

ADAS Newsletter Issue 37, December 2023

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 37 of the ADAS Newsletter.

In this issue we give an update on the 2023 International Diving Regulators and Certifiers Forum meeting and the Bergen International Diving Seminar, where ADAS was invited to present.

Following your feedback we have included a new section on 'ADAS Updates', giving an overview of ADAS services to divers, supervisors and training providers since the previous newsletter.

There's a reminder to check the hyperbaric credentials of doctors issuing occupational (commercial) diver medicals, and to be aware of an increase in forgeries of ADAS certifications.

The safety article in this issue gives details of two safety incidents and shares two case studies from IMCA, along with information about the dangers of heat related illnesses offshore.

Finally, we share an update about IMCA expanding the availability of its popular Diving Supervisor Continuing Professional Development (CPD) app, and an update from the International Regulators Forum following their Offshore Safety Conference, held in Perth in October.

With the end of 2023 in sight, everyone at ADAS wishes you and your families a safe holiday season and a happy new year for 2024.

Our office will be closed from 5pm on Friday 22nd December then re-open on Wednesday January 3rd 2024, and license renewals will not be processed during this time.

As always, your comments and ideas for future issues of the ADAS Newsletter are welcome.



Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

ADAS Updates December 2023

The newly introduced ADAS Updates article aims to give an overview of ADAS activities since the previous newsletter was issued and will continue to be a regular feature in future newsletters. In this edition, we give information about the ADAS Executive Director attending the International Diving Regulators & Certifiers Forum 2023 meeting and provide a summary of ADAS activities in recent months.

International Diving Regulators & Certifiers Forum (IDRCF) 2023

As an internationally recognised certification agency, ADAS works to improve the global recognition of diver qualifications by connecting with colleagues and agencies around the world.

In September the ADAS Executive Director, Amanda Sordes, participated in the 2023 IDRCF meeting, connecting with representatives from international regulators and certifiers including the UK (HSE), Norway (PSA), Canada (DCBC) South Africa (SADOL), France (INPP), IMCA, and USA (ADCI). The annual IDRCF meeting is an opportunity for regulators and certifiers to meet and exchange information for mutual benefit, with the aim of improving the safety and effectiveness of diver training and facilitate international recognition. ADAS has been an active member of the IDRCF since its inception in 2009, as a key part of its scope to promote the mobility of ADAS licence holders around the world through increased recognition and acceptance of the ADAS licence.



Topics this year included Closed Bell training requirements; standby diver support; fraudulent activities; and incident debriefs.

ADAS Activities August 2023 – December 2023

In recent months staff in the ADAS office have undertaken a large array of roles and tasks with activities ranging from training material development, to quality assurance activities, training provider support, and Standards Australia involvement. The following is a snapshot of some of the main work completed since August 2023.

Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

- Standards Australia participation: 4 technical committee meetings for SF20 and SF46
- ADAS Board of Directors: 2 meetings of the whole Board including one face-to-face meeting; one Working Group meeting

Training materials update

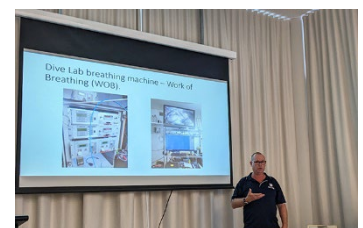
- Full mapping of Aquarium diver course units of competency and 2815.1 requirements
- Development of updated Aquarium diver exam questions with the aim of creating an online Aquarium diver exam
- Update of Aquarium diver assessment tools
- Modification of all assessment tool formatting to reduce administration required by trainers and students
- Full mapping of HLTINF006 unit of competency for Clinical Chamber Operator (CCO) course/exam

Quality assurance

- Desktop audits: 5
 - Desktop audits These are audits of completed student training records against ADAS course requirements to ensure compliance with ADAS and AS 2815.
- Phone and email post-course surveys: 251
 - Post-course surveys All students are contacted after their training is completed to allow them to provide feedback on ADAS courses, trainers, and training facilities.

ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) support

- ATE conference: two day face-to-face conference in Brisbane. Guest speakers included Maurie Vierow on rebuilding of the Fitzroy River Crossing Bridge, Ken Loftus on Mental Health First Aid, and a presentation



on the Dive Lab Guidelines for *Diving accident chain of custody* (pictured above) by ADAS Trainer Dave Loudon

- 2 full ATE reaccreditation applications
- 1 ATE extension to scope

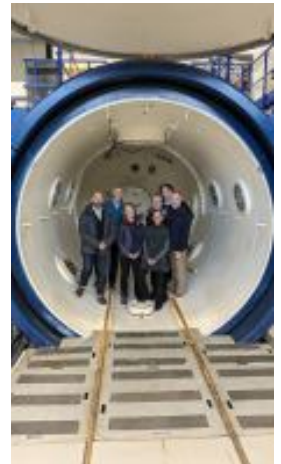
[Click here for the article online](#)

Bergen International Diving Seminar 2023: Sustainable diving in the new energy sector

ADAS was invited to present at the bi-annual International Diving Seminar, held in Bergen, Norway and [hosted by NUI](#)

The seminar focus for 2023 was Sustainable diving in the new energy sector. Amanda Sordes presented on *Mental health and well-being for offshore teams* in collaboration with Leanne Morrison from [TechnipFMC](#). The seminar was a chance to connect with colleagues from across the industry and keep up to date with the latest industry trends like Virtual Reality (VR) use, helium supply and demand, and [IMO updates](#).

The [Petroleum Safety Authority \(PSA\)](#) also organised a programme of visits, including the two training facilities in [Bergen](#) and [Oslo](#) as well as NUI and its impressive [hyperbaric rescue reception facility](#).



Resources

- [Download the presentation text \(PDF file includes links to more resources\)](#)
- [View the presentation slides](#)
- [Find out more about the seminar](#)

[A gallery of photos from the seminar can be viewed in the online article.](#)

Steve Clark Presented with Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence

Congratulations to Steve Clark on receiving the 2023 ADAS Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence.

The Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence is an annual award presented by ADAS to a trainer who has shown exceptional dedication to the support and training of people in the hyperbaric industry in a way that encourages high levels of safety, cooperation and skill.



In August, Steve Clark, a long-serving trainer at Commercial Dive Academy was chosen by the ADAS Board of Directors as the ideal candidate and presented with the award during the 2023 ADAS ATE Meeting held in Brisbane. Ex ADAS Chair Maurie Vierow presented the award, giving well-deserved recognition to Steve for his dedication to the support and training of students in the hyperbaric industry over more than 20 years.

Across an international career in various aspects of commercial diving – from civil construction, media support, aquaculture, to oil and gas exploration, Steve’s contribution to the occupational diving industry extends to the

development of sector-specific training modules, with a particular and sustained focus on safety, cooperation and skills development.

Steve's professional roles have included Senior Tutor and General Manager at the Underwater Training Centre in Tasmania (now closed), ADAS Board member, and presently Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Manager at Commercial Dive Academy, in addition to his role as an ADAS Training and Assessment Manager (ATAM) in Diver and Diver Medical Technician courses.

Steve is also the President of the West Tamar Chamber of Commerce, and has shown a deep dedication to his students, colleagues and peers through his role as a Chaplain, building lasting connections that span across careers and professions.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Diver Medicals – Make Sure Your Doctor is Qualified

There has been an increase in medicals issued by doctors who are not qualified to issue occupational diver medicals. It is important that hyperbaric workers ensure their doctor is properly qualified.

Divers, and others working under pressure, are reminded it is a requirement they hold a current occupational 'Fitness to Dive' medical certificate that complies with the Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 2299.1. This includes being issued by a doctor with the hyperbaric qualifications necessary to perform occupational (also called commercial) diver medicals. This requirement also applies to students participating in all diver and Diver Medical Technician (DMT) courses at ADAS Accredited Training Establishments (ATEs).



ADAS verifies all medicals submitted for students in ADAS training courses, as well as those submitted in applications for license renewals and crossovers.

An increase in occupational medicals issued by doctors who do not hold the required qualifications has been noticed in 2023, and all hyperbaric workers and students are encouraged to confirm the doctor performing their 'Fitness to Dive' medical is properly qualified to do so before completing the medical.

A number of students, and those renewing their licenses, have had to pay for a second dive medical performed by a suitably qualified doctor, after their initial medical was issued by a doctor who did not hold the relevant qualifications.

The South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) website maintains a list of hyperbarically trained doctors in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. To ensure the doctor issuing your certificate is qualified to perform occupational diver medicals, search for them on the SPUMS website and if you cannot locate them, ask when booking your medical if they hold the required qualifications. You are also welcome to contact ADAS for assistance.

The Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 2299.1 (Appendix M, pg. 111) in its guidance for medical practitioners conducting dive medicals states that:

The medical assessment should be conducted by a medical practitioner who has successfully completed an approved course of training for medically assessing occupational divers. In the absence of a relevant regulatory body, the Board of Censors of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) is the body approving courses. A list of such courses is available on the SPUMS website: <http://www.spums.org.au>

Visit the SPUMS website to find a doctor with adequate hyperbaric medicine qualifications: [SPUMS diving doctors list](#)

You can find out more on the ADAS website in these articles:

- [Diver Medical Requirements](#)
- [Medical Fitness to Dive](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Forgeries on the Rise: Check with ADAS

The number of forged diving certifications is increasing significantly, ADAS urges all diving contractors to gain verification of ADAS certifications.

Unfortunately, forgery of diver and supervisor qualifications remains a problem around the world, with three (3) incidents of forged certifications being detected by ADAS since August 2023. This is a noticeable increase on the frequency of forgeries compared to the past five years, including pre-COVID.



Forgery of certifications is a long-standing problem in hyperbaric industries, putting workers and employers at increased risk of harm from inadequately trained individuals.

Employers are reminded to always check both the front and back of ADAS license cards to confirm the qualifications held by the card holder, and are strongly encouraged to verify cards with ADAS.

Verification requests can be emailed directly to ADAS along with the following details of the card holder:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- ADAS number

Please note that for privacy reasons, ADAS only provides verification to personnel from diving contractors, and the email request needs to be sent from a business email address and show a business signature block.

Verification requests can be emailed to: admin@adas.org.au

ADAS takes all incidents of fraud extremely seriously, and reports forgeries to the Australian Federal Police.

Read more about ADAS's response to forgeries and the actions taken here:

- ADAS Forgeries information
- Increase in Forgeries – ADAS News April 2022

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety

Two safety events have been reported in recent IMCA Safety Flashes, and two case studies relating to the severe danger of hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) exposure have been published. In addition, the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has published a Safety Alert relating to heat related illnesses occurring offshore.



- IMCA SF 27/23 – [Compressed air rather than oxygen supplied to divers](#)
- IMCA SF 27/23 – [Case study: saturation diver fatality due to hydrogen sulphide](#)
- IMCA SF 27/23 – [Case study: confined space fatalities due to hydrogen sulphide](#)
- IMCA SF 21/23 – [MSF: Air Cylinder – High Pressure Discharge](#)
- IMCA SF 24/23 – [BSEE: Heat-related Illnesses occurring offshore](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

IMCA CPD Expands to Trainee Offshore Supervisors

IMCA is expanding the availability of its popular Diving Supervisor Continuing Professional Development (CPD) app to Trainee Offshore Air and Bell Diving Supervisors (TOSA and TOSB).

While enrolment in the scheme is not mandatory for trainee supervisors, they are encouraged to join to stay informed and up to date as they embark on this safety-critical career. Completion of the IMCA CPD modules can also develop familiarity with IMCA procedures, and therefore increase chances of a successful outcome of the notoriously difficult Offshore Supervisor exam.

The scheme will be available to all TOSA and TOSB trained by members of International Diving Regulators & Certifiers Forum (IDRCF) and other certifying bodies recognised by IMCA (as set out in the August 2023 revision of [Information Note No. 1394](#)).

Find out more in the links below:

- [Extension of the IMCA Diving Supervisor CPD Scheme to Trainees](#)
- [Availability of Diving CPD for Diver Training Instructors](#)
- [IMCA Information Note No. 1647 – September 2023](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

International Regulators Forum Perth 2023

The International Regulators Forum (IRF) Conference was held in Perth in October 2023, for the first time since 2018.

The conference explored the theme of 'It's all about the risk', with over 250 delegates from around the world, including ADAS schools, meeting to discuss mutual challenges and opportunities and drive continuous improvement in safety outcomes in offshore industry.



The IRF Conference identified three key issues facing the safety of offshore activities, that may be broadly grouped as follows:

- Asset integrity.
- Decommissioning.
- Transitioning and expansion of the energy spectrum.

[Read the Communique from the IRF Conference here](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme

526 Duncan Road Dunoon NSW 2480

Tel: +61 2 6689 5656

www.adas.org.au | enquiries@adas.org.au