recovery, and to circulate this for further discussion within the sub-committee before finalising any changes.

Dave Slater/DESC

7.2 IMCA D016 (Lift bags) challenges

- Simon Binsted has continued to work on the challenges from clients regarding air lift bags. Simon provided a summary of his investigation to Bill Chilton.
- There will be a common folder set up for members to share company pre-inflation checklists and related information for the D016 document review

Simon Binsted/Bill Chilton/DDMC

7.3 GPS Jamming in UAE

- Sean Brunton mentioned an investigation into the loss of DP during the conflict in the middle east and he would share

8 Update / Discussion on:

8.1 Issues pertaining to offshore medics in North Sea and challenges from UK HSE

Adriaen Winckers reported that the UK HSE audit raised a finding requiring an offshore medic onboard. Bluestream have challenged this and HSE have sought legal advice. Adriaen will meet with HSE to discuss, and IMCA secretariat may get involved if needed.

Adriaen Winckers / Bill Chilton

8.2 IMCA D041 Use of battery operated equipment in hyperbaric conditions

Gavin Anthony presented a comprehensive review of current and historical guidance on the use of battery-operated equipment in hyperbaric environments, highlighting technological advances, industry practices, and the need for pragmatic, up-to-date recommendations.

With oversight from Dave Slater and the assistance of Steve Sheppard Gavin will revise IMCA's guidance, aiming to balance safety, practicality, and technological realities. The Committee agreed to provide feedback and support the drafting process. To be added to 2026 objectives.

Gavin Anthony / Steve Sheppard / Dave Slater

9 Diver Training Issues

9.1 IMCA Experienced Diver Competency Assessments

A draft of the new procedure, *IMCA D0XX Experienced Diver Competency Assessment (EDCA) of Surface Supplied and Closed Bell / Saturation Divers and Life Support Technicians*, was sent to the committee for comments in August 2025. The committee discussed points of contention which will be updated and circulated for final review.

Bill Chilton

9.2 General Update on Diver Training

Ali Macleod provided an update on diver training which included discussing a recent audit of CDA in Tasmania. The committee discussed the lack of progress from PDA and suggested reopening conversations with them, especially as the Deep have moved forward with their plans.

Bill Chilton / Ali Macleod

9.3 Release of Diving CPD Mix app

The CPD mix app is now available to anyone with a working interest in commercial diving, with users able to select content of interest from the full catalogue with no restrictions or completion requirements. It was noted that there is a discount for bulk orders.

10 Liaison with other organisations / meetings / events

10.1 IMCA global summit break out session: Diving workshop

The committee discussed upcoming presentations at the global summit. After a conversation with Petronas Darren suggested alternative sponsorship models for operators in Malaysia such as co-hosting or collaborating, to facilitate approval and increase industry support. Agreed that this would be passed on to the IMCA comms team.

Katie Kidd

10.2 Bergen Diving Seminar (w/c 03 November 2025)

Info. No action required

10.3 Underwater Intervention, New Orleans IDIF/DDMC Meeting (December 2025)

Info. No action required

10.4 IDIF meeting April 2026 Bahrain (date tbc)

Info. No action required

10.5 ADCI UWSH Seminar Panama City, Panama (14 October 2025)

Bill Chilton will be presenting.

Bill Chilton

11 Any other business

11.1 2026 Objectives: Soft reboot of Accredited Diving System Inspector

The committee discussed the relaunch of the ADSI scheme next year including developing an interactive map showing ADSI locations worldwide and reviewing the scheme's questions and objectives.

11.2 Industry 'hot topic document' Ideas for 2026

The committee discussed ideas for 2026, these included:

- Decommissioning guidance
- Updating Diving in anchor patterns to include loop currents
- ROV SIMOPs – this was following a contractor member incident where the diver was using an ROV as a taxi. A working group for 2026 was proposed to review this.
- Re-write use of batteries in hyperbaric conditions

11.3 Tim Chesshire's fatality spreadsheet

With Tim Chesshire looking to retire it has been under discussion that IMCA maintain his fatality database. IMCA would plan to automate data collection and make the database searchable, subject to board approval and GDPR considerations. It was suggested that the database become proactive rather than reactive and reach out to industry and beyond to encourage reporting of fatalities.

Bill Chilton / Jim Cullen

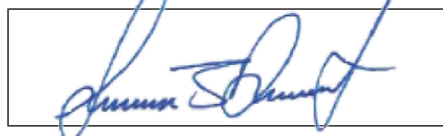
12 Summary of new action items

Diving Equipment		
Action	Responsible	Target
Inward opening medical locks: Adopt option one, supplemented with a clarifying note from option two, to ensure clear guidance on when interlocks are required.	Dave Slater	Q4 2025
Guidance on the auditor's role should be incorporated directly into IMCA D011, rather than as a separate appendix or information note, to ensure visibility and ease of reference.	Dave Slater/DESC	Q4 2025

Motors on LARS: Draft a proposal for a goal-based requirement, allowing for alternative means of recovery, and to circulate this for further discussion within the sub-committee before finalising any changes.	Dave Slater/DESC	Q4 2025
Lift bags: Online repository to be set up for members to share company pre-inflation checklists and related information for the D016 document review	Bill Chilton	Q3 2025
Share results of recent GPS jamming in Middle East investigation	Sean Brunton	Q4 2025
Diver Training / CPD		
Action	Responsible	Target
Finalise EDCA document for DDMC review/permission to publish	Bill Chilton	Q4 2025
TMJ fraudulent certs: Review Darren's evidence and develop a plan for further action.	Ali Macleod / Katie Kidd	Q4 2025
Diving Medicine		
Maintenance and renewal of medical examiner qualifications	Ali Macleod	Q4 2025
Other		
Create online repository for information pertaining to diver / ROV SIMOPs. DDMC members to add company policies/procedures on this on this. Speak to ROV division with regard to joint document in 2026	Dave Slater / DDMC / Bill Chilton	Q3 2025
Create online repository for information pertaining to batteries in hyperbaric conditions. DDMC to add company policies	Bill Chilton / DDMC	Q3 2025
Bluestream v HSE regarding offshore medics. Wait for HSE response then determine way forward	Adriaen Winckers / Bill Chilton	Q3 2025
Alternative sponsorship models for Global Summit – make events team aware	Katie Kidd	Q3 2025

13 Date and location of next meetings

2nd December 2025, 0900hrs, Residence Inn, New Orleans



Simon Binsted

12 Dec 2025

Signed as a true record

Name

Date

Review of progress with actions from previous meeting

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
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