

Diving Supervisor Certification – Mutual Recognition Agreements

This note updates information previously provided in IMCA D 04/07 (TCPC 06/07) to reflect an extension of the Canadian agreement (section 2).

Contractors need to ensure that personnel working for them in safety-critical positions are fully trained and competent to carry out their roles.

To assist members, IMCA runs its internationally accepted offshore diving supervisor certification scheme which was set up in 1987. The scheme involves attendance at an approved training course, logged experience as a trainee diving supervisor and a written examination. Around 2000 certificates have been issued to date. IMCA certificates have long been recognised around the world as an important qualification and a vital aid when companies are seeking to employ new supervisors for their operations. They also assist the free movement of personnel, enhancing flexibility for both employers and supervisors alike.

In some areas of the world offshore diving is subject to specific regulation. IMCA has developed optional legislation modules to cover these local requirements and successful candidates' certificates are endorsed to show which modules have been passed. Currently such modules exist for Norway and the UK.

IMCA is pleased to report that it has entered into mutual recognition arrangements with two national bodies following review of their certification scheme requirements (and their review of the IMCA requirements). This will further aid both diving contractors and diving supervisors by providing clarity and portability. Discussions are continuing with other organisations regarding further recognition agreements.

1 Australia

IMCA and the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) signed a memorandum of understanding on 18 January 2007. A copy of the memorandum is attached, but the key phrase is that *"IMCA and ADAS accept that their offshore diving supervisor qualifications are equivalent and accept the certification issued by the organisations in respect to their schemes as proof of meeting the requirements to undertake supervision of diving operations subject to a demonstration of knowledge in the areas requiring the appropriate additional legislative modules"*.

The main points are:

- ◆ ADAS offshore diving supervisor certificates issued from the start date of the ADAS scheme of 1 July 2007 will be recognised for the purposes of compliance with IMCA guidance; and
- ◆ IMCA offshore diving supervisor certificates are accepted by ADAS;
- ◆ ADAS has already issued some certificates under its 'grandparenting' arrangements. These certificates are now recognised by IMCA for the purposes of IMCA guidance.

An Australian legislative module is under development by ADAS. Further details will be provided in due course.

2 Canada

IMCA and the Diver Certification Board of Canada (DCBC) signed an updated memorandum of understanding on 4 March 2009, which extends the agreement to include DCBC bell diving supervisors. A copy of the memorandum is attached, but the key phrase is that *"IMCA and DCBC accept that each other's offshore diving supervisor qualifications are equivalent and accept the certification issued by the organisations in respect to their schemes as proof of meeting the requirements to undertake supervision of diving operations subject to a demonstration of knowledge in the areas requiring the appropriate legislative modules."*

The main points are:

- ◆ DCBC offshore air and bell diving supervisor certificate issued from the start date of the DCBC scheme of 1 April 2007 will be recognised for the purposes of compliance with IMCA guidance; and
- ◆ IMCA offshore diving supervisor certificates are accepted by DCBC.

3 Netherlands

IMCA and the Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC) signed a memorandum of understanding on 6 April 2005. A copy of the memorandum is attached. This sets out:

- ◆ the special requirements for qualified IMCA offshore diving supervisors to gain an NDC certificate for working in Dutch waters;
- ◆ the requirements for qualified NDC supervisors to be recognised under the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving in Dutch waters only; and
- ◆ the requirements for qualified NDC supervisors to gain an IMCA offshore diving supervisor certificate.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between the

International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)

and the

Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS)

for the

Mutual Recognition of Offshore Diving Supervisor Certificates



This Memorandum of Understanding is made between
the International Marine Contractors Association (based in London, UK),
represented by its Technical Director, Ms Jane Bugler
and
the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme, Australia
represented by its Executive Director, Paul Butler
and concerns the mutual recognition of offshore diving supervisor certificates.

Having established after due analysis and consideration, that the aims of and arrangements for the IMCA offshore diving supervisor scheme and the ADAS offshore diving supervisor scheme are equivalent, the two organisations have agreed the following:

Certificate Acceptance

IMCA and ADAS accept that their offshore diving supervisor qualifications are equivalent and accept the certification issued by the organisations in respect to their schemes as proof of meeting the requirements to undertake supervision of diving operations subject to a demonstration of knowledge in the areas requiring the appropriate additional legislative modules.

IMCA agrees that its guidelines will recognise ADAS offshore diving supervisor certificates.

ADAS agrees that it will accept IMCA offshore diving supervisor certificates.

IMCA and ADAS agree that each party will alert the other, for agreement, to any proposed changes to their respective schemes.

Monitoring/Auditing

IMCA and ADAS agree that, where appropriate and following agreement, each party should be given the facility to monitor and audit the other's scheme.

Validity of the MOU

The working of the MOU and the need for change in the text is to be kept under review by both IMCA and ADAS. Any amendments to this MOU would need to be agreed by both parties.

