



eCMID Accredited Vessel Inspector

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

MARINE
SURVEYING
ACADEMY





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Introduction from CEO, IIMS & MSA

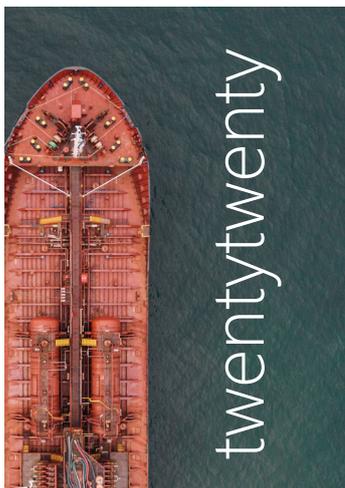
Dear eCMID AVI

Welcome to this occasional eCMID AVI news bulletin. I recall just a few short weeks ago welcoming people to the new decade and saying how I hoped it would prove better than the last one. Prophetic words not! It is with a degree of sadness that I write this introduction at the height of the pandemic that has brought many working lives to a halt and has shut down surveying, auditing and inspecting for all but a handful of individuals. Once we are through this awful situation, I am confident your services will be much in demand once again. But there is no doubt that the new normal we will have to adjust to will be rather different to the one we left behind.



On a brighter more positive note, it seems unthinkable, but this year, the eCMID Accredited Vessel Inspector scheme comes of age as we mark and celebrate the fifth anniversary since its launch.

- Has it made a difference in the offshore inspection arena? I believe it has and I know others agree, including vessel operators, owners and AVIs themselves.
- Have we managed to achieve what we set out to do? Yes, we have - and more as the programme has developed and been refined.
- Is there more to be done? Yes absolutely. The scheme is robust, yet flexible and in conjunction with IMCA and their eCMID Steering Committee, we will continually review, enhance and improve operations.



We will be inviting the first AVIs accredited back in 2015 to come forward to be reaccredited this year for another five years. There is considerable work going on behind the scenes now and we are ready to announce what the reaccreditation process looks like and what is required. So, keep an eye out for further announcements in the coming weeks.

Finally, I would like to offer a date for your diary. Following the success of previous online only seminars, my colleagues have planned a day long online marathon on Wednesday 20th May, entitled a Festival of Knowledge, featuring up to 12 presentations relevant to eCMID AVIs commencing at 07.00

UK time. Full details are in this news bulletin and I hope you will choose to join us on that day.

Stay safe during these turbulent times.

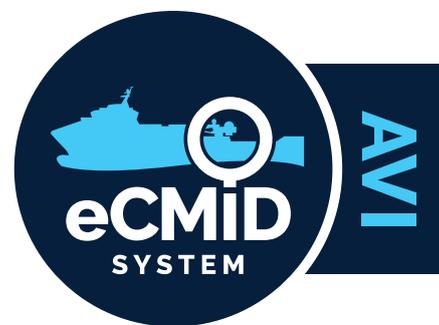
Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike'.

Mike Schwarz
IIMS & MSA Chief Executive Officer



And... some words from the eCMID AVI Team at MSA (Marine Surveying Academy)



The last quarter has seen an influx of new applications as well as renewals. As at the end of December, we received and processed 29 applications since the beginning of September.

We held our first, highly successful seminar in September; the eCMID AVI Marine Renewable Energy Seminar in Hoofddorp, Amsterdam which featured speakers from key companies in the renewables sector including Extramare Oy, Seaway7 and Vattenfall. Also presenting were Stephen Birt of TechnipFMC, Graeme Reid of IMCA and Peter Solvang of DP & Marine Assurance Norway AS. It was well attended in the room and online.

Our event followed IMCA's 1-day Marine Renewable Energy Seminar with the theme *"Working together for safe and efficient operations"*. Both were well attended, and overall content was factual and informative.

In this edition, we will highlight key topics gleaned from both events that are relevant to existing and new AVIs, as well as new developments.

We hope you enjoy reading **YOUR** newsletter and if you have colleagues you feel would benefit from the eCMID AVI scheme, feel free to share this newsletter and signpost them to our designated website...

<https://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com>



As always, we are keen to develop the eCMID AVI community with your input, so please address any comments/feedback to our Events and Course Co-ordinator, Sharon Holland, email: courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Just a reminder of the eCMID AVI team who are onboard to help you...

Hilary Excell, Director and Business Manager E: MSA@iims.org.uk

Pui Si Chung, Accreditation Scheme Administrator E: info@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Sharon Holland, Events and Course Co-ordinator E: courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com

The team is also supported by our Accounts team and Mike Schwarz, CEO of IIMS & MSA.



Hilary



Pui Si



Sharon



Jen



Elly



Mike

Are you claiming your CPD points on a regular basis? We encourage you to claim points on a regular basis rather than saving them up. This will help you to avoid missing out on any points.

How are you claiming your points? We recently updated the points table which you can view on the website at:

<https://bit.ly/2IEISMn>

Remember that as an AVI it is a mandatory requirement to achieve a minimum of 10 CPD points per renewal year.



CPD FAQs

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions we receive regarding CPD...

1. I do not have enough points to renew

You only require a minimum of 10 CPD points per renewal year which can be achieved in a variety of ways. Often AVIs have completed activities without realising points can be awarded. Examples of CPD activities can be found on the points table, or if yours are not listed, talk to us and we can work with you to help you reach the requirements.

2. I have not had time to visit any conferences/exhibitions

These are a great way to extend your knowledge and network with your peers, however, online learning is just as relevant as in-person attendance and can count towards CPD. Log in to our upcoming eCMID Fest on 20th May 2020.

