

ADAS Newsletter Issue 33, December 2022

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 33 of the ADAS Newsletter

In this issue of the newsletter, we announce a price change for all ADAS products and services. Approved by the Board of Directors in December, the change has been introduced to ensure ADAS can continue to deliver licensing, accreditation and professional services to divers, training schools and hyperbaric professionals.

We also share a reminder from IMCA on the importance of maintaining logbooks, and give an update on the major revision of the principal documents within the IMCA DESIGN (Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note) suite of documents.

The Safety article in this issue gives details of finger injuries sustained during diving operations, damage to a chain lift hoist and explosions during filling SCUBA cylinders. We also share news of a new initiative by WorkSafe Victoria which provides grants for projects to reduce harm and improve outcomes for injured workers.

In ADAS news, I have been making the most of the lifting of travel restrictions to re-connect with stakeholders including attending the IDRCF meeting in Marseille, France in September, then in November took leave from ADAS to volunteer as a diver for a project led by University of Sydney on One Tree island off the Queensland coast.

Finally, IMCA provides an update on engaging members in sustainability initiatives.

As always, your thoughts and comments, or any ideas for future issues of the ADAS Newsletter are both welcome and appreciated.

With the end of 2022 in sight, everyone at ADAS wishes you and your families a safe holiday season and a happy new year for 2023.

Our office will be closed from 5pm on Friday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday January 3rd 2023. License renewals will not be processed during this time, so if you are due to renew in this period please ensure your application is submitted early.



Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

Change to ADAS certification fees

At a recent meeting of the ADAS Board of Directors, the decision was made to increase ADAS certification fees by 20%.

In ADAS' twenty year history, the price of ADAS certification fees has only increased once, which occurred in 2008. Since then, all certification and renewal fees have remained the same while the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by a total of 46%.



The basic running costs of maintaining the organisation and delivering services to our certification holders have steadily increased alongside the CPI. This has caused significant pressure on ADAS and threatens the organisation's financial viability in the mid- to long-term.

To ensure ADAS can continue to deliver licensing, accreditation and professional services to divers, training schools and hyperbaric professionals, the ADAS Board recently elected to increase all certification fees by 20%, which will be implemented from the 3rd of January 2023. For most certification holders, this is an increase of between \$60-\$70.

The 20% increase will also apply to all ADAS products and services including logbooks, replacement cards and license crossovers.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about the increase in fees.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Reminder on Logbook Maintenance

International contactors have begun enforcing logbook maintenance, including refusal for divers to go into Saturation if logs have not been maintained.

The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) has advised ADAS that recently some offshore contractors have begun refusing divers entry into Saturation because they have failed to maintain their diving logbooks. Maintaining your diver logbook is a legal requirement in Australia and the UK (and many other locations), and it is the Supervisor's responsibility to check that a diver's logbook has been properly completed before signing.



For more information on Diver's logbook legislation (Australia) see: [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Safety\) Regulations 2009 \(Cth\) pt 9 \(4.28\)](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Grants for Workplace Safety Initiatives

WorkSafe Victoria has awarded over AUD\$2 million in funding to reduce workplace harm and improve outcomes for injured workers.

The grants were awarded in the 2021-22 funding round to projects that employ innovative methods to improve safety in a variety of workplaces, and range from using wearable technology to reducing psycho-social harm.



WorkSafe Chief Executive Officer Colin Radford said each of the nine projects was chosen for its focus on prevention, promotion of knowledge and confidence, and community value.

Grants for the 2022-23 funding round will be announced on the WorkSafe website in the coming months, so if you have a project in mind to improve safety and reduce harm in your workplace, keep an eye on the WorkSafe website for information on how to apply and what projects are eligible.

[Find out more about the grants on the WorkSafe Victoria website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Major Revision of Key IMCA Documents

The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) has revised and updated the principal documents within its DESIGN (Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note) suite of documents.



The updated documents are integral to the DESIGN assurance process and include:

- IMCA D 018 Rev. 2 Code of practice for the initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of diving plant and equipment;
- IMCA D 024 Rev. 3 DESIGN for saturation (Bell) Diving Systems;
- IMCA D 063 DESIGN for Hyperbaric Rescue Unit (HRU) Life Support Packages (LSP)
- IMCA D 023 Rev. 2 DESIGN for Surface Orientated (Air) Diving Systems.

