

ADAS Newsletter Issue 31, May 2022

Introduction

In this issue of the newsletter we share information about new ADAS training courses and introduce the latest ADAS Accredited Training Establishment, Alfred Health in Melbourne. We also provide return to work guidance for divers recovering from COVID-19 infections.

In the safety article this issue, three safety events from IMCA report on a near miss involving a diver's umbilical; COBRA system hose cross threading; and a diver who experienced air flow restrictions during a diving operation.

Due to an increase in forged certifications of many types in the last year, we give a reminder of what to look for on genuine ADAS cards and provide details of how to verify the authenticity of ADAS certifications.

Finally, we share information about an Australian Government initiative to provide tax deductions to small businesses; and also congratulate the ADAS training facility, CDA, on winning an Excellence in Business award for the second year running.

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



Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

COVID-19 Guidance

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our lives, many commercial divers are finding it challenging to determine when it is safe for them to return to diving work after contracting COVID-19.



In recent months ADAS has received a number of enquiries regarding returning to diving work, with divers looking for guidance on timeframes.

Australian States WHS Regulators are either preparing, or have already issued, guidance on the topic. If you work in an Australian State where guidance has been published (such as NSW [<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/diving-work>]), ADAS recommends you follow it preferentially. Similarly, WHS Regulators in other countries such as New Zealand have already issued guidance [<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/covid-19-and-diver-safety>] that is relevant to anyone engaged in diving work in the country.

In states or countries where no diving-specific recommendation have been published, ADAS notes that both the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) [<https://www.imca-int.com/covid-19/>] and the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) [<https://spums.au/index.php/resources/covid-19-updates>] have guidance available on their websites, that is updated regularly.

While ADAS recognises that a number of bodies are providing advice on returning to general work post-COVID, divers are reminded that hyperbaric work requires a higher level of fitness than most other occupations, and that occupational diving-specific guidelines should be followed whenever possible.

[Click here for the article online](#)

New ADAS School

ADAS is excited to announce that Alfred Health's Hyperbaric Medicine department is the latest training facility to become an ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE).

The Hyperbaric Medicine department located at The Alfred in Melbourne Australia, is world-renowned as a leader in hyperbaric therapy and provide recompression chamber therapy for a multitude of illnesses and diseases, including those induced by commercial diving such as decompression sickness.



The Alfred will conduct Clinical Chamber Operator training and assessment, and are currently working closely with ADAS in the development of this course. Once the course is finalised, Clinical Chamber Operator students from Australia and internationally will be able to attend The Alfred and gain training and assessment in their state-of-the-art facilities.

ADAS welcomes The Alfred to the ADAS training team, and looks forward to many years of great work together.

Contact details of Alfred Health's training facility can be found on the [ADAS Training Schools website page](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety

Three safety events from IMCA report on a near miss involving a diver's umbilical; COBRA system hose cross threading; and a diver who experienced air flow restrictions during a diving operation.

[SF 03/22](#) – Near miss: diver's umbilical drawn beneath a load

[SF 10/22](#) – COBRA system hose coupling cross threaded

[SF 10/22](#) – Diver experienced an air flow restriction

[Click here for the article online](#)



New ADAS Training Courses

Two new ADAS training courses have recently been published and are ready for students!

After a lot of consultation and development with ADAS trainers, the ADAS First Aid and Nitrox diver training and assessment courses are now available. The courses are conducted through ADAS training establishments and are able to be integrated into existing courses such as diver and diving supervisor.

First Aid

The ADAS First Aid course is a combination of online and face-to-face training. The online component allows students to complete theory aspects before they complete the face-to-face training and assessment with an ADAS school.



Completion of the course, titled ADAS Combined First Aid, allows students to meet the first aid requirements shown in AS/NZS 2299.1 – Occupational Diving Operations Standard. The course is separated into three components:

1. Provide First Aid
2. Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
3. Oxygen Administration

Students can complete the components they require, whether that is just one or all three.

