

ADAS Newsletter Issue 42, August 2025

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 42 of the ADAS Newsletter

In this issue we share an update on the revised OPGGS regulations that came into effect in June 2025, and the International Maritime Organisation's Women in Maritime Survey 2024 report, presenting data on the proportion and distribution of women working in the maritime sector.

The safety article in this issue gives details of five safety incidents shared in recent IMCA Safety Flashes, including the case of a diver in Brazil who became disabled due to decompression illness.

In ADAS news, we share an update from our annual ADAS schools conference, held in Ballina NSW, and launch the updated ADAS WHS Certificate, which is available to general divers seeking to comply with the latest requirements from SafeWork NSW. We also congratulate Senior Sergeant Raymond Busby, NSW Police Marine Area Command, on being presented with the Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Offshore Air Divers Task Book – an innovative tool for early career divers to log and track their skills across workplaces.

Finally, we share a range of updates from IMCA, and once again raise the issue of forged certifications in the hyperbaric industry, and how we are using international information sharing to combat the spread of forgeries.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Sordes".

Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

Revised OPGGS Regulations Now in Effect



New work health and safety regulations for working offshore in Australia came into effect on 12 June 2025, following the 2021 offshore oil and gas safety review, led by the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources. The changes are designed to support industry and NOPSEMA (the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority) to ensure the ongoing health and safety of workers and provide numerous benefits across the sector.

The revised regulations and changes to the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 are now in effect, and NOPSEMA has updated critical guidance materials and forms to reflect the changes in the legislation.

Critically, in the new Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024, Section 2.42 “Periods of incapacitation and notices and reports of accidents and dangerous occurrences” now require **the diving supervisor** reporting to NOPSEMA for any incidents and dangerous occurrences, not the operator (as was the case before). This is an important change that all offshore supervisors will need to be aware of.

The changes encompass diverse factors of working offshore including:

- Strengthening the role of Health and Safety Representatives
- Workforce health and wellbeing
- Sexual harassment and psychosocial health
- Modernising diving regulations
- Mandatory Design Notification Scheme
- Administration of safety cases
- Operators and titleholders
- Compliance and enforcement
- Vessel Activity Notifications Scheme
- Contact information

Video recordings of NOPSEMA’s monthly information sessions and a frequently asked questions fact sheet can be found in the Offshore Industry – Safety section of the NOPSEMA website (www.nopsema.gov.au/offshore-industry/safety), while general questions can be directed to communications@nopsema.gov.au

NOPSEMA encourages industry to contact them with any questions related to meeting the new regulatory requirements.

This is extracted from an article in the current edition of *The Regulator Issue 2 2025*, pg. 6. [Click here to read the full edition of The Regulator Issue 2 2025](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Women in Maritime



In 2024 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA International) conducted the second Women in Maritime Survey, which helps to identify the current state of gender diversity in the maritime sector. The Women in Maritime Survey 2024 report, published in May 2025, presents data on the proportion and distribution of women working in the maritime sector based on information collected from IMO Member States and the private sector.

The publication of the survey results coincides with the International Day for Women in Maritime, May 18.

The International Maritime Organisation has established May 18 as the International Day for Women in Maritime. The day celebrates women in the industry and is intended to promote the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector, raise the profile of women in maritime, strengthen IMO's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality), and support work to address the current gender imbalance in maritime.

Follow the links to find out more:

- **Women in Maritime – Visibility**
<https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/TechnicalCooperation/Pages/Women-in-Maritime-Visibility.aspx>
- **International Day for Women in Maritime – Archives**
<https://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/Pages/International-Day-for-Women-in-Maritime-Archive.aspx>

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety



Four safety incidents have been shared in recent International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) Safety Flashes, including the case of a diver in Brazil who became disabled due to

- IMCA SF 13/25 [Diver sustains laceration to right hand](#)
- IMCA SF 13/25 [Dive chamber procedures and operations](#)
- IMCA SF 14/25 [Brazil: diver permanently disabled after decompression illness](#)
- IMCA SF 14/25 [Diver reports unwell post-dive: non-decompression illness](#)

decompression illness.

See also: ADAS News April 2022 – [IMCA publishes new guidance on the use of deck decompression chambers \(DDCs\) to treat divers with decompression illnesses.](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

ADAS Updates



In ADAS news, we share an update from our annual ADAS school conference, held in Ballina NSW, and launch the updated ADAS WHS Certificate, which is available to general divers

seeking to comply with the latest requirements from SafeWork NSW.

WHS Course now available on new website



The ADAS WHS Certificate course has been refreshed and is now back online for students to access. The course aims to provide skills and knowledge relevant to onshore diving work classified as 'general diving' and is designed primarily for divers who hold a AS4005.2 Recreational dive leader qualification, and wish to comply with the latest requirements from SafeWork NSW.