3. I haven't completed any eCMID/eMISW inspections in the past 12 months

We understand not all AVIs have the opportunity to complete eCMID/eMISW inspections every year. For the purpose of the CPD programme we can accept other forms of vessel inspection activities to demonstrate your continued currency as an Inspector.

4. My expiry date has passed, can I still renew?

There will be a period of time following your expiry date to complete your annual renewal and reminders will be sent to keep you updated. You must submit your CPD claims, a copy of your logbook and complete the renewal fee payment in order to fully complete your renewal and maintain accreditation for the next 12 months. Failure to do so means your AVI access will be de-activated from IMCA's eCMID System and you will be unable to upload completed inspection reports.

5. I cannot attach a file to support my CPD claim via the App

If you are experiencing any problems then submit your claim as normal via the App and email your supporting evidence to info@marinesurveyingacademy.com.



Have you downloaded the FREE eCMID CPD App yet?

If not, why not?! We encourage all AVIs to use the online app and to eventually eradicate paper-based documents.





Continuous Professional Development – “the intentional maintenance and development of the knowledge and skills needed to perform in a professional context”



Did you know...

You can also claim CPD points by purchasing any of the handy guides published by IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying) and which may be helpful in your work. The IIMS Handy Guides series can be viewed at:

<https://bit.ly/2uxuY7k>



eCMID AVI Fees and 5-year Revalidation

With effect from 1st January 2020, there will be an increase in fees relating to the eCMID AVI scheme.

New costs for 2020:

- Renewals - £210
- New applications - £425
- 1 x additional vessel - £110
- 2 or more additional vessels - £212.50
- Re-applications - £212.50
- eCMID AVI courses - £475

The first 5-year revalidations are due from 1st June 2020. The re-validation programme will comprise of two parts:

- Part One - Re-validation Review - £275.00
- Part Two - Mandatory Refresher Course - £120.00



Development of the revalidation programme is still underway. As soon as details are completed, those AVIs due for revalidation will be notified.

Education

Diploma Courses and Modules

In conjunction with our parent company IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying) we are able to offer modules for distance learning via two Diplomas; **a Professional Qualification in Commercial Ship Marine Surveying** and **a Professional Qualification in Yacht and Small Craft Marine Surveying**.

Your Professional Qualification in Commercial Ship Marine Surveying awarded by the International Institute of Marine Surveying starts here

- Distance learning - study online from home
- No obligation to be a member of IIMS to apply
- IIMS Student Membership included
- The only professional body to offer a formal marine surveying qualification
- Start your learning to become a master of your profession

Committed to delivering the best education for Commercial Ship Marine Surveyors

International Institute of Marine Surveying
Marilla House | 48 East Street | Portsmouth
Hampshire | PO16 9XS | United Kingdom

Web: www.iims.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 23 9238 5223
Email: education@iims.org.uk

Your Professional Qualification in Yacht & Small Craft Marine Surveying awarded by the International Institute of Marine Surveying starts here

- Distance learning - study online from home
- No obligation to be a member of IIMS to apply
- IIMS Student Membership included
- The only professional body to offer a formal marine surveying qualification
- Start your learning to become a master of your profession

Committed to delivering the best education for Yacht and Small Craft Marine Surveyors

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Tel: +44 (0) 23 9238 5223
Email: education@iims.org.uk

To gain the full Diploma, students have two years to complete eight modules; four x core units and four x specialist units of your choice. On successful completion a Diploma is awarded followed by the option to further the qualification by enrolling in the Advanced Professional Qualification. This requires the study of a further four x modules of your choice in one year. The recommended study time for each unit is 60+ hours, including completion of the assignment. Study time is made up of reading and research, followed by completion of an assignment.

- The cost of each Professional Qualification is £2,750.00 split into two instalments of £1,375.00
- The cost of the Advanced Professional Qualification is an additional £1,000.00

Students are accepted four times a year and can join on any of the admission dates: 10th January, 10th April, 10th July and 10th October. Full details are available on the IIMS website: <https://www.iims.org.uk/education/commercial-ship-professional-qualification/> and <https://www.iims.org.uk/education/yacht-small-craft-professional-qualification/>

Individual Learning Units

We are pleased to offer individual learning units at £395.00 each which can be purchased directly through the IIMS website: <https://www.iims.org.uk/education/buy-unit/> Study material is available to download in PDF format and students have one year to complete from the date of purchase. On successful completion, a Record of Studies certificate is awarded.

Handy Guides

IIMS publish a series of self help handy guides, written by acknowledged experts in the field under the series title 'What a marine surveyor needs to know about'. The paperback guides are available in a compact and handy A5 size. The series continues to grow and further titles are published at occasional intervals covering a variety of topics. A more detailed description of each handy guide and information on how to purchase can be found at: <https://www.iims.org.uk/education/buy-iims-handy-guides/>

