
Minutes of a meeting of the Association's Lifting & Rigging Management Committee held on 17 March 2026 from 12:30 GMT via videoconference

1 Competition law compliance policy

The newly updated 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 Vice Chair welcomed members to the meeting. A quick round the table was carried out for the benefit of the new team members.

- ◆ **Committee Membership Updates and Introductions:** Jennifer, Jack, and other committee members welcomed new participants and confirmed changes in committee roles and representation, with Jennifer taking over as secretariat lead from Mark Ford.
- ◆ **New Member Introductions:** Several new members introduced themselves, including:
 - Mehdi Zaman (Siemens Chemistry Renewable Energy)
 - Peter Smith (Saipem)
 - Kain Burch (Deep Ocean)
 - Massimiliano Scarpellini (Saipem)
 - Huseyin Ozen (Shell Group)
 - Debrin Saaijenga (standing in for Mike Roberts, DNV), and
 - Matthew Taylor (standing in for Robert Askins, Global Maritime).
- ◆ **Committee Role Changes:** Jennifer announced she is now the secretariat lead, having fully taken over from Mark Ford. Mark thanked everyone for their years of hard work and support and said his goodbyes, ahead of retiring next week. Jennifer noted that Argiro has moved to the competency and training department, leaving the marine assistant position vacant.

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

Name	Company	Jun 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025	Mar 2026
Laura Lombardi (Chair)	Usha Martin Italia	Apologies	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Jack Spaan (Vice Chair)	Boskalis	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Caspar Berends	TechnipFMC	N/A	Attended	Attended	Attended
Henk-Jan Bakkenes	Heerema	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Mike Barnfather	Van Oord	N/A	N/A	Attended	Attended
Arjo van Putten	NOV	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Robin van Nieuwkerk	Huisman	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Richard Knight	McDermott	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Robert Askins	Global Maritime	Attended	Absent	Substitute	Substitute
Sara Fletcher	Subsea 7	Attended	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Jesper Halberg	Cadeler	Attended	Apologies	Attended	Attended
Marco Pedroso	SBM (South America)	Attended	Apologies	Apologies	Attended
Mehdi Zaman	Siemens Gamesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended
Michael Roberts	DNV (North America)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Substitute
Massimiliano Scarpellini	Saipem	Absent	Absent	Absent	Attended
Huseyin Ozen	Shell	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended
Peter Smith	Saipem	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended
Kain Burch	DeepOcean	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended

Legend:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apologies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
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Also present or joining via videoconference were:

- ◆ Mark Ford (part time) IMCA Secretariat
- ◆ Jennifer Evans IMCA Secretariat Lead

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Approval of the minutes

The minutes and actions of the last meeting were agreed and were duly signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

- ◆ **Review of Previous Actions and Ongoing Workstreams:** Jennifer and Jack led a review of outstanding actions from previous meetings, including progress on regional representation, document reviews, guidance development, and feedback processes, with input from Caspar, Sara, and other members.
- ◆ **Regional Representation and Committee Participation:** The committee completed actions to identify and propose new representatives from the Asia Pacific region and successfully invited Peter to join, fulfilling previous action items.
- ◆ **Document Review and Work Group Formation:** Actions related to the review and revision of documents such as LR006, LR009, and the Pulling Eye guidance document were discussed, with plans to set deadlines for feedback and to consider forming new work groups as needed.

- ◆ **Wire Rope Inspection and Discard Criteria:** The committee discussed the inclusion of vision system technology for steel wire rope examination in LR004, the development of guidance on rope discard criteria, and the need to reference these in LR001, with these items remaining open for future work.
- ◆ **LOLER Feedback Process:** feedback is being sought on the existing Loler regulations via public consultation, with Sara providing a link to the relevant government call for evidence and Jennifer redistributing the information to ensure all members have access.
- ◆ **Machinery Regulation Monitoring:** Caspar highlighted the importance of monitoring the transition from the machinery directive to the machinery regulation, and Jennifer agreed to check with Margaret and the Legal Committee regarding ongoing monitoring responsibilities.