Click here to find out more about the WHS Course <https://adas.org.au/whs-certificate/>

ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) support

Annual ATE conference: Two-day face-to-face conference in Ballina, NSW. Highlights included:

- Three working groups focused on refining training and assessment requirements in diver and supervisor courses
- Updates to ATE accreditation requirements
- Updates to ADAS Trainer Pathway



Guest speaker Dr Richard Harris, anaesthetist and cave diver who played a crucial role in the Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand in 2018, gave a presentation on the world-renowned cave rescue operation that saved 13 people, and the extraordinary diving work it involved. Dr Harris also discussed the use of Hydrogen, which is less dense than Helium, as a diluent for very deep dives, in cave diving in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

- Standards Australia participation: 7 Standards Australia meetings: 3 for SF46 (Tunnelling) and 4 for SF20 (Scientific diving)
- ADAS Board of Directors: Two day face-to-face meeting held in Ballina NSW, August 2025
- Information on Updated Awards: The Professional Diving Industry Award (Industrial) Award was updated as of July 2025. Click here to view the updated award guide <https://adas.org.au/rates-of-pay/>

Training Materials Update

- Development of Part 3 online exam

- Revision of Part 2 text

Quality assurance April – August 2025

- Desktop audits: 6 finalised
 - These are audits of completed student training records against ADAS course requirements to ensure compliance with ADAS and AS2815
- Phone and email post-course surveys: 126 students contacted; 37 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

[Click here for the article online](#)

Raymon Busby Awarded Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence



Congratulations to Senior Sergeant Raymon (Ray) Busby, lead trainer and training and assessment manager at the NSW Police Marine Area Command, on being presented with the 2025 *Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence* for his outstanding contributions and services to hyperbaric training.

Ray started his policing career in 1989, entering the diving pathway in 1992 with the NSW Police Dive Unit. In 1998 he commenced instructing at the unit and for the past 27 years has been involved, in some capacity, in every NSW Police Dive course. In 2018 he became the Officer In Charge (Diving Coordinator) of the unit, which he remains to this day.

Highly respected by his peers, Ray has been integral in training hundreds of police divers across most states of Australia over the past 27 years. He is a mentor across Australia & NZ and has a passion for teaching and developing police divers.

Ray remains an operational police supervisor and diver within NSW Police, taking a lead role in complex and protracted police operations and searches across the state of NSW. Over the course of his career, he has played an integral role in providing both results and closure to those involved in drowning and crimes across NSW.

Ray also sits as the chair to the Australian & New Zealand Divers Working Group. In this capacity Ray works alongside state and territory diving heads from across Australia and NZ, in conjunction with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). He is also the NSW representative on the SF/17 diving committee board, under Standards Australia.

For those who know Ray, he remains committed to providing the best service possible to everyone he encounters. He is both professional with an intrinsic ability to relate to a wide audience, and able to maintain a sense of humour and keep it real.

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.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Launch of ADAS Task Book



ADAS is excited to launch our new Offshore Air Divers Task Book, now available to order online. An innovative new tool for early career divers working offshore, the Task Book provides a portable and comprehensive record of competencies and skills verified by workplace assessors.

Designed in consultation with industry, this task book facilitates the documentation of assessed skills and competencies across various employers and job sites.

The Task Book is priced at an affordable \$25.00 + postage, making it an accessible resource for all divers.

To find out more about the Task Book and order one today, [click here](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

Combating forgeries



Forgeries of ADAS diver and supervisor certification, and of certifications from other agencies, continues to be a significant issue across the global diving sector.

Twelve incidents of forged and invalid ADAS certifications have been detected by ADAS in the previous 12 months both directly through ADAS and through information sharing with between international agencies.

As a member of the International Diving Regulators and Certifiers Forum (IDRCF) ADAS has information sharing arrangements with agencies across the world and alerts IDRCF members to all instances of forgery.

Some holders of forged certifications have recently claimed they engaged a third party agent to complete their renewal, which is not delivered on as promised. ADAS strongly encourages all card holders to conduct their own renewals and not rely on third party providers.

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: enquiries@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:

- <https://adas.org.au/forgeries-on-the-rise-check-with-adas/>
- [ADAS Forgeries information](#)
- [Increase in Forgeries – ADAS News April 2022](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

IMCA Updates



IMCA recently issued a number of topical updates including a new CPD program, warnings about rogue diving schools, and a 2024 Safety Stats Report.

IMCA launches new 'Diving CPD Mix' to support global diving industry

In response to industry demand, IMCA has launched the *IMCA Diving CPD Mix* available for use by the whole diving industry. This new product makes the diving supervisor CPD app available to all interested parties in the offshore sector, and beyond.

[Read the full article here](#)

IMCA issues warning over rogue diving schools

IMCA has issued a warning to the industry regarding false and misleading claims made by unscrupulous diver training schools. In response to inquiries from newly qualified divers – many of whom have spent thousands of dollars on diver training believing it will lead to an 'IMCA qualification' – IMCA has clarified that it does not approve individual diver training schools or issue certificates for in-water diver training. In short, there is no such thing as an "IMCA diver certification".

[Read the full article here](#)

IMCA Safety Stats Report 2024

Presenting vital insights into safety performance across the maritime industry, the 2024 report is based on the largest dataset IMCA has ever compiled with over one billion working hours

submitted by 198 marine contractor Members – a significant milestone in our collective commitment to safety.

[Download the report here](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme

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