Supporting documentation has also been revised in order to assist contractor compliance with the updated documents. IMCA provides a one (1) year transition timeframe for contractors to prepare to meet new criteria.

Additionally, a new document IMCA D 069 Guidance on the Systematic Assessment of Control Systems in Automated Diving Plant and Equipment has also been published.

[For more details and a full list of updated documents, visit the IMCA website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety

Three safety events have been reported in recent IMCA Safety Flashes, and WorkSafe Victoria provides a reminder on the hazards associated with filling SCUBA cylinders.

- IMCA SF 23/22 - [Damage to chain hoist subsea](#)
- IMCA SF 22/22 - [Finger injury from scrubber fan](#)
- IMCA SF 20/22 - [Crush injury to finger](#)
- [Explosions during filling cylinders – WorkSafe Vic](#)



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Executive Assists on Diving Research Project

In a welcome change from the office, the Executive Director recently took leave from ADAS to volunteer as a diver for a project led by University of Sydney on One Tree island off the Queensland coast.



The Executive Director, Amanda Sordes, recently took leave from ADAS to spend a week on One Tree Island Research Station as a diving volunteer for a project led by University of Sydney [Associate Professor Ana Vila-Concejo](#) and PhD student Lachie Perris, both from the [Geocoastal Research Group](#). The trip involved four researchers and three volunteers.

The project aims to understand the impact of climate change on the geomorphology of coral reefs and how coral morphology is important for wave dissipation and coastal protection. One Tree island is a coral rubble island on the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, and a University of Sydney Research station.

Amanda helped with the underwater deployment of a three scientific instruments in one of the grooves located on the south-eastern edge of the reef surrounding the island's lagoon. First to be deployed was an ADCP ([Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler](#)) to record water flow and direction in the water column from 11m, then a Spotter wave-rider buoy with live data available online on the same groove at about 18m depth, and finally a smaller pressure (depth) sensor in shallower water (RBR Virtuoso). Data from these instruments will help understand how coral reefs dissipate wave energy from the continental shelf protecting the coast behind them.

[Click here for the article online](#)

International Updates – IDRCF Meets, South African Certifications Update

After two years of virtual remote meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IDRCF and EDTC were able to meet face-to-face again in September 2022 in Marseille, France. In other news, the South African Department of Labour (SADOL) has introduced a legal requirement for commercial diving personnel to register with SADOL and revalidate that registration every four years.



International Diving Regulators and Certifiers Forum

After two years of virtual remote meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IDRCF (International Diving Regulators and Certifiers Forum) and EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee) were able to meet face-to-face again in September 2022 in Marseille, France. Representatives from the UK (HSE), Norway (PSA), Canada (DCBC) South Africa (SADOL), France (INPP), Australia (ADAS), IMCA and USA (ADCI) gathered to discuss latest safety trends, training developments, harmonisation of programmes and recognition agreements.

South African Certification Update

The South African Department of Labour (SADOL) has introduced a legal requirement for commercial diving personnel to register with SADOL and revalidate that registration every four years.

All commercial divers, diving supervisors, chamber operators and diving instructors who hold training certificates issued by the Department are now required to complete the registration and revalidation process in order to ensure continuing validation of their certification. The aim of this process is to ensure that diving personnel maintain their skills and abilities.

All qualifications for these roles issued by the Department of Employment and Labour before 20 May 2022 will be valid until 06 June 2024. Registration and revalidation will be required for individuals to work beyond this date.

[Find out more on the IMCA website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

IMCA Environmental Sustainability Focus

IMCA published its Code of Practice for Environmental Sustainability in May 2021. Following a successful launch and engagement process the Code was used as a basis for developing a self-assessment questionnaire for IMCA members to establish how they are performing in terms of Environmental Sustainability.



Following research amongst members, focussed working groups are being established to drive forward preparation of guidance on key elements such as the circular economy, supply chain engagement, life below water, and environmental performance factors to enable members to move forward with their organisation's Environmental Sustainability Performance.

Ezrah Schraven, Chair of IMCA's Environmental Sustainability Committee commented:

The results of the assessment show there is still a long journey ahead however it helps to identify the initial areas of focus and where guidance and support are required for IMCA members; and informs the Committee's next steps.

[Find out more in the IMCA website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

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