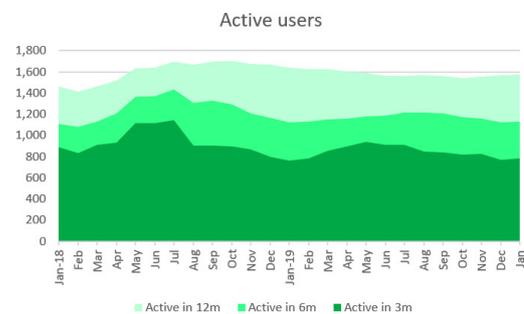
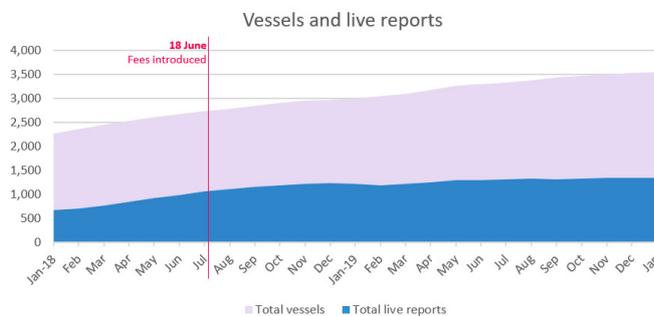
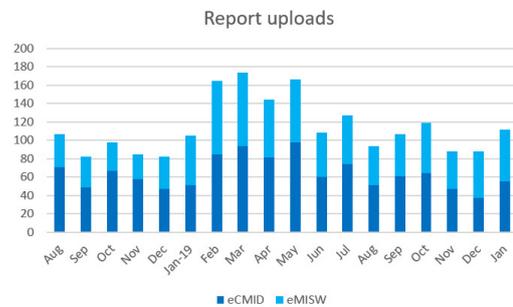
Typically, guides are published at various price points between £20.00 and £35.00 and are available directly from IIMS in paperback or in the slightly cheaper, downloadable eBook version.

We thank you for your continued support and interest in both IIMS and MSA, and if you have any questions at all regarding the above, please do not hesitate to ask.

Following the IMCA Renewable Energy Seminar in September 2019, some key issues were raised and Graeme Reid, Technical Advisor at IMCA has published some statistics relating to the eCMID AVI Scheme, see below and has also written a short article.

eCMID system status

	29 Jan 19	29 Jan 20		
• Live reports:	1216	1333	↑	10%
• Live eCMID reports:	763	727	↓	5%
• Vessels:	3003	3558	↑	19%
• Users (active 6m):	3885	4198	↑	8%



The slight reduction in eCMIDs in the year represents a recategorization of vessels between eCMIDs and eMISW undertaken early in 2019.

“In line with its 2020 objectives IMCA’s DP Committee has reviewed the eCMID DP supplement to ensure it continues to be relevant for the industry. In addition to reviewing the questions, the committee has also reviewed the guidance associated with each question and has produced supplementary guidance to further support the AVI community when answering specific questions. These updates are now live within the database. The aim of this exercise is to continue to raise the quality of the content and completion of audits for the benefit of all parties - the audit recipient; the AVI community and the eCMID brand.

Moving forward, IMCA is currently undertaking a similar exercise focusing on the questions related to ‘engine room’ activities, as this is an area where audit weakness has been found in recent times.

The eCMID committee continues to meet quarterly and focuses on the continuous improvement of both the eCMID system and the AVI community. The committee appreciates and encourages feedback from the AVI community and all suggestions for improvement are considered.

One of the key workplan objectives of the committee is to roll out the new progressive web application (PWA) giving all AVIs the ability to undertake audits on a range of different devices and operating systems, for example, Apple or Android tablets. The development of the application and internal testing within IMCA is now complete. IMCA will shortly commence beta testing with the AVI community ahead of full roll out later in the year”.

Please note that if you haven’t yet signed up to be a BETA Tester you can still do so by emailing: ecmid@imca-int.com with details on the device(s) and browser(s) you intend to use.

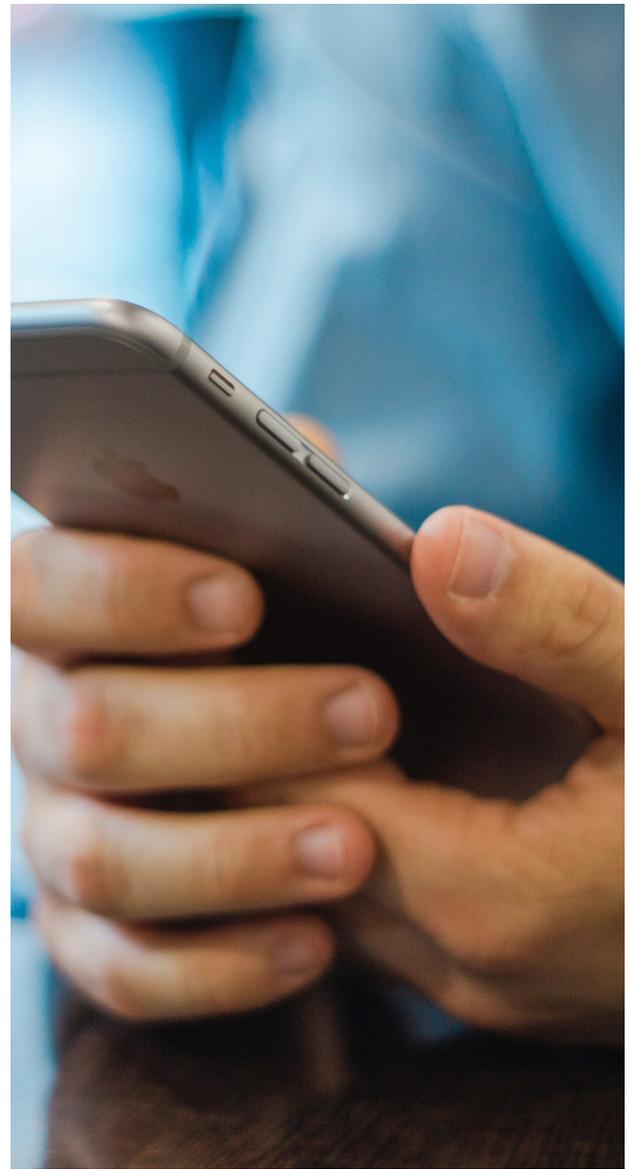
New eCMID inspection app enters public testing

A new eCMID inspection app is now available for testing, with an invitation issued to all registered accredited vessel inspectors (AVIs).

