
ADAS Newsletter Issue 43, December 2025

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 43 of the ADAS Newsletter

In this issue we share an update on the changes to the ADAS Onshore DMT certification timeframes, which have been extended to make refreshing the certification easier for license holders, and improve the usability of the certification.

There have been no diving-related safety incidents reported in recent IMCA Safety Flashes, however there has been an incident of a dropped load during overboarding for subsea operations.

In ADAS news, we share updates from the Executive Director's recent attendance at diving events in the UK and Norway, and share the presentation delivered by the Director on mental health in the offshore industry at the Bergen International Diving Seminar (Norway) in November.

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

Christmas closure: The ADAS office will be closed from 5pm on Friday 19th December 2025, until 9am Monday 5th January 2026. We wish you and your families a safe and happy festive season.

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

Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

Changes to Onshore DMT Timeframes



Following feedback from license holders and ADAS schools, the Onshore Diver Medical Technician (DMT) certification timeframes have been extended. These changes have been made to make refreshing the certification easier for license holders, and improve the usability of the certification by extending its validity period from 24 months to 36 months.

The change to the refresher course timeframe is as follows: an Onshore DMT refresher course can be undertaken at any stage from six (6) months before the expiry date and up to six (6) months after the expiry date.

The length of the certification validity has been extended to 36 months, or three years. Once a refresher course has been completed, the validity date of the new certificate will run for a further three years from the expiry date of the current certificate

Once the certification has expired for more than six (6) months, a full Onshore DMT course must be undertaken.

If you have any questions about the new timeframes for Onshore DMT certifications, please contact ADAS.

[Click here for the article online](#)

ADAS Updates

It has been a busy year at ADAS engaging with stakeholders in Australia and the wider Asia Pacific region, and the Executive Director has also attended an international diving forum in the UK and a seminar in Norway.

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

This year, in addition to engaging with stakeholders in Australia and the wider Asia Pacific region, the Executive Director has attended diving conferences in the UK and Norway, delivering a presentation on mental health in the offshore industry at the Bergen International Diving Seminar.

Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

- Standards Australia participation: 2 meetings attended
- ADAS Board of Directors: one online meeting in December 2025
- European Diving Technology Committee Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, UK 25-26 September 2025
 - Attended by Amada Sordes. [View the minutes from the meeting here](#)
- **International Diving Regulators & Certifiers Forum (IDRCF) 2025**
 - In September the ADAS Executive Director, Amanda Sordes, participated in the 2025 IDRCF meeting, connecting with representatives from international regulators and certifiers including the UK (HSE), Norway (Havtil), Canada (DCBC) South Africa (SADOL), 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.
 - Key topics discussed this year included the use of dry suits in diver training, the new Australian Standards for Closed Bell Training to be introduced in January 2026, and consistency of renewal requirements across agencies
- **Bergen International Diving Seminar (Norway, November 4th-5th 2025)**
 - Amanda Sordes delivered a presentation titled *Mental health offshore: building an inclusive, healthier dive industry* at the Bergen International Diving Seminar as part of a session on mental health as a future focus for the industry. The

session included a presentation by Abbie Coutts and Stuart Cowie from TechnipFMC titled *Brotherhood Below: Mental Strength Beneath the Surface*

- [View the slide show presented by ADAS at Bergen here](#)
- All presentations delivered at the Bergen International Diving Seminar 2025 [are now available on NUI's website.](#)
- A selection of photos from the conference is displayed below.

