



IMCA eCMID AVI

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026





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## INTRODUCTION FROM MIKE SCHWARZ



Dear eCMID AVI

Welcome to this edition of our occasional newsletter for the AVI community.

I would like to start my introduction by wishing Mark Ford 'Bon Voyage' as he departs IMCA after many years of service for retirement. It was Mark who was instrumental in establishing the concept of the AVI scheme back in 2014. He and I had met in his office to discuss the feasibility of such a programme. Neither of us had any doubt that, despite the magnitude of developing something from scratch, it should be done in an attempt to recognise only those who are competent to undertake CMID inspections. The rest, as they say, is history, but I wanted to take this opportunity to remind people of the immense contribution Mark made in helping to develop the AVI scheme, and I, for one, am most grateful to him.

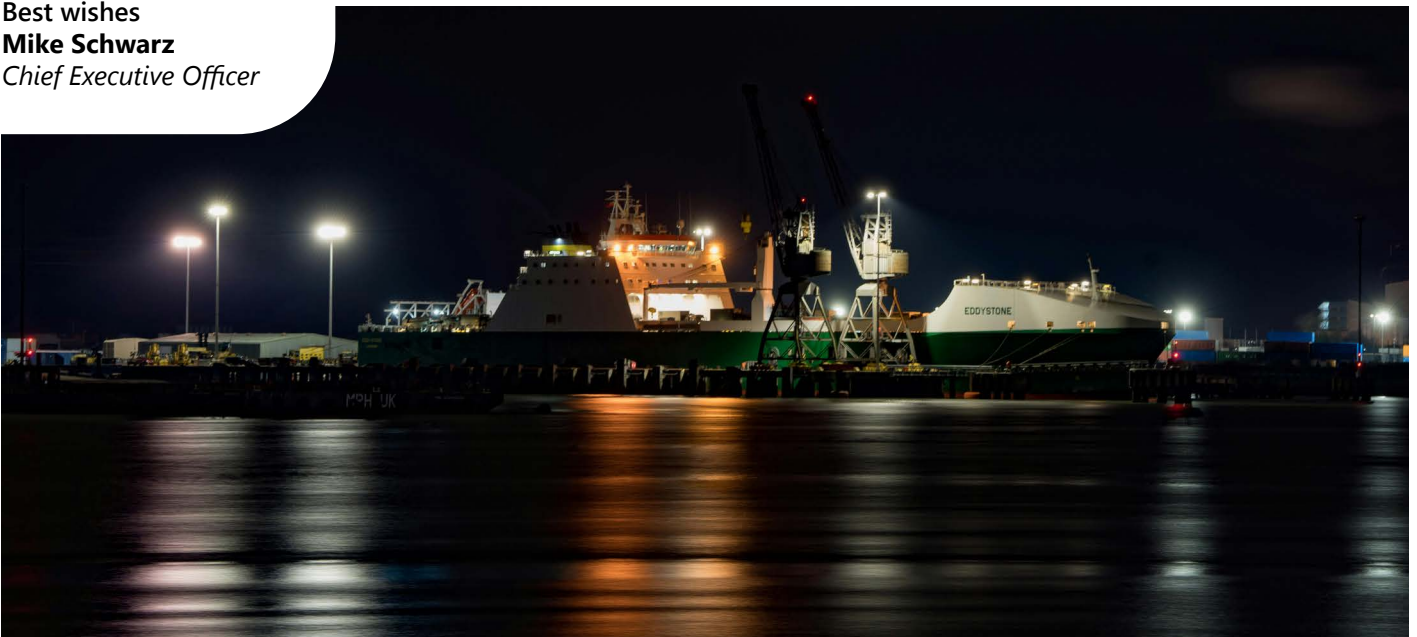
Life is busy at IIMS HQ. There has been a surge of new applications from people wanting to be accredited as AVIs since Christmas. Applications vary hugely in quality, and not all make the grade, but Elly assures me she has received some first-class applications. We have, in particular, noticed strong interest from Poland, perhaps in response to the burgeoning wind sector, which is getting into full swing in that area.

Similarly, Sharon tells me that the AVI courses for new applicants and those seeking 5-year reaccreditation have been well attended and are often running.

I work with a number of different maritime sectors and audiences – the inspecting and marine surveying business is a broad church. But the AVI community is one of the most engaged I have come across. With that in mind, I wanted to remind you about the upcoming Festival of Knowledge XII. I can't quite believe we have now delivered a dozen! As always, if you cannot join the proceedings live, please reserve a copy of the videos to watch after the event. Apart from an essential systems update by the IMCA head office team, we have arranged a selection of good speakers, who will tackle some interesting topics. The event will be broadcast live from the UK on 13th May from 0930 to 1400. For more details and to reserve your place, go to <https://bit.ly/4dwvudA>

And finally, many of you will know Joe McWilliam, our lead tutor, and an early adopter of the scheme. It is my pleasure to announce that IIMS has recently awarded Joe an Honorary Fellowship for his outstanding work on the AVI programme over the past decade. Well deserved.

Best wishes  
**Mike Schwarz**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# eCMID AVI Team Updates from MSA (Marine Surveying Academy) - the branded division of IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying)

**Elly Bryant,**  
eCMID AVI Accreditation Scheme Administrator

I manage new applications and all aspects of the eCMID AVI scheme relating to applications and the processing of all CPD claims and annual renewals. I also manage Part One of the two-part five-year revalidation.