Built as a progressive web app (PWA), this will make the system truly cross-platform as it uses a web browser to run. This means that inspection reports will be able to be completed on Android/iOS smartphones and tablets, as well as Mac devices, for the first time, while improving the experience for Windows users.

This is the latest and most significant development to the system funded by the report upload fees introduced in 2018 – intended to enable such improvement, maintenance and support of the eCMID system on an ongoing basis. There is no additional cost for using the app, nor for downloading inspection reports.

Any inspector not in receipt of the invitation but interested in testing the new app should contact the eCMID helpdesk, ecmid@imca-int.com.



Making Waves – April issue

In IMCA's monthly publication 'Making Waves', the April edition features a very interesting and relevant read regarding duplication of marine surveys.



IMCA: the voice for ensuring no duplication of effort

Graeme Reid, Technical Adviser – Marine at the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) looks at misperception and a 'turning back the clock' on duplication of marine surveys.

The industries IMCA members serve are constantly striving to remove unnecessary duplications of effort, and inefficiencies – no recreating of the wheel for them, or for us.

IMCA's Common Marine Inspection Document (CMID) was launched in 1999 to provide standard formats for the inspection and auditing of offshore vessels. Its use globally helps promote safety and efficiency; and, importantly, it helps reduce the number of repeat inspections on individual vessels by providing a consistent, transferrable format which meets vessel operator and client requirements alike.



Graeme Reid

CMID evolved to become eCMID and IMCA now recognises only eCMID and eMSIW (for small workboats) inspection reports that have been prepared by Accredited Vessel Inspectors (AVIs) and uploaded into the online database. No other versions are accepted.

There are currently 3,560 vessels registered on the eCMID database system; 4,200 active users of the database (active within the last six months); and at the end of January over 1,300 eCMID and eMSIW live reports (i.e. in date) on the system.

Add to this the 487 Accredited Vessel Inspectors (AVIs) in the scheme operated by the IIMS Marine Surveying Academy and we could surely say "Job done! It's all smooth sailing". However, several IMCA members started reporting instances of 'double inspections'; all of them relating to Marine Warranty vessel suitability (MWS) surveys of vessels with existing eCMID audits. This was concerning for the existing eCMID relates primarily to

the 'marine platform' – the vessel; whereas MWS surveys are in most cases undertaken because something is going to be installed by the vessel, or a specific piece of work is to be undertaken connected to lifting, pipe or cable lay, or diving, i.e. the vessel's 'mission'.

Members were reporting that this is where the doubling up was happening that suitability surveys were often close to, or in some cases identical to, an IMCA eCMID audit with little or no regard to the 'mission specific equipment' – the very thing that is of fundamental interest to the insurer.

Example survey documents supplied to IMCA had similar content and questions to that of the eCMID; and in some extreme cases the survey was performed by the same company and the same surveyor who had undertaken the eCMID audit weeks previously. In some examples a new set of findings was generated causing unnecessary workload and inefficiency to the vessel owner/operator and leading to doubts over surveyor competency.

IMCA took this issue to the Joint Rig Committee (JRC) – London Market Association and it was subsequently tabled for discussion at the JRC Survey and Engineering sub-committee. Recently the JRC fed back to IMCA their intention to update their guidance adding wording to reflect that MWS surveyors may use any supplementary documentation made available to them to augment their survey (for example, eCMID).

The JRC further highlighted that IMCA members should notify attending MWS Marine Warranty surveyors that eCMID audits exist, are fully available, and can be referenced / included as part of the report if deemed helpful to avoid any unnecessary repetition and inefficiency of the process.

This is a welcome step but may not prevent poor practice in some areas, therefore IMCA plans to monitor this situation and asks that practice of this type be reported enabling us to collate and approach the JRC in the future, if required.

We have published an Information Note for Members on the issue and urge Members to always inform MWS surveyors an eCMID (or eMISW) exists for the specific vessel and grant them permission to use it within their report; and for MWS surveyors to ask the simple question: "Do you have an eCMID?"

Working together will eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort.

Graeme Reid, Technical Adviser - Marine at IMCA



Safety Flash 13/20

The latest IMCA safety flash has been published, covering the following incidents:

1. Recent UK MAIB Investigations (Shifting of Cargo and Loss of Cargo)
2. Grounding of Ro-Ro Freight Vessel Seatruck Performance
3. Vessel Flooding Incident
4. UK HSE: Worker Fell into Lift Shaft – Safety Controls Bypassed

View this safety flash at: <https://bit.ly/2VnABV2>



IMCA published its yearly report in the maritime and shipping publication, SAFETY4SEA, analysing the accidents that were published during 2019, informing of 134 accidents in 30 safety flashes between 10/10/2018 and 12/12/2019. Read all the details here:

<https://safety4sea.com/imca-134-incidents-reported-in-2019/>

All safety flashes are available to view or download at

<https://www.imca-int.com/safetyflashes>

Don't forget to bookmark the IMCA website - the IMCA designated website for all AVIs:

www.imcaecmid.com

Validity of eCMID Inspections

IMCA have requested we publish a reminder to all AVIs that when conducting an inspection, an AVI must adhere to the eCMID AVI Code of Conduct.

The eCMID Vessel Inspector Code of Conduct has been written specially with eCMID Vessel Inspectors in mind.

PROFESSIONALISM

An eCMID Vessel Inspector must have a sound foundation in the general knowledge of his/her profession in addition to appropriate and adequate experience to conduct his/her specific work as an eCMID Inspector. He/she must keep up to date in his/her technical training and knowledge.

OBJECTIVITY

An eCMID Vessel Inspector must adopt an impartial and objective approach in all aspects of his/her work at all times.