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda

No entries

4 Lessons learnt – Safety related

The committee were offered the opportunity to share safety-related material and incidents involving lifting and rigging.

- ◆ **Safety Alerts and Incident Sharing:** An Indian public safety notice was shared, involving a fatality during crane cabin maintenance, prompting discussion on safety alerts, regulatory controls, and the sharing of investigation reports, with Jennifer forwarding relevant information to the IMCA safety department.
- ◆ **Crane Cabin Incident and Lessons Learned:** The public safety notice described a fatal incident in Indian waters where a worker fell through a crane cabin's bottom glass after removing protective grillage, highlighting the need for additional controls and referencing an Indian government investigation report.
- ◆ **Regulatory and Industry Response:** The committee discussed existing API and other standards regarding crane cabin safety, with Jennifer confirming that IMCA will issue a safety flash based on the shared report.

5 Work programme

- ◆ **Technical Discussions on Fibre Rope Fatigue and Document Updates:** Jack, Mike, Caspar, and others discussed the fatigue life of high-performance fibre rigging, upcoming standards updates, and the prioritisation of document revisions, including LR009 and the Pulling Eye guidance, with reference to ongoing and anticipated changes in EN and DNV standards.
- ◆ **Document Revision Prioritisation:** The committee debated whether to prioritise the revision of LR009 over the Pulling Eye guidance document, ultimately agreeing to wait for updates on EN 1492-4 and DNV 303 before proceeding.
- ◆ **Standards Alignment and Compatibility:** Caspar and others discussed the need to align IMCA documents with evolving EN and DNV standards, particularly regarding terminology and safety factors for fibre slings, and agreed to monitor the status of these external standards before making major changes.

- ◆ **LR006 Working Group Progress and Terminology Discussion:** Caspar provided an update on the LR006 working group, highlighting progress, challenges with terminology (SWL vs. WLL), and the need for backward compatibility, with input from Mike, Arjo and others.
- ◆ **Working Group Progress:** Caspar reported steady progress in the LR006 working group, with ongoing efforts to update terminology and align with current IMCA standards, though progress is slow due to the complexity of the subject.
- ◆ **Terminology Debate (SWL vs. WLL):** The group discussed the IMCA directive to remove 'Safe Working Load' (SWL) in favour of 'Working Load Limit' (WLL), with concerns raised about losing compatibility with existing equipment and industry standards. Consensus emerged to include definitions and maintain references for clarity.
- ◆ **Backwards Compatibility and Industry Standards:** Members agreed that updated documents should remain compatible with legacy equipment and terminology, and that references to SWL should be retained in definitions to avoid confusion, especially as other standards and societies still use the term.
- ◆ **ROV Umbilical MRT and Document Scope Clarification:** Jennifer and Sara discussed the scope of LR004 in relation to ROV umbilical MRT, agreeing that umbilical testing should not be included in LR004 but that alignment of terminology and ongoing liaison with the ROV working group is necessary.
- ◆ **Scope of LR004 and ROV Umbilical's:** Jennifer clarified that LR004 is specific to steel wire rope examination and should not be expanded to include ROV umbilical MRT, with Sara agreeing that the documents should remain separate but aligned in terminology.
- ◆ **Ongoing Liaison and Review:** It was agreed that Jennifer would remain involved in the ROV working group to monitor developments and ensure no contradictions arise, with Sara and others offering support as needed.

5.1 2026 objective status

An update was given on the progress of the 2026 objectives:

- 1) Working Group to develop a new guidance document on pulling eyes – draft available. If no comments are received by next meeting, the document will be issued as guidance note.
- 2) Working Group to revise LR 006 – Guidelines for Lifting Operations – Lifting terminology, lift categorisation, Human Operational Performance etc. – **ONGOING** Aim complete Q3 2026
- 3) Develop informative guidance on rope discard criteria and reference it back to LR001
- 4) Consider including vision system technology for steel wire rope examination in LR004 or related documents and interpret results with caution.
- 5) Assist with the review and validation of Portuguese translations of key lifting and rigging documents for technical accuracy. **ONGOING**
- 6) Assist R024 MRT working group, with the ROV document and update LR004 if required to do so. **ONGOING**
- 7) Working group for revision of LR009. Anticipated second half 2026.