Bergen International Diving Seminar Gallery



Amanda SORDES, ADAS Executive Director discussing the mental health of the offshore workforce



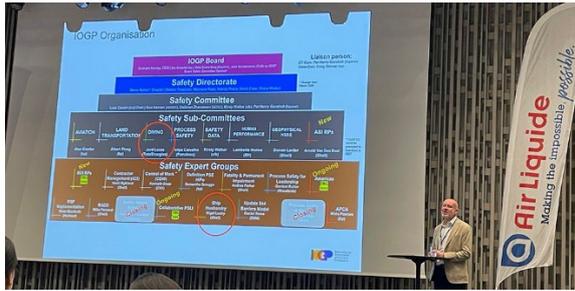
Abbie COUTS (Occupational Health and Wellbeing Lead, Technip FMC) and Stu COWIE (Closed Bell Diver and Supervisor, Technip FMC) wrapping up their presentation on mental fitness in saturation operations



Armin SIDALI (Hyperbaric Manager for Tunnelling operations, Bouygues Construction and ADAS Trainer) mentioning ADAS as the preferred provider of certification for personnel in tunnelling operations



Bill CHILTON (IMCA Diving Manager) and Ali MACLEOD (IMCA Diving Technical Advisor) giving an update on the work of DMAC (Diving Medical Advisory Committee)



Jord LUCAS (Head of Underwater Operations, Total Energies) presenting the structure of the IOGP (International association of Oil and Gas Producers)



Dr Philip BRYSON (TAC Healthcare, DMAC member) presenting a history of saturation diving procedures

Training Materials Update

- Major update to ADAS Course Requirements Manual
- Update to ADAS Administration and Operational Procedures manual
- Update to Part 2 assessment tools
- Continued work on creation of Part 3 online exam
- Finalisation of updated Part 2 text

Quality assurance September – December 2025

- Desktop audits: 3 finalised
 - 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: **136** students contacted; **45** 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

- On site audits: Boğaziçi Underwater Research Centre (BURC), Türkiye
- School accreditations / reaccreditations / extension to scope applications:
 - 1 x ATE reaccreditation reviewed and approved
 - 2 x new ATE accreditation applications currently underway
 - One diver training establishment has achieved ADAS accreditation: Australasian Occupational Diver Training (AODT)

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

ADAS is currently developing an application to have its two Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications reaccredited with the Australian VET regulator, Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). This is a substantial project which includes consultation with industry stakeholders and a full review of all ADAS courses to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness for the hyperbaric industry.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety



There have been no diving-related safety incidents reported in recent IMCA Safety Flashes, however there has been an incident of a dropped load during overboarding for subsea operations, and a report on positive changes at one IMCA contractor in the use of digital tools to give all crew and office personnel 24/7 access to essential safety and operational updates.

- IMCA SF 22/25 [Positive – Enhancing safety communication through digital monitors](#)
- IMCA SF 21/25 [Broken equipment repaired or replaced](#)
- IMCA SF 18/25 [Dropped object due to over-ridden limit switch](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

IMCA Updates



IMCA has released updated guidance documentation on a range of topics including spoolpiece metrology, biodiversity impacts and sustainability assessment tools.

Updated Guidance on Subsea Spoolpiece Metrology

IMCA has released a new revision of its widely-used document *IMCA S019 – Guidance for Subsea Spoolpiece Metrology*, developed by its Offshore Survey Division. This latest update follows an 18-month review by a specialist workgroup within IMCA's Offshore Survey Committee. The revised document provides enhanced guidance on the methodologies, technologies, and considerations involved in subsea metrology, an essential process for ensuring the accurate connection of subsea structures and pipelines.

[Find out more here](#)

Guidance on biodiversity impact and nature-positive developments

IMCA has published new informative guidance to support marine contractors to understand and manage their impact on marine biodiversity. *IMCA ES006 – The Role of Marine Contractors in Biodiversity Impact and Nature-Positive Developments* sets out how IMCA members and the wider industry can integrate biodiversity and nature-positive strategies into their operations.

[Find out more here](#)

Relaunch of environmental sustainability self-assessment tool

IMCA has launched its updated *Environmental Sustainability Self-Assessment (ESSA) Tool*, developed by IMCA's Environmental Sustainability Committee. The tool represents a key step in promoting sustainable practices across our industry and benchmarking Members' collective progress against IMCA's Code of Practice on Environmental Sustainability.

[Find out more 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 | news@adas.org.au