INDEPENDENCE

An eCMID Vessel Inspector will be independent of the client commissioning the inspection or the vessel operator.

INTEGRITY

An eCMID Vessel Inspector shall:

- not be influenced by outside pressures
- seek to reach agreements based on objective conclusions

CLIENT RELATIONS

An eCMID Vessel Inspector will:

- never bias or modify his/her professional opinions for personal gain or in response to any form of pressure from whatever source
- only undertake to carry out inspections for which he/she is properly qualified for a particular project
- accept arbitration when all parties involved agree to this method of solving disputes
- recognise that his/her first duty is to his/her client instructions and endeavour to sustain an open relationship with a client whilst, at all times, observing professional integrity

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

An eCMID Vessel Inspector will:

- co-operate with colleagues (where necessary) to achieve a complete and objective inspection
- not criticise a fellow eCMID Vessel Inspector to third parties
- ensure strict confidentiality over information received from third parties

NON-COMPLIANCE

An eCMID Vessel Inspector will bring to the attention of the accreditation body instances where an eCMID Vessel Inspector is not observing this Code of Conduct.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

An eCMID Vessel Inspector will not practice during a period when his/her judgement is or might be impaired through any cause and will endeavour to avoid actions which lead to the discredit of his/her own professional reputation.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CODE AND THE eCMID VESSEL INSPECTOR

When the accrediting body is informed of an eCMID Vessel Inspector non-compliance with the Code of Conduct this will be investigated, and the Inspector given the opportunity to offer a defence or appeal. Depending on the extent of non-compliance an eCMID Vessel Inspector may have his/her accreditation suspended or permanently withdrawn. Minor failures may be dealt with by written warnings. However, repeated minor non-compliance can be considered grounds for suspension or expulsion.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Code of Conduct, an accredited eCMID Vessel Inspector is expected to follow a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). It is now readily accepted that all professionals in whatever field of expertise commit themselves to CPD. And so, it is for accredited eCMID Vessel Inspectors too.

In keeping with this thinking, IIMS and IMCA follow this course to enable eCMID Vessel Inspectors to maintain their standards and competence levels.

The cost of the CPD Programme is borne via the annual eCMID Vessel Inspector fee and is administered by the IIMS through its subsidiary, the Marine Surveying Academy. It is the requirement of the Inspector to provide evidence of CPD against the published programme and to occasionally submit eCMID's for review by the CPD panel.

Other Document Types

Just a reminder of a recent feature to benefit vessel owners/operators that has been added to the IMCA eCMID database website, which allows vessel owners and operators to upload additional documents that may be of interest to their clients as part of a broader vessel assurance system. This non-mandatory feature includes the following categories:

- Annual DP trial reports
- Failure modes and effects analyses (FMEAs)
- DESIGN (diving equipment inspections)
- A catch-all 'other' category

Access to these additional documents is via the same permission system, so operators will continue to grant or assign access on a vessel or fleet-wide basis.

As only eCMID and eMISW reports require AVI accreditation, the distinction is made clearer by a new 'AVI' badge against those reports in the list of available documents:



To upload, edit or delete documents (vessel operator accounts only), navigate to My Organisation > Manage Vessels, then right-click on the vessel name and choose 'Add Other Document'. This will lead to an upload form – please note that the original filename will be shown in the document list, so you may wish to make a copy and name it appropriately prior to uploading.

Add Other Document

Edit Document

Download Document

For AVIs

To download or request access to a document (all account types), navigate to Vessel Access > Current or Request access.



WE NEED YOUR HELP...

A shout out to ALL AVIs!



Can you help? As the eCMID AVI Scheme Administrator, I have the privilege of receiving applications from individuals who are all at different stages in their careers. At one end of the spectrum we have Master Mariners who have come ashore and have demonstrated extensive inspecting experience and use of IMCA's (e)CMID / (e) MISW documents along with formal auditing training. At the other end we have newer Inspectors entering this field with a different level of operational or inspecting experience, and it is this group of applicants that I would like to focus on.

The IMCA Competence Framework requires Trainee AVIs to understudy and complete eCMID/eMISW inspections under the supervision of an approved AVI. These reports can then be included in their accreditation application to demonstrate competency, however, it is not always easy for these newer Inspectors to find an approved AVI to assist them and comply with IMCA's requirements.

- o Could you help by offering assistance and support to Trainee AVIs seeking to gain eCMID/eMISW experience to support their application or help existing AVIs seeking additional vessel accreditation?
- o Would you allow a Trainee AVI to accompany you on a vessel inspection in a shadowing capacity or possibly complete an inspection under your supervision?

Based on your geographic location, Trainee AVIs will be invited to make contact with you. How and when these supervised sessions occur will need to be agreed between the supervising AVI and Trainee AVI along with any costs or expenses incurred.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The onus is on the applicant to provide necessary evidence of their experience and competency in order to meet IMCA's acceptance criteria.

The benefits for AVIs

- "Gain whilst you train"
- Develop your own skill set
- Continue to develop and grow the AVI community in a positive way
- Impart your experience and knowledge to the future generation of AVIs
- You will be making a positive impact to ensure the long-term success of the scheme

By offering support to a Trainee AVI you will receive 3 CPD points for each mentoring session completed.

If this is something of interest to you and you would like to offer your support and assistance, please email me in the first instance: info@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Pui Si Chung
Accreditation Scheme Administrator



'Hot Topic' - eCMID AVI Marine Renewable Energy Seminar

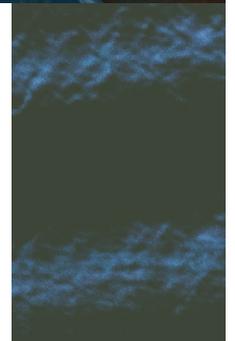
The topic around boat landing supplements raised a lot of interest and discussion at the seminar. One of the speakers on the day, Marc van Dorth of Seaway 7 has written a short article:

Boat Landing Supplements IMCA M 149 Common Marine Inspection Document by Marc van Dorth (Seaway 7).