5.2 Document revision status

Reference Number	Document	Latest Version	Latest Update	Latest Technical Update	Status Reason
HSS022 LR001 M194	Recommended practice on wire rope integrity management for vessels in the offshore industry	4.0	04/10/2023	01/10/2023	Review Needed
LR002 M171	Crane specification document	3.0	24/11/2025	24/11/2025	Current
D042 LR003, R016	Diver and ROV based concrete mattress handling, deployment, installation, repositioning and decommissioning	2.0	29/02/2024	29/02/2024	Current
HSS023 LR004, M197	Recommended practice for the examination of steel wire rope through magnetic rope testing (MRT)	2.0	30/07/2024	17/07/2024	Does it need reviewing? 2026
D028 LR005	Recommended practice on the use of chain lever hoists in the offshore subsea environment	3.1	30/05/2024	30/06/2023	Current
D060 HSSE019 LR006 M187	Guidelines for lifting operations	2.1	20/06/2023	31/08/2022	Ongoing
D016 LR007	Guidance on open parachute type underwater air lift bags	5.1	30/11/2023	31/01/2022	Current
LR008 M179	Code of practice on the manufacture and safe use of cable-laid slings and grommets	2.0	14/04/2025	14/04/2025	Current
LR009 M237	Guidance on selection, safe use and inspection of high performance fibre slings used for engineered lifts	1.1	26/02/2024	31/08/2020	Revision Needed
LR010 R021	Recommended practice for remotely operated vehicle load testing and inspection	1.3	15/08/2024	31/08/2024	Current
LR011 R011	The initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV launch and recovery systems	2.1	30/11/2023	30/09/2021	Current
HSS025 LR012 M202	Guidance on the transfer of personnel to and from offshore vessels and structures	2.2	08/03/2024	31/05/2019	Current
M205 LR013 D046	Guidance on operational communications	1.1	30/11/2023	30/06/2021	Current

5.3 LRMC document downloads

Apologies were given as new download figures are still not available. Update will be issued separately as soon as available.

6 General discussion & new technology

- ◆ **Use of Artificial Intelligence in Lifting and Rigging:** Mike, Kain, Huseyin, and others discussed the current and potential uses of AI in lifting and rigging, including data review, certification processing, and the need for guidance or standards, with general agreement that AI should not be used for lift plan creation without robust checks.
- ◆ **Current AI Applications:** Kain and Huseyin described the use of AI for data entry, certification processing, and failed barrier prediction, with Huseyin noting high accuracy in data review applications within Shell.

- ◆ **Risks and Limitations: Participants** expressed caution about using AI for lift plan creation due to the risk of errors and the need for expert validation, with consensus that AI should currently be limited to data processing and review.
- ◆ **Need for Guidance and Standardisation:** The group discussed whether IMCA should develop general guidance on AI use, with suggestions to address the topic at a broader organisational level rather than within the Lifting and Rigging Committee alone.