While there are no ADAS schools formally approved to conduct this training at this time, two schools interested and are both trialling the course with students.

Nitrox

The ADAS Enriched Air Nitrox (EAN) diver course has also recently been published and is ready for ADAS training schools to utilise.

This course can be completed in conjunction with other diver training, or as a stand-alone course, and results in a Nitrox endorsement on the ADAS diver card. The course content has been developed to meet the requirements of the AS 2815 training Standards and includes both theoretical and practical training and assessment.



See the Training Courses page on the ADAS website for more information about both courses. Although there are no schools listed to conduct this training at the moment, there will be in future. Please contact ADAS if you wish to enrol in this course and are looking for a school to contact.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Increase in Forgeries

Forgeries of official certificates and licences has increased in the last year, ADAS takes this very seriously and has processes in place to ensure all submissions are genuine.

Unfortunately, forgery of documentation has been a long-standing issue for ADAS and also for contractors and training providers around the world. This is not only a legal issue, but also a potentially dangerous problem when it comes to diving teams and team-members having to rely on others to keep them safe on the job.



The types of forged certificates and licences ADAS has received in the past year include, but aren't limited to, diving medicals; first aid certificates; commercial diver licences; and diver/supervisor logbooks.

These forgeries have been submitted to ADAS as part of renewal or crossover applications, and have also been submitted to ADAS training establishments as part of training pre-requisites.

Every non-ADAS certificate or licence that is submitted to ADAS or the ADAS training schools, is verified by contacting the issuing organisation and requesting confirmation of the person's identity and qualification that

is shown on the documentation. Happily, the vast majority of responses to these verification requests are positive. Any time ADAS receives confirmation that a document is not valid, that information is then shared with ADAS' international counterparts and international regulators.

This issue not only affects ADAS and other training organisations, but also diving contractors – some of whom have received forged ADAS cards in the past. To assist in identifying forgeries, ADAS is able to verify the validity of ADAS licences and welcomes enquiries from diving contractors to verify the certification and qualifications of team members. It's important to note that there are procedures in place to protect the identity of ADAS members and to ensure that verification requests are from genuine contractors.

In cases where forged ADAS cards and certifications are identified, and there is no doubt it was a purposeful act of fraud, the forgery is then reported to the Australian Federal Police. Any international regulators who are involved, such as the Ministry of Manpower in Singapore, are also provided details and encouraged to report the forgery to local authorities.

Go to the [Forgeries](#) page of the ADAS website for more information about ADAS related forgeries, and to the Contact Us page if you wish to verify an ADAS issued card or certificate.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Small Business Tax Deductions

Australian small businesses are now eligible for training related tax deductions.

The Australian Government recently announced the 2022-23 budget which includes support for small businesses through both a Business Technology Boost and a Skills and Training Boost.

Australian based businesses with an annual turnover of less than AUD \$50 million will be able to utilise the Skills and Training Boost to deduct an additional 20% of expenses relating to eligible training of employees.

This is certainly a timely boost with the affects of COVID still being felt by many businesses.

For more information, go to the [Small Business Technology Investment Boost and Small Business Skills and Training Boost](#) page on the Australian Taxation Office website.

[Click here for the article online](#)

ADAS School Wins Excellence Award – Again!

Congratulations to the Commercial Dive Academy (CDA) for winning an Excellence in Export award for the second year running.

The Excellence in Export award is a category of the 2022 Sprit Super Business Excellence awards, and showcases businesses and organisations which “create and/or develop export opportunities, that develop new export avenues and facilitate export businesses to develop their markets.”*



Commercial Dive Academy have now won the Excellence in Export award in 2021 and 2022. This is an excellent achievement, especially in light of the world events currently occurring.

ADAS congratulates CDA on their continued high standards and achievement.

* Source: <https://bea.lcc.asn.au/project/excellence-in-export/>

[Click here for the article online](#)

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