Following the eCMID AVI Marine Renewable Energy Seminar on 26th September 2019 in Amsterdam, an interesting topic surfaced on boat landings on Large Construction Vessels in the Renewable Industry.

The boat landing, a structure for landing personnel from either Surfers or Crew Transfer Vessels on to a Construction Service Vessel, is now a widespread feature in the Offshore Renewables sector. Gradually, a lot of Construction Service Vessels in the offshore renewables sector are adopting the boat landing, with eCMID AVI's becoming content experts on the subject, as a result of regularly inspecting these vessels to evaluate these boat landings. Clear standards around these boat landings needs to be further defined

and a Crew Transfer Supplement with an integrated approach using IMCA Guidelines in conjunction with eCMID, for example offshore vessels/small boats and/or cargo barge boat landings (reference: IMCA HSSE 025, IMCA LR 012, IMCA M202) is currently being considered. These standards concern, for example, the airgap distance, the diameter, the position of CTV bow fender and standard operating procedures, etc, to ensure safe boarding and landing.



The eCMID Committee Stephen Birt and Marc van Dorth AVI have discussed forming a set of questions for a possible Crew Transfer Supplement for review by the eCMID Committee and Renewables Committee in the near future.

Work on this is currently in development and we will be able to provide an update in the near future.

Feedback from seminar delegates...

"This industry continues to have high expectations and rightly so"

"A very informative day with useful discussions on a variety of relevant subjects"

"A well organised day, thank you"

"Discussions about new technologies were very interesting and useful to an AVI"

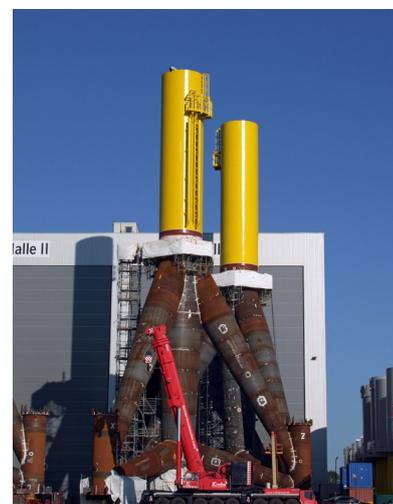
"The small boat landings topic was very useful"

And from the team...

Sharon Holland, Events & Course Co-ordinator reported that the delegates actively engaged in discussions and there was a positive and atmosphere throughout the day.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who attended and helped to make our first themed seminar the success it was.

If you have any further feedback since attending please do get in touch, email: courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com





Feature Interview with Stephen Birt

Director Vessel Operations, Technip Ships
(Netherlands) BV, Fleet Assurance Manager TMOS

Q1. How did you first enter the subsea industry? Please could you tell us a little bit about your career background to date?

A. I started working for TechnipFMC in 2013 – this followed several years working for SVITZER in the towage sector. Before that I was a deck officer at sea with various companies, in various sectors.

Q2. In your current role at TechnipFMC, what does a 'typical' day for you involve?

A. Typically I take some time to review the various assets coming on hire for the projects and their assurance status, liaising with the Marine Assurance personnel globally to share information and discuss any particular issues we may be facing, and attend meetings and calls on a number of topics relating to fleet activity, and prospective activity.

Q3. This industry is renowned for extensive job variety and unlimited career opportunities, but is there a particular area you regard yourself a specialist in?

A. I would say that along with a number of people in the industry, I have a specialism in "knowing how it all comes together"...that might sound a generalism in itself but in fact because many people specialise in very niche parts of the industry, not many people have seen it from top to bottom. Having started as a deck cadet, with stints as AB, and then moved through the ranks and then ashore, from day to day operations into the boardroom, I think I have a good understanding of how this industry manages to work at all levels.

Q4. How important do you feel it is for an eCMID AVI to keep up with the current evolving and fast-paced technology and to be able to competently and consistently demonstrate CPD (Continuous Professional Development)?

A. I think it is important to keep abreast of today's technological, and regulatory requirements. Otherwise we will have a system that becomes irrelevant over time. The most important part of the eCMID system is the competence of the AVIs. Having said that, from my point of view we cannot forget that we must also keep to the first principles – good seamanship and good practice – that is what most of the eCMID is about – and ensuring that the report generated is an accurate record of the status of the vessel at the time of inspection. By ensuring it is accurate – it then immediately has value – for the Owner as well as the Charterer.

Q5. In your career, what would you say has been one of your greatest achievements? What challenges were you presented with and how were they overcome?

A. All achievements are measured relative to the time and environment in which they were achieved. From my perspective my greatest achievement was getting through my cadetship successfully – there were times I wanted to jack it all in – but thankfully I stuck at it. I was homesick – fed up with the weather – at times tired and bored. I stuck at it mostly through stubbornness!

Q6. If you could pass on some key advice to the next generation in this industry, what would that advice be and why?

A. Try to be consistent – get involved – turn up and listen – try to talk to people to understand their perspective – get as much experience as you can – and stick at it!

Q7. We all have a shared responsibility to increase safety standards. As Chairman of the IMCA eCMID Steering Committee, how would you sum up the role of an AVI in helping to achieve that goal?

A. The AVI is the lynchpin of the eCMID system. We rely on them to be truthful, accurate, objective, and this all leads to safety – of personnel, of property and the environment.

Q8. Outside of work, how do you prefer to spend your leisure time, and do you have any particular interests?

