

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s MASS Committee held on 25 February 2025 from 14:00 via videoconference

1 Competition law compliance policy

The IMCA Competition Law Compliance Policy was acknowledged by all attendees.

2 Welcome and apologies for absence and Minutes of the previous meeting

Gary Sanders was introduced as the new Chair of the committee.

New Joiners: Introductions were made by Peter Solvang and Mohammad Saslia, who shared their professional backgrounds in marine operations

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	February 2025
Eric Primeau	BP / IOG,	✓ Attended	✓ Attended	✉ Apologies
Dan Stoye	BP	✓ Attended	✉ Apologies	✓ Attended
Graeme Russell	TechnipFMC	✓ Attended	✓ Attended	✓ Attended
Lucas Marino	Petrobras	Absent	Absent	Absent
Torsten Marten	UTEK	✓ Attended	✓ Attended	✓ Attended
Raimund Bjordal	Equinor	✓ Attended	Absent	✓ Attended
Nicolas Chasiotis	Allseas	✓ Attended	✓ Attended	✓ Attended
Gary Sanders	Ocean Infinity	S Substitute	Absent	✓ Attended
Kristian Breidfjord	Reach Subsea	✓ Attended	Absent	✓ Attended
Mohammad Saslia	Safeen Subsea			✓ Attended
Peter Solvang	DP Marine			✓ Attended

IMCA Secretariat Attendance:

Richard Purser
 Jim Cullen
 Margaret Fitzgerald

3 Approval of the minutes

The minutes from the July 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Items Review: Richard noted that a meeting with Charles from the Marshall Islands is still pending.

4 IMO

4.1 MASS Code Development:

- Margaret Fitzgerald provided an update on the IMO's work regarding the goal-based instrument for maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS).
- The Marshall Islands is leading the work and actively engaging with IMCA.
- A non-mandatory code will be published in 2028, with a mandatory version expected in 2032.

4.2 Industry Feedback:

- Margaret Fitzgerald stressed the urgency of industry engagement in shaping the MASS code before it becomes mandatory in 2032.
- Chapter 23 – Search & Rescue:
 - MASS vessels may be required to assist in search and rescue (SAR) operations.
 - Industry needs to determine how autonomous vessels will fulfil SAR duties.
- Delegation of Master's Duties:
 - Ongoing discussions on whether Remote Operations Centre (ROC) personnel need to be qualified Masters.
 - Legal & liability issues remain unresolved.
- STCW Revision:
 - A working group is being formed to discuss MASS-related training and competency frameworks.
 - Debate continues on whether MASS training should be included in STCW or a separate MASS Code.

5 Objectives

The committee agreed to finalize 2025 objectives before the next IMCA board meeting on March 19, 2025.

- Long-term Planning: Developing and overseeing IMCA's strategic initiatives to support the marine contracting industry.
 - Document Development – what is required
 - Onboard automation – where/how far – Industrial Mission
- Industry Engagement: Strengthening IMCA's influence within the sector by aligning the association's goals with industry trends and challenges.
- Policy and Advocacy: Ensuring IMCA remains a key voice in regulatory and industry discussions, helping members navigate evolving global standards
 - Engage with Education Establishments
 - R&D – How can we help push?

The objectives will include document development, industry engagement, and regulatory advocacy.

6 Conference & Meeting Reports

- **MASS at Moorgate 2024:** Updates were shared on key takeaways from the Moorgate event.
- **Autonomous Ships 2024 (Copenhagen):** Key discussions on regulatory challenges and industry adoption were summarised.

7 Work Programme

7.1 Deliverables for 2025

- Focus will be placed on refining MASS industry standards and inspection documentation

7.2 Redundancy Guidance

- A need for clear redundancy guidelines for MASS operations was identified

7.3 MASS & DP Operations

- IMCA's DP guidance does not currently support remote DP operations.
- Committee will work with the DP Committee to explore remote DP competency frameworks.

Action: IMCA/Committee

7.4 USV Inspection Documents

- Peter Solvang provided feedback on the draft USV inspection documents, noting the need for further refinements, a meeting to be set up between Peter and Trevor Pugh to refine further.

Action: IMCA

7.5 AUV Safe Use Guidelines

- Graeme Russell proposed developing AUV Safe Use Guidelines due to crossover with USV operations

8 Collaborations

- Engagement with Universities: The potential for collaboration with Southampton University for research and development was discussed.
- Exploring IMCA-sponsored R&D initiatives or student competitions related to MASS.

Action: IMCA/Committee

9 Any Other Business

Discussion on improving industry engagement and gathering feedback on standardisation efforts.

November Event Proposal: A one-day MASS workshop in November was proposed, potentially aligning with the MASS at Moorgate event.

Action: IMCA/Committee

9.1 Face-to-Face Meeting Proposal

- Jim Cullen suggested that the committee should organize an in-person meeting in 2025.
- Gary Sanders offered to host it in Southampton.
- Torsten Marten recommended aligning it with an existing industry event to improve attendance and justify travel costs

Action: IMCA/Committee

9.2 Regulatory and Documentation Challenges

- Discussion on USV and AUV classification: Some vessels are performing dynamic positioning (DP) operations without having an official DP notation, creating uncertainty in regulations.
- IMCA to explore how different flag states classify USVs and AUVs to establish a more unified approach.
- The committee is considering developing a guide for members on regulatory compliance across different jurisdictions.

Action: IMCA/Committee

9.3 New Developments in MASS Technology

- Mohammad Sasila shared insights into a new hybrid vessel being developed in the UAE, which can operate both as a surface vessel and a submerged inspection unit.
- Committee members agreed that such innovations will require adaptations to regulatory and classification frameworks

10 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
5.0 - 2025 Objectives: Bullet points to be compiled for review	IMCA/Committee	19 Mar 25
7.3 - coordinate with the DP Committee to assess the feasibility of remote DP operations under IMCA standards.	IMCA	Continuous
7.4 - USV Inspection Feedback: Review and refine inspection documents	IMCA/Committee	01 June 25
7.4 - Meeting with Trevor: Arrange a follow-up discussion	IMCA/Committee	01 June 25
9.0 - Develop November MASS Event	IMCA/Committee	October 25
9.1 - Explore logistics for an in-person meeting in Southampton, aligning it with an industry event to encourage attendance	IMCA/Committee	Year end
Amsterdam Event Details: Share logistics with the committee	IMCA	Soonest

11 Date and location of next meetings

Next meeting to be scheduled for 20th May

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Signed as a true record

Name

Date