



IMCA eCMID Accredited Vessel Inspector

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



MARINE
SURVEYING
ACADEMY





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Introduction from Mike Schwarz, CEO, IIMS and MSA



Dear Colleague

2023 was a busy year as the eCMID AVI programme continued to flourish. I fully expect 2024 to follow in a similar vein and I wish you much success for the challenges the coming year ahead will throw up.

We continue to receive a steady stream of new applications for accreditation each month from across the globe. This is welcome and testament to the strength and popularity of the eCMID scheme, which is now readily adopted by many of the major vessel owners and operators in the world. Not all applicants are successful in seeking accreditation, however, and my colleagues work tirelessly to ensure that only those who can provide objective evidence of their skills and knowledge are admitted to the scheme. Also of note is the growth we have seen in the number of inspections being undertaken in the renewables sector, something which I suspect will not surprise you given the onslaught in the offshore wind sector in particular.

One of the most interesting and significant pieces of work last year was that undertaken by Capt. Andy Goldsmith. At the request of the eCMID Committee, he reviewed a number of anonymized reports and developed a reporting mechanism to show his findings. Now that we are starting to analyse the results in more detail, I feel sure that we will be able to make useful suggestions to the whole AVI community based on what we have seen. I am grateful to Andy who has written more about his ongoing work in this newsletter.

Last year we delivered some excellent training covering a wide range of topics. I look forward to anchoring and hosting Festivals of Knowledge IX and X later this year. Remember we run these cost-effective training programmes for your benefit, and I hope to see you online.

Regards

Mike Schwarz
Chief Executive Officer

From the eCMID AVI Team

Hilary Excell, Business Manager and Director, MSA (Marine Surveying Academy)



Welcome to our eCMID AVI newsletter which has been written specifically for the eCMID AVI Community. It has been a little while since our last release, so we hope you find this edition packed full of interesting and relevant information, all of which will contribute to your role as an AVI.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our colleague Rachel Moores, Events & Course Co-ordinator. Rachel departed temporarily on maternity leave last summer, and in July she welcomed a baby girl. Staff at IIMS Headquarters were lucky enough to enjoy a recent visit from Rachel with her baby girl, and it was cuddles all round! On behalf of everyone at MSA and IIMS, I would like to wish Rachel and her family all the very best on the birth of their baby daughter, and I am sure you will join me in wishing Rachel the same.

Over the last few months, business has continued to grow, and we have welcomed new AVIs to the community.

As always, please do reach out to us if you have any questions about the eCMID AVI scheme, or indeed if you have any thoughts you wish to share – we are here to fully support you and answer any questions.

If you hear of something in your day which you feel will interest you and your colleagues, we encourage you to come forward and tell us. Do this by using the WhatsApp eCMID AVI Discussion Group, email or telephone. Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead.

**Pui Si Chung, Accreditation Scheme Administrator,
MSA (Marine Surveying Academy)**

Applications continue to remain steady. We have noticed increased interest in the Far East regions with a record number of applications from South Korea and Taiwan received in 2023.

As part of our continuous monitoring of the AVI Scheme, there will be a couple of changes to the accreditation requirements effective from 1st January 2024.

- It will be mandatory for the AVI Validation Course to be completed within ONE year of accreditation. AVIs will not be able to complete their first annual renewal unless the Course has been completed successfully.
- The 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course must be completed within the 5th annual renewal year and prior to the 5-Year expiry date.

Non-compliance may result in accreditation suspension and AVI access de-activated from the eCMID System. Further details in full will be communicated to AVIs at the relevant time.

Below are latest statistics provided by IMCA from the eCMID database:

- 1584 live reports currently on the system
 - 737 eCMIDs – annual activity flat with no significant rise or fall in number of reports
 - 847 eMISW - this is +9% in previous 12 months
 - 467 operators with one or more live reports
 - 419 AVI accounts, with as many as 50 reports for an inspector
 - 1789 active users in 12 months
 - 1311 uses of the Analytics Hub
- 27% of them from Operators reviewing their own fleet data , exactly what the hub was created for.