A. I love rugby – playing and coaching. I play in The Netherlands for Delft RFC and I coach my sons U14 team also in the British School in The Netherlands.



If you are interested in being featured in an interview please get in touch at:

courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Accreditation schemes and online seminars

Marine Surveying Practitioner scheme (MSP)

In conjunction with IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying), MSA is in the advanced development and planning stage of launching a Marine Surveying Practitioner scheme which aims to set a minimum standard for marine surveying internationally.



Coming mid 2020. Further details will be published in due course.

NEW – online seminar: 2020 Festival of Knowledge for eCMID AVIs...

A rolling 12 hour online seminar on Wednesday 20th May from 07:00hrs to 18:00hrs UK time.

Don't miss out on this fantastic online seminar which will showcase key speakers from the industry presenting a range of topics relevant to the eCMID AVI community, or for those of you considering applying to the eCMID AVI scheme.

eCMID AVI
festival
OF
KNOWLEDGE
2020

HOW IT WORKS... The live seminar is a rolling, non-stop marathon and is an online only event delivered via the Zoom platform.

Presentations will be delivered live by a knowledgeable presenter somewhere in the world on a relevant eCMID topic.

For one low fee of just £135.00 you can join the live seminar and take advantage of as many of the presentations as you wish. And if you miss any presentations because the time does not work for you in your location, your fee covers access to the entire content after the event, which will be videoed and sent to you.

If you cannot make the date but would still like to have access to the video content, which will not be made available publicly after the event for six months, then the one-off fee covers that option too. This is also relevant if you have an unstable or poor-quality internet connection and cannot join live.

MARINE
SURVEYING
ACADEMY



presents

A rolling online seminar
on Wednesday 20th May
from 07:00hrs to 18:00hrs
UK time.

eCMID AVI festival OF KNOWLEDGE 2020

<https://bit.ly/2VJNXuK>
ONLINE SEMINAR
2020 Festival of Knowledge
for eCMID AVIs...

Don't miss out on this fantastic online seminar which will showcase key speakers from the industry presenting a range of topics relevant to the eCMID AVI community, or for those of you considering applying to the eCMID AVI scheme.



Presentations will vary in duration, lasting from 30mins to 1.5hrs.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



07:00hrs **Mike Schwarz**, CEO, IIMS & MSA
"AVI Code of Conduct and Complaints"



07:30hrs **Mike Proudlove**, General Manager,
Offshore Turbine Services Ltd
"Inspecting Critical Equipment on CTVs...
A continuation of a recent IIMS presentation
last month"



08:30hrs **Graeme Reid**, Technical Adviser – Marine,
IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association)
"A Presentation of Findings and Analysis"



09:00hrs **Kate Harvey**, General Manager, G+ Global
Offshore Wind Health and Safety Organisation
"Working together to improve health and
safety in the offshore wind industry"



09:30hrs **Marc van Dorth**, Operations Engineer –
Renewables & Heavy Lifting, Seaway 7, Subsea 7
Renewables & Heavy Lifting
"Large Construction Vessels and
Small Boat (landings) in the
Renewable Construction Industry"



12:00hrs **Kerrie Forster**, CEO, Workboat Association
"High speed code and the carriage of dangerous
codes on workboats"



13:00hrs **Stephen Birt**, Director Vessel Operations,
Technip FMC / Technip Ships (Netherlands) BV
"Update on the work of the IMCA
eCMID Committee"



15:00hrs **Adam Hugo**, IT Services & Solutions
Specialist, IMCA (International Marine
Contractors Association)
"Progressive Web App - a live demo of the app
plus Q&A's"



15:30hrs **Joe McWilliam**, Marine and
QHSE Consultant
"Application of the ISM Code to eCMID"



16:30hrs **Captain Nicki Krejlgaard**, Marine Lead –
Master Mariner, Vattenfall
"What do vessel operators look for and expect
from an eCMID audit?"



17:00hrs **Captain John Malool**, CEO Trident Marine
"Atmospheric hazards and protecting the
marine surveyor?"

18:00hrs TO CLOSE – **Mike Schwarz**, CEO IIMS & MSA

Note, if you are not able to join online on the day there will be the option to purchase the entire contents of the seminar after it has taken place.

To book your place, please contact our Events & Course Co-ordinator, Sharon Holland at courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Cost: £135.00 An invoice will be sent to you electronically once your confirmation email has been received.



LinkedIn

Did you know? We have an eCMID AVI discussion group on LinkedIn which has been established for the benefit of accredited eCMID inspectors/auditors. It is a place to share relevant information and somewhere for inspectors to ask questions of other eCMID AVIs. This is a closed discussion group and therefore is only open to accredited eCMID vessel inspectors who apply to join it. It is there for you to use so please do so! To join please sign into LinkedIn (or create an account) and join the group and share the details with those you think may benefit.



YouTube

Did you know? IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying) has its own YouTube channel which now has **over 600 subscribers - 621 in fact, and boasts a library of over 200 original videos** made by the Institute? This can be found at <https://bit.ly/1jRuSje> and contains various technical presentations and hot topics. You will find a huge range of marine related topics as well as business matters such as strategy planning and cashflow management. There really is something for everyone here to browse through and it's **FREE!**



It is vital that we keep our database and records up to date. If any of your contact details should change, please kindly inform us so we can update your details. You can email Pui Si Chung, Accreditation Scheme Administrator at info@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Housekeeping

Useful websites eCMID: <https://bit.ly/2FK4Xqj>

IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association): <https://bit.ly/2gGhFPe>

MSA (Marine Surveying Academy): <https://bit.ly/2yf5iPq>

IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveyors): <https://bit.ly/2y0nH3f>



Shipping and Maritime news

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Changes to SOLAS and MARPOL shipping and maritime regulations from January 2020

The new and far reaching IMO Sulphur Cap regulations have captured media attention in recent months for obvious reasons, but as well as this significant change, January 2020 beckons in with it a raft of new regulations and amendments too – in total more than 30. Additionally, other new regulations are set to come into force later in the year. But for now, here is what you need to know about the new regulations and amendment effective 1 January 2020. <https://bit.ly/2GVtECA>

IIMS COVID-19 Safety Working Guide

What price is your personal safety against COVID-19?