The first quarter of this year has seen a flurry of new applications particularly from Poland due to the expansion in wind farms.

Internally, our processes have been further streamlined and are even more refined. We are confident that the procedures in place have been implemented to support AVIs when approaching your annual renewal or submitting your CPD points. You will find the five-year revalidation process is also smoother and provides a step-by-step guide to help you revalidate with ease.

We are here to support you with any queries or issues relating to your accreditation.

[View the eCMID CPD Guide - April 2026](#)

It has also been encouraging to see the majority of our AVI community using the CPD app throughout the year to submit claims and stay competent with meeting the 10 CPD point requirement, this is now a mandatory requirement and the only way we can accept CPD claims. Please ensure you submit evidence with your claims otherwise these cannot be approved.

We have an upcoming change regarding fees when AVIs are overdue. We will be sending the 60 day reminder and 30 day reminder as usual and on your due date, if the requirements have not been met you will be suspended and access withdrawn from the IMCA database, as previously you will still have a 3-month period to meet the requirements after your due date with no consequence however after this, there will now be a £150 admin fee to be reinstated after the 3 months has passed.

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>

**Please  
note the  
following:**

- CPD evidence is mandatory
- CPD reminder – refer to updated CPD guideline document above
- A minimum of 10 CPD points are required each year to remain active
- Continuous Professional Development is an important and mandatory part of accreditation and demonstrates a commitment to your professional self-development



**Sharon Holland,**  
**Business Developer & Course Executive**

**eCMID AVI online validation course – mandatory within 12 months of being approved as an AVI**

Once approved you are required to attend an online validation course within 12 months. This is a full-day validation course and validates your accreditation. Failure to do so will result in suspension. Note, the course tends to run from 09.00hrs to 16.00hrs (London/UTC).

If you know of anyone who has expressed an interest in the eCMID AVI scheme they are welcome to attend a course to find out more and to see if it is the path for them. Please forward referrals to **msacourses@iims.org.uk**

Course bookings can be made securely via **eCMID AVI Accreditation Course Schedule**

Feedback is encouraged following course attendance and a feedback form will be emailed following attendance. Please complete this as soon as you can and return to Sharon Holland at **msacourses@iims.org.uk**

**Your feedback is VERY important and is shared with the eCMID AVI Committee whom we meet with quarterly.**

Reminder of Five-Year Revalidation Process

Last year we saw a very high number of AVIs revalidating at five years, as well as revalidating for the second time for their ten-year revalidation.

The Five-Year revalidation comprises two parts - Part One and Part Two.

AVIs are required to complete both parts if they wish to be fully revalidated and active for a further five years. It doesn't matter which part is, in either order, but within 3 months after expiry date. For example, if an AVI is due to revalidate on 1st April they would have 3 months to complete both parts and the deadline would be 1st July. AVIs are invited to revalidate 3 months prior to their revalidation date. Email reminders are sent automatically to AVIs.

AVIs are notified by automated emails 90 days and 30 days before their revalidation due date, therefore providing sufficient time to prepare and complete both parts. Revalidation can be applied for three months before and after the revalidation due date. So, for example, if your revalidation due date is 12 December 2025 you can apply on 12 September 2025 and have until 12 March 2026 to revalidate.

Part One - Review of Evidence

This is a review of AVI's professional activity over the past five years and supporting evidence for submission to the Accreditation Scheme Administrator at **msainfo@iims.org.uk**

Part Two – Online Mandatory Refresher Course

Attendance of an online mandatory refresher course, via Zoom, lasting approximately 3 hours. Course dates are published on the eCMID AVI website and bookings are made via the secure online form at **eCMID AVI 5 Year Revalidation - Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course Master Form**

After the course you will be invited to complete a short online test comprising 10 multiple-choice questions. The pass mark is 70% (7/10). If successful you will receive a certificate of attendance and 4 CPD points.

Any questions relating to Part One please email **msainfo@iims.org.uk**

Any questions relating to Part Two please email **msacourses@iims.org.uk**

## Confirmed Course Dates so far...

### eCMID AVI Validation course

09.00hrs to 16.00hrs (London/UTC). Note that times can change on occasion.

- Wednesday 17 June
- Wednesday 2 September

### eCMID AVI Five Year Revalidation - Part Two Mandatory Refresher course

Times are typically 09.00hrs - 12.00hrs but some courses run at different times.

Please do check the eCMID AVI website at [www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com](http://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com)

- Monday 1 June
- Tuesday 1 September
- Wednesday 1 July
- Tuesday 3 November

**ACT NOW** - It is important to note that course places are limited and fill quickly – we recommend you plan ahead to avoid any disappointment and to minimise risk to your AVI status.

## Contacts

Any queries relating to eCMID AVI applications, annual renewals and CPD claims please email [msainfo@iims.org.uk](mailto:msainfo@iims.org.uk)

Any queries relating to eCMID AVI validation course or the Five-Year Revalidation Part Two course and eCMID AVI training and events please email [msacourses@iims.org.uk](mailto:msacourses@iims.org.uk)



# