

ADAS Newsletter Issue 38, May 2024

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 38 of the ADAS Newsletter

Along with a summary of ADAS activities, we are excited to release the updated Revision Modules in ADAS-Online, which are publicly available for anyone who wants to brush up their skills to enter the diving industry or further their career. We also welcome a new member to the Board of Directors, Thomas Mayo from the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and farewell both Peter Sieniewicz, from IMCA and Adrian Evans, from the MUA.

The safety article in this issue gives details of six recent safety events reported to IMCA, including two incidents of a main bell wire failing.

In this issue we also share an update from the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) on the withdrawal of key COVID-19 Guidance documents, and information on the South African Department of Employment and Labour's requirements for diving certification holders to register and revalidate their certifications.

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



Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

ADAS Updates May 2024



Along with a summary of ADAS activities we are excited to release the updated Revision Modules in ADAS-Online, which are publicly available for anyone who wants to brush up their skills to enter the diving industry or further their career.

Updated Revision Modules Live in ADAS-Online

Following feedback from ADAS schools and students, ADAS has updated the publicly available Revision Modules in ADAS-Online to a new, streamlined format using responsive software, to ensure the units will be accessible to users on all types of devices.

The content of the modules has not changed, apart from a few corrections, and each unit is linked to the same series of quizzes as previously, for which students can be awarded a certificate with grades as proof of completion.

The location of the Revision Modules in ADAS-Online has not changed, and [you can view them here \(ADAS-Online login required\)](#)

Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

- Standards Australia participation: 6 technical committee meetings for SF20 (scientific diving) and SF46 (tunnelling operations)
- ADAS Board of Directors: one meeting of the whole Board; three Working Group meetings
- Two instructor training courses: ADAS Diploma in Learning and Development Subset 2 (Diver Trainer) January 2024, ADAS Diploma in Learning and Development Subset 1 (Assistant Diver Trainer) May 2024

Training Materials update

- Continued work on Aquarium online exam
- Finalisation of Remotely Operated Vehicle assessment material
- Creation of exam questions and assessment tool specific to the HLTINF006 unit of competency for Clinical Chamber Operator (CCO) course/exam
- Full mapping of Closed Bell units of competency, comparing ADAS/IDRCF/2815.4 competencies
- Continued review of Part 2 (SSBA to 30m) text

Quality Assurance 01 January – 01 May 2024

- Desktop audits: 8 Desktop audits conducted
 - 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: 85 responses received
 - 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

- One ADAS school audited
- Organisation of annual ADAS ATE Meeting initialised

[Click here for the article online](#)

ADAS Board of Directors Update

The ADAS Board of Directors recently welcomed Thomas Mayo to the ADAS Board, and farewelled Adrian Evans, who has been a member of the Board since 2021, and Peter Sieniewicz, who has been a Board member since 2018.



Thomas Mayo

The ADAS Board of Directors recently welcomed Thomas Mayo to the ADAS Board. Thomas takes the place of Adrian Evans as a representative of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). Adrian resigned from the Board in March 2024 and Thomas was elected in early April. In addition to being the MUA Assistant National Secretary, Thomas is also a very well-known advocate for Indigenous rights and recognition in Australia.



Adrian Evans

Adrian Evans took his position on the ADAS Board in conjunction with being appointed the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Assistant National Secretary in March 2021. Adrian began his maritime career in 1991 as an apprentice mechanic before becoming an ITF inspector in 2007 and a union official in 2009. His extensive experience in safety and training, and his union expertise, were valued by the ADAS Board throughout his tenure. ADAS thanks Adrian for his contributions to the Board and wishes him well for his future ventures.



Peter Sieniewicz

Peter Sieniewicz from International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) retired from the ADAS Board of Director on 11th January 2024. Also retiring from IMCA in March 2024, Peter was a lead diving technical advisor for IMCA with many years of experience as a specialist diving inspector for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the United Kingdom. Peter not only brought his Health and Safety expertise to the ADAS Board of Directors, but also his experience in research, legislation, diver training, project management and international experience as a member of the IMCA technical team. ADAS thanks Peter for his contributions to the Board and wishes him well for his future ventures.

You can read more about Thomas, and all current Directors, on the [Board of Directors page of the ADAS website](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety



Six safety incidents have been reported in recent IMCA Safety Flashes.

- IMCA SF 08/24 [Main bell wire damaged](#)
- IMCA SF 08/24 [Main bell wire rope failed destructive test](#)
- IMCA SF 07/24 [Loss of heading control on an FPU during diving operations](#)
- IMCA SF 01/24 [Diver in the bell hit by falling object](#)
- IMCA SF 01/24 [Divers lifted off seabed by Clump Weight](#)

- IMCA SF 01/24 [Leak in hot water system for saturation divers](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

SPUMS withdraws COVID Guidance documents



The South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) has withdrawn key COVID-19 guidance documents as of January 1st 2024.

The Society cites reasons for withdrawing the documents as follows:

- High vaccination rates in Australian and New Zealand populations coupled with lower virulence of current SARS-CoV-2 variants has meant that the health threats from the disease are now reduced.
- Mild COVID infections in vaccinated divers have not been demonstrated to affect fitness to dive. Divers have successfully returned to diving once asymptomatic.
- Current expert medical opinion is that COVID-19 infections can be managed in the same way as for other seasonal virus infections.

[For more details, visit the SPUMS website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

South African Diving Qualifications Registration and Revalidation



In October 2022 the South African Department of Employment and Labour announced details of the registration and revalidation process that all commercial divers, diving supervisors, chamber operators and diving instructors holding training certificates issued by the department are required to complete to ensure continuing validation of their certification.

The scheme was developed to ensure that commercial diving personnel certified by the Department of Employment and Labour are maintaining their skills and abilities.

All qualifications for the roles listed above issued by the Department before 20 May 2022 will be valid until 06 June 2024.

ADAS and ADAS schools are now checking all certifications issued by the Department of Employment and Labour for expiration dates that comply with the new registration and revalidation requirements.

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

[Click here for the article online](#)

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