1584
737
847
467
419
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stats



**Sharon Holland, Temporary Maternity Cover for Rachel Moores,
Events & Course Co-ordinator, MSA (Marine Surveying Academy)**

I was delighted to return to the business earlier last year in June, as the temporary replacement for Rachel whilst she is on maternity leave. I am pleased to say the transition was seamless, thanks to both the MSA and IIMS teams.

It has been a busy few months with the continued delivery of our online courses comprising the eCMID AVI Validation Course for new AVIs coming

onboard, and the eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Course for AVIs who have been approved for five years, or who are approaching five years as an AVI.

The eCMID AVI Validation Course is a full day online course. We regularly receive requests from non-AVIs to attend who wish to learn more about the scheme before submitting a formal application. Attendees receive a Certificate of Attendance awarding 4 CPD points on successful completion of the course, along with a copy of all video presentations to takeaway.

The 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course is a half day course and AVIs need to complete both Part One and Part Two to become fully revalidated for a further 5 years. Part One is a 'Review of Evidence' whereby a review of the AVI's professional activity over the past 5 years will be carried out. Some evidence to support this will be required.

In 2023 we delivered five each of the eCMID AVI Validation course and the eCMID 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course with a total of 56 and 58 AVIs attending respectively.



eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge VIII – online event held on 9th November 2023

MSA was delighted to deliver the eighth eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge in November, which was presented online via Zoom to an audience of over 40 AVIs and associated colleagues.

The CEO of IIMS & MSA, Mike Schwarz opened the event to welcome delegates from all over the world.

A wide range of topics were presented, all of which were relevant and current and were well received.

IMCA presented first; Adam Hugo, IT Services & Solutions Specialist provided an eCMID system update, followed by Captain Andy Goldsmith, Technical Adviser Marine presenting a quality audit review of eCMID reports.

We were delighted to welcome for the first time, our colleague and friend from Matrix Insurance Services Ltd, Karen Brain who delivered a very interesting presentation on the complexities of report disclaimers. Also for the first time we welcomed fellow AVI Bo Kiel Jespersen, Lead Marine Inspector at Ørsted who presented Inspector and Vessel Monitoring. Next up was Kaimes Beasley, Lead Marine Coordinator at Dogger Bank Wind Farm to discuss this fascinating project. Michiel Holthuis, a Consultant at Safe IT Factory presented some eye-opening facts of cyber security. Our own Mike Schwarz delivered his presentation on AI (Artificial Intelligence), another impactful topic.

Post eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge VIII, we received some feedback which we are pleased to share with you:

"A good selection of well-presented topics in an organised setting, giving the feeling of being part of a professional family."

"Thank you so much and I really enjoyed ALL the presentations."

"Another excellent Festival

of Knowledge with an even better diversity of subjects, but all were relevant to the role of the AVI.

The Cyber Security and AI topics both had some eye and mouth opening content!"

"A varied and rich content which was both engaging and informative. A big well done to all involved."

Exciting news...

IX

Plans are already underway for the NINTH Festival of Knowledge next Spring!

SAVE THE DATE...

the eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge IX on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

Did you know... you can still purchase the video content from the Festival in November... please email Sharon Holland at msacourses@iims.org.uk – it costs £120.00 and along with all video content from the day, you will be able to claim 4 CPD points.

CPD Update

Continuous Professional Development is an important and mandatory part of accreditation and demonstrates a commitment to your professional self-development.

10 CPD points per annual renewal year are required and there is a range of activities and tasks to help you achieve this - our dedicated eCMID CPD App can help track your progress. Download the App if you haven't already.

Submitting CPD claims is easy via the App and you are encouraged to do so on a regular basis. The App keeps a tally of your current annual score so you can always keep up to date with your status. Full details of the eCMID CPD App can be found here <https://bit.ly/3nufXim>.

If you have any questions relating to CPD, please contact the Accreditation Scheme Administrator, Pui Si Chung at msainfo@iims.org.uk.

IMCA Information Notes

IMCA produces a range of materials for its members as information notes, covering safety, technical, regulatory, commercial and various other issues relevant to its members.

Members can access all these materials by logging onto this site. Non-members can view titles, for information, and a small number of individual articles deemed of wider public interest.

Browse the most recent information and use the filters to view archives by subject and/or year at <https://bit.ly/3Mdo00A>

2024 Course Schedule

Course dates for both the eCMID Validation Course and eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course have been published for 2024. Note, these continue to be delivered successfully online via Zoom. Times specified are UK/London time.

It is important to be aware that delegate numbers are limited on these courses and they fill quickly. Now is the time to plan ahead and book your place securely via the eCMID AVI Vessel Inspector website at: **eCMID AVI courses** (<https://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com/accreditation-courses/>)

January 2024

- eCMID AVI Accreditation Course - Monday 15th January, 09.00 to 16.30hrs
- eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course - Tuesday 16th January 09.00 to 12.00hrs

March 2024

- eCMID AVI Accreditation Course - Monday 18th March, 09.00 to 16.30hrs
- eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course - Tuesday 19th March 09.00 to 12.00hrs

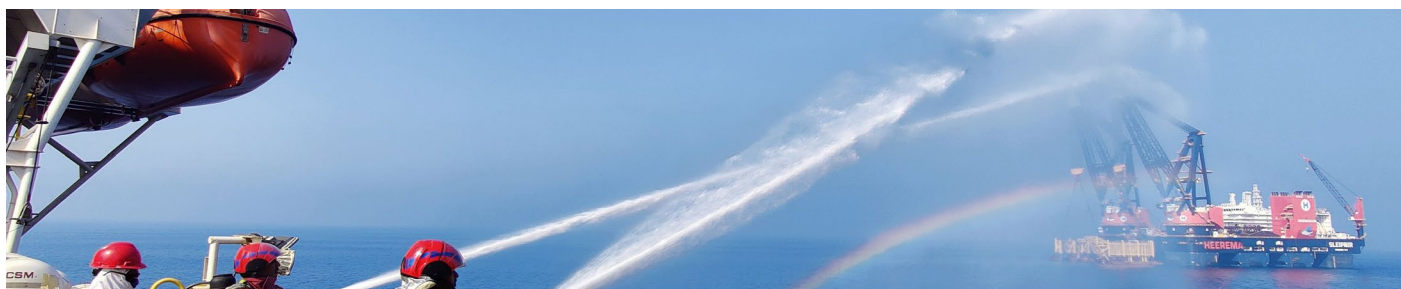
June 2024

- eCMID AVI Accreditation Course - Monday 17th June, 09.00 to 16.30hrs
- eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course - Tuesday 18th June 09.00 to 12.00hrs

September 2024

- eCMID AVI Accreditation Course - Monday 9th September, 09.00 to 16.30hrs
- eCMID AVI 5-Year Revalidation Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course - Tuesday 10th September 09.00 to 12.00hrs

For any information relating to training courses, events and the latest news, please refer to the eCMID website or email msacourses@iims.org.uk



Safety Flash Reminder

IMCA releases regular Safety Flashes which are available to read on the eCMID website at <https://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com/> and are also published on LinkedIn.

The aim of Safety Flashes is to avoid repeat incidents. This is achieved by members sharing the key safety matters and incidents that are referenced to in the articles.

The twenty-ninth Safety Flash of 2023 was recently released. It is always worth a read. The current safety flash, as well as historical safety flashes can be found on the eCMID AVI Vessel Inspector website: www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com

Quality Assurance Review of eCMID Reports

In his introduction, CEO Mike Schwarz touched on the work that Captain Andy Goldsmith has been completing during the past year and he has kindly written the following review.