This MOU comes into force on 1st July 2007

18th January 2007


Paul Butler
ADAS Executive Director


Jane Bugler
IMCA Technical Director



Memorandum of Understanding for the Mutual Recognition of Offshore Diving Supervisor Certificates

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made between

the International Marine Contractors Association (based in London, UK),
represented by its Technical Director, Jane Bugler

and the Diver Certification Board of Canada
represented by its Executive Director, David Parkes

and concerns the mutual recognition of offshore diving supervisor certificates.

Whereas IMCA is the international trade association representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies and has the organisation, expertise, policies and procedures to adequately document and certify the competency of offshore diving supervisors,

and whereas the DCBC is the national body which certifies offshore and inshore commercial divers in Canada and has the organisation, expertise, policies and procedures to adequately document and certify the competence of offshore diving supervisors,

and whereas the parties wish to ensure effective co-operation between the two organisations for the mutual recognition of the respective organisations' offshore diving supervisor certificates,

now, therefore, the parties agree to the following:

1 Introduction

In 2007 it was established, after due analysis and consideration, that the aims and arrangements for the IMCA offshore air diving supervisor scheme and the DCBC air diving supervisor scheme were equivalent. An MOU between IMCA and DCBC for the mutual recognition of offshore air diving supervisor certificates was signed by both organisations on 15 February 2007 with the MOU coming into force on 1 April 2007.

Since then, DCBC has extended its scheme to cover offshore bell diving supervisors. It has now been established, after due analysis and consideration, that the aims and arrangements for the IMCA offshore bell diving supervisor scheme and the DCBC offshore bell diving supervisor scheme are equivalent.

2 Certificate Acceptance

IMCA and DCBC accept that each other's offshore diving supervisor qualifications are equivalent and accept the certification issued by the organisations in respect to their schemes as proof of meeting the requirements to undertake supervision of diving operations subject to a demonstration of knowledge in the areas requiring the appropriate legislative modules.

IMCA agrees that its guidelines will recognise DCBC offshore diving supervisor certificates.

DCBC agrees that it will accept IMCA offshore diving supervisor certificates.

IMCA and DCBC agree that each party will alert the other, for agreement, of any proposed changes to their respective schemes.

3 Monitoring/Auditing

IMCA and DCBC agree that, where appropriate and following agreement, each party should be given the facility to monitor and audit the other's scheme.

4 Effective Date, Amendment and Termination

This MOU comes into force on 4 March 2009.

The parties to this MOU will meet at the request of either party to review the provisions of this agreement. Any necessary additions, deletions or changes shall be made in writing and signed by the signatories or their designated representatives.

This MOU will remain in effect until superseded or terminated by written mutual agreement. Either party wishing to terminate this MOU shall submit a written notification with sufficient notice to prevent unreasonable disruption to the activities of the other party.

5 Termination of MOU for Air Diving Supervisors

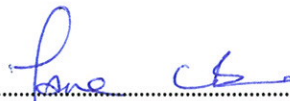
When this memorandum comes into place it supersedes and replaces the previous similar MOU for air diving supervisors only, dated 1 April 2007.

In witness therefore, the parties have signed this MOU on the dates indicated below.



David Parkes
DCBC Executive Director

Date: 4 March 2009



Jane Bugler
IMCA Technical Director

Date: 4 March 2009



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between the
International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)
and the
Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC)
for the
Mutual Recognition of Diving Supervisor Certificates



This Memorandum of Understanding is made between
the International Marine Contractors Association (based in London, UK),
represented by the Technical Director, Ms Jane Bugler
and
the Netherlands Diving Centre, Delft, the Netherlands,
represented by the Director, Ms Sijtsche Zwiers
and concerns the mutual recognition of diving supervisor certificates.

Having established, after due analysis and consideration, that the aims of training of the IMCA supervisor course and the NDC supervisor course, together with the MAD-A qualification, cover the same subjects at an equal level, the two organisations have agreed the following:

- ◆ Supervisors holding the IMCA supervisor certificate, after attending a Dutch Module and passing the NDC Dutch Module exam, receive the NDC supervisor certificate "duikploegleider" as mentioned in the Dutch Health and Safety legislation "Arbeidsomstandighedenbesluit" article 6.16.3;
- ◆ Supervisors holding the NDC supervisor certificate (for which the MAD-A certificate is a prerequisite) and who have the minimum offshore experience required by the IMCA diving supervisor certification scheme (IMCA D 013 Rev. 1), after attending a British Legislation Module and passing the IMCA British Legislation Module exam, receive the IMCA air diving supervisor certificate;

The following arrangements have been laid down to enable NDC supervisors working in the Dutch sector to comply with the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving:

- ◆ NDC supervisors who:
 - i) have sat and passed the NDC Supervisor training course and examination; and
 - ii) have gained the offshore experience required by the IMCA diving supervisor certification scheme (IMCA D 013 Rev. 1) verified through logbook entries;

are recognised as supervisors for the purposes of the IMCA Code of Practice in the Dutch sector only.

Delft, 6 April 2005

Sijtsche Zwiers
Director, NDC

Jane Bugler
IMCA Technical Director