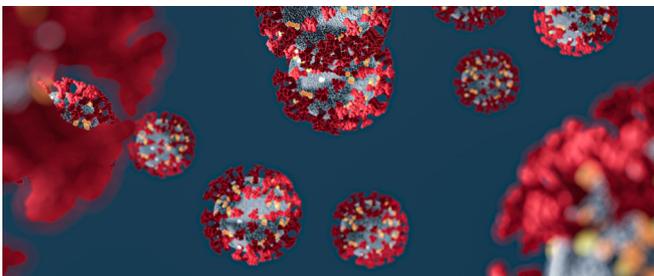
Recently we updated the IIMS COVID-19 Safety Working Guide with the help of an eCMID AVI and experienced marine surveyor. When he came to implement the guidance in practice, he was met with an extraordinary set of circumstances and a strong rebuttal, leading to him being stood down. Having read his account it left me feeling sickened. I wanted to share his words with you. Identities have been removed for obvious reasons to protect those involved. Your thoughts are welcome.

Mike Schwarz

"I am a Master Mariner, eCMID AVI and AFNI. I have been employed in the maritime industry for almost 40 years. I am no longer at sea, for 20 years I have been a Marine Consultant/ Surveyor and regularly perform services for numerous companies. Recently I was contacted by a company based in mainland Europe who requested my services to conduct a loadout survey on a vessel in a North East Scottish Port. I agreed to do the work scope and we agreed the terms for the job.

As I am a self-employed limited company I considered it prudent and responsible to draft what I thought were fairly standard safety procedures against COVID-19 that should be used and adhered to for the protection of all involved in a loadout survey. This document was prepared taking into account current guidance as is in the public domain from the UK Government, IMO, OCIMF, IMCA, IIMS and so on. I sent a copy of this document to the survey company and requested that this be sent to their client and/or the vessel so that we could be prepared for the survey and take into account the precautions required. Within minutes of sending this document, I was called and questioned why was I sending out such a document. I was told that I could not make contact with their client under my own company logo, nor could I contact the ship and make "demands" on how they conduct their business. I was also told that we could not expect them to have a risk assessment in place. I challenged all of this and suggested that my document could be used by them on their own company note head to make clear how they wanted to conduct their business and protect their employees, associates and contractors against COVID-19. I was further told this was "Impossible" and that it was not my place to dictate to their clients or their ships how we conduct our business.

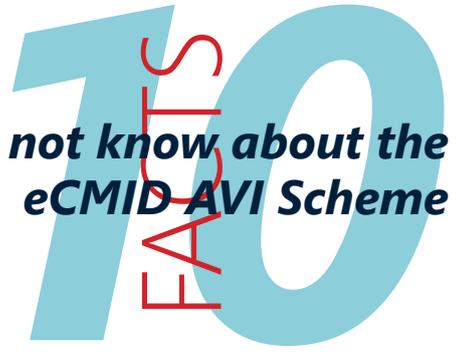
I was then advised that "they didn't know what to do" with my memo and needed time to consider it. I was told I would be called back later in the day. I received an email from them advising that I was no longer required for the survey. In a career spanning almost 40 years, I have never before been removed from a job. Not least for what I perceived to be a responsible and appropriate attitude to safety and one that could have highlighted and enhanced this company's status and reputation for their own attitude to safety and their personnel.



It is clear to me that despite this situation around COVID-19, this company has little regard for the control of this pandemic and only has their commercial interest as a priority. I question their entire ethic and culture around safety and welfare of their personnel."

Anon.

"Just for fun"... **10 FACTS** you did not know about the **eCMID AVI Scheme**



1. As of April 2020 there are Inspectors from 54 countries.
2. A total of 503 Inspectors have been successfully accredited.
3. Non-accredited AVIs can carry out inspections but they must be supervised and accompanied by an AVI with the relevant accreditation.
4. June 2020 will mark the 5th Anniversary of some of our AVIs and an eCMID AVI 5-year Revalidation of Accreditation is currently being developed and will be launched shortly.
5. As an accredited AVI, are you aware you may use the phrase 'eCMID Accredited Vessel Inspector' on your letter heading, business cards and also on your website.
6. You are entitled to use the eCMID system AVI logo.
Please get in touch if you require a copy of the logo and we can send electronically.
7. Since the birth of the scheme in 2015, a total of 49 eCMID AVI courses have been delivered by our team of approved Assessors/Course Tutors - that's an average of just under 10 per year!
8. To date, a remarkable 541 delegates have attended an eCMID AVI course.
9. A total of 177 eCMID AVIs have actively logged into the eCMID CPD App to date.
10. The scheme is overseen by the IMCA Marine eCMID Committee and ultimately the IMCA Board, ensuring that it delivers value to the industry.

If you or your company would like to be featured in a future newsletter, please do let us know by emailing Sharon Holland at courses@marinesurveyingacademy.com

Information and contact details

For more information on the various schemes and accreditation projects, please visit our websites:

Marine Surveying Academy
www.marinesurveyingacademy.com

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www.irmii.co.uk

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www.rmciinspectors.com

eCMID AVI Accreditation Scheme
www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com

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