“Over the years, some eCMID clients have reported a lack of consistency concerning the presentation of submitted vessel inspection final reports. IMCA’s eCMID Committee have no desire to criticise individual AVIs. However, there is a desire to make it easier for AVIs to complete vessel inspection reports.

For Quality Assurance purposes, IMCA’s eCMID Committee decided to review around 5 - 10% of eCMID and eMISW reports. During the past 12 months, 28 eCMID and 22 eMISW reports have been reviewed; that’s 50 reports from 22 countries.

The committee set out six categories to address when reviewing; each category is scored to evaluate the consistency of reporting over time.

The six categories cover:

1. Whether the report has been fully completed
2. The language used, taking into account that the inspector’s first language may not be English
3. Whether the content is as expected
4. Concentrating just on the findings and whether they have been well-recorded
5. Whether the AVI has responded correctly to the questions and provided adequate comments
6. The quality of photographs, if any

What is most evident from the reviews so far is the disparity between the completeness of reports. The completeness category is further divided into seven sub-sections; providing consistency here will undoubtedly improve the overall consistency of reporting, so IMCA are concentrating their efforts there.

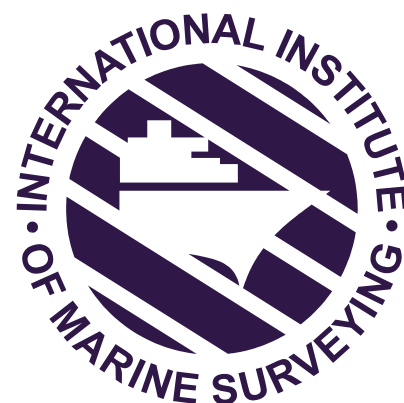
1. The inspection summary should be informative and, therefore, be more than just recording the place of inspection and a two or three-word description of the vessel’s operation at the time of the inspection
2. The vessel particulars table should contain no blank lines; if an item is not fitted, then use N/A
3. The AVI needs to follow the guidance notes and make comments when appropriate
4. The correct supplements should be chosen taking into account the type of vessel
5. A close-out meeting should be held, with the participants and minutes of meeting recorded by the AVI
6. Another surveyor should have reviewed the report for quality assurance before uploading it
7. A disclaimer should be provided that contains the inspector’s company branding

There are a few further ongoing concerns worth recording.

Particularly within the Safety Management and Health & Safety sections of the report, there are occasions when an AVI provides a good reference to where a procedure can be found within the SMS but provides no or little assurance that the procedure is being followed onboard. Photographs, if used, should be placed with the question they refer to or in the photograph supplement that is now available.

Occasionally, comments or specific information by the AVI are requested in the guidance notes and are not always provided. Therefore, the eCMID Committee are updating the guidance notes to assist the AVI and clarify when an additional comment is expected".

A benefit from IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying) for eCMID AVIs



Did you know? eCMID AVIs can automatically apply for membership of IIMS at Technician level.

A number of AVIs over the years have taken advantage of their eCMID accreditation to become members of the International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS). As an AVI you are already cleared and checked and don't need to go through the formal application procedure to become a Technician member. You are only required to apply and pay the annual fee which is from as little as £86 depending on which area you are located in. Although, if you wish to apply for a different category of membership, you can of course do so, but you will be required to complete the formal application process in its entirety.

The IIMS Technician Membership is defined as:

TECHNICIAN MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO:

Individuals holding a recognised qualification, for example, Inspector level 2 or higher of NACE, FROSIO, or ICorr. RMCI, eCMID AVI, NDT Technicians (CSWIP), gauging personnel, divers or other surveyors with at least three years full-time practical experience in a marine-related field. If you choose to use the IIMS designated letters on any marketing communications as a Technician Member, you must use the initials TechIIMS after your name.

As a member of IIMS, you will have access to membership benefits and there is much to explore; a lot of which is free.