7 Involvement with other organisations

- ◆ **Standards and Industry Updates (ISO, API, DNV, G Plus, Events):** Jennifer, Debrin, and others provided updates on standards revisions (ISO 4309, API 2C/2D, DNV E273/E281/E303/N001), upcoming conferences, and committee representation at industry events, with actions to monitor progress and share relevant documents.
- ◆ **ISO 4309 Revision Progress:** Jennifer reported on participation in ISO 4309 revision meetings, noting that the process is ongoing, with combined comments from UK representatives being submitted and a face-to-face meeting planned for April. Document is available in meeting folder
- ◆ **API and DNV Standards Updates:** Updates were provided on API 2C/2D reaffirmation, DNV E273/E281/E303/N001 document statuses, and the sharing of draft documents for committee review, with Debrin and Jennifer coordinating distribution.
- ◆ **G Plus and Other Industry Updates:** Huseyin offered to provide future updates on G Plus activities, and Jennifer outlined plans for committee representation at upcoming events such as the Asia Heavy Lifting event in Singapore and the IMCA Global Summit in Antwerp. Any other business
- ◆ **Committee Administration, Work Group Access, and Future Meetings:** Jennifer, Sara, and Jack discussed administrative matters including work group membership visibility, document sharing, and planning for future face-to-face and hybrid meetings, with actions to improve transparency and coordination.
- ◆ **Work Group Membership and Access:** Sara suggested maintaining a list of work group members accessible to all committee members to facilitate communication, with Jennifer agreeing to implement this within the committee folders.
- ◆ **Future Meeting Planning:** The committee discussed options for future face-to-face and hybrid meetings, with September proposed as the likely date for the next in-person meeting and locations such as Singapore, Amsterdam, Aberdeen, and Stavanger suggested for future seminars.
- ◆ **Call for presentation at the July 2026 Asia Heavy Lift meeting (Singapore).** To be adside (Jennifer) on subject and details.
Volunteers are Kain Burch or S'pore HMC representative

8 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
Pulling Eye Guidance Document Review: Committee to review the draft Pulling Eye guidance document, shared again 26 March, comment as required by the end of April.	LRMC members	30 April 2026
Document Review and Workgroup Formation: Review LR009, sent out 26 March, all feedback requested by the end of April and decision will be made on whether to initiate a workgroup for updating the document in 2026.	LRMC member	30 April 2026
Wire Rope Inspection Technology Update: Consider including vision system technology for steel wire rope examination in LR004 or related documents and interpret results with caution.	LRMC Members	2026
Discard Criteria Guidance: Develop informative guidance on rope discard criteria and reference it back to LR001, and consider adding this to 2026 objectives	LRMC Members, Jennifer	2026
Document Review and Workgroup Formation: Send out a reminder to all members to consider potential companies and experts for participation in an informative note or appendix on vision systems for rope inspection, and revisit the topic in the next meeting.	Jennifer	2026
Loler Update Feedback: Look for and, if not already done, share the link for companies to provide feedback directly to Loler regarding their update process.	Jennifer	2026
Establish a working group to produce a new guidance document on pulling eyes	Jennifer Evans	Awaiting availability
Machine Regulation Monitoring: Monitor and check for updates on the transition from the Machinery Directive to the Machinery Regulation and its implications for the committee. Check whether Margaret and the Legal Committee will be monitoring the machinery regulation and report back to the committee.	Jennifer	2026
Crane Cabin Fatality Safety Flash: Forward the Indian government investigation report and IADC safety directive on the crane cabin fatality to the Safety Department and ensure a safety flash is released if appropriate.	Jennifer	Complete
Terminology in LR006 Working Group: Add the subject of terminology (specifically working load/working load limit) to the agenda for the LR006 working group.	Jennifer	Complete
LR009 Revision Prioritisation: Bring up the prioritisation of the LR009 revision, pending updates on EN 1492-4 and DNV 303, at the next meeting agenda.	Jennifer	Q2 2026
ROV Working Group Involvement: Remain involved in the ROVs working group and keep the committee informed, calling on Sara or Robin for assistance if needed.	Jennifer, Sara	Ongoing
Document Download List Update: Email the updated document download list to all members once IT has restored access to the data.	Jennifer, IT	Ongoing
ISO 4309 Timescale and Updates: Confirm if a timescale for the ISO 4309 revision is available and continue to report back to the committee on major updates or concerns.	Jennifer	Q2 2026
AI: Is IMCA planning any guidance or Information notes on checks and precautions when utilising AI? Ask the wider IMCA committees via secretariat and Ops committee	Jennifer, Laura	

9 Date and location of next meetings

2026 Prospective dates – Subject to change

- ◆ Q2 Wednesday 3 June 2026
- ◆ Q3 Wednesday 9 Sept 2026 – Face to face
- ◆ Q4 Wednesday 2 December 2026

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Signed as a true record

Name

Date