The award-nominated quarterly Report Magazine is a must-read and is available in PDF and eReader formats depending on your preference.

The monthly News Bulletins are packed with essential reading and will help you to keep abreast of industry news as it happens. And the Mid-Month Marine Communique is a welcome email into your inbox with a wealth of links to helpful material.

The IIMS YouTube Channel gives you access to 300 videos on a wide variety of surveying topics made over the years at various conferences and seminars.

Of professional interest to many in the surveying profession are incident and accident reports from the authorities. Over the years, IIMS has built up a database of hundreds of such reports and these are freely available at the Safety Briefings page.

If you are interested and would like to learn more about membership, please email Camella Robertson at **membership@iims.org.uk**

Upcoming IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveyors) activities for 2024

The Marine Surveying Academy Ltd (MSA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the International Institute of Marine Surveying Ltd (IIMS). The IIMS hosts a variety of professional training courses and online seminars for marine surveyors. Below is just a snippet of upcoming events.

All information can be found on the IIMS website at <https://www.iims.org.uk>



- o Report Writing Online Seminar
06/02/2024 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- o Work Boat 3 Training Seminar
13/02/2024 - All Day
- o Certifying Authority Training
14/02/2024 - All Day
- o Tonnage Training
27/02/2024 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- o Ireland Small Craft Working Group
13/03/2024 - 14/03/2024 - All Day
- o Yacht & Small Craft Spring Training Day
19/03/2024 - All Day
- o Western Mediterranean Small Craft Working Group Palma 2024
25/04/2024 - 26/04/2024 - All Day
- o Report Writing Online Seminar
07/05/2024 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Report Magazine

The Report Magazine is the official publication of the International Institute of Marine Surveying.

The Institute publishes the Report Magazine four times per year in March, June, September and December. Members are invited to (and do) submit articles regularly for publication, which entitles them to CPD points.

Each issue will appeal to big ship and small craft surveyors alike. Its content is also highly relevant to P&I Clubs, vessel operators, marine insurers and others involved in the maritime sector. Each issue will be a mix of technical articles and more general features related to the profession of marine surveying. Some of this editorial content is supplied by members and the rest is specially commissioned by the editor.

Read the most recent edition at <https://www.iims.org.uk/report-magazines/>

Each month IIMS publishes a monthly news bulletin as well as a mid-month communiqué.

Read the latest edition of the news bulletin at <https://www.iims.org.uk/news-bulletins/>

IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association) Activities & Events

Did you know that IMCA organises a regular programme of meetings and events all over the world including regional meetings and technical seminars? The regional meetings provide opportunities to connect with members. The technical events form part of the global work programme and are primarily subject-specific seminars and workshops which bring together subject matter experts to discuss solutions to industry issues.

The events provide an open forum for Members to meet and share professional ideas and opinions.

IMCA also supports and contributes to third-party events – these are primarily conferences and exhibitions run by other organisations. IMCA promotes the events for the interest of members and in support of the industry.



For a calendar of IMCA events, view at <https://bit.ly/3ScumkO>

WhatsApp Group reminder

There is a WhatsApp eCMID AVI Discussion Group which has been created to share knowledge, best practice and news about marine surveying. It is also a medium to use to seek advice from others who may have the resolution to a question.

We wholly encourage you to use this to share your experiences, ask questions and support each other.

There are currently 136 participants in the group and if you would like to join, please email msacourses@iims.org.uk with your preferred contact number, and you will be added.



MSA Contact Details

Hilary Excell - *Director & Business Manager* - msa@iims.org.uk

Pui Si Chung - *Accreditation Scheme Administrator* - msainfo@iims.org.uk

Sharon Holland / Rachel Moores - *Events & Course Co-ordinator* - msacourses@iims.org.uk

Elly Bryant - *Project Co-ordinator* - msaprojects@iims.org.uk

Jen Argent - *Management Accountant* - accounts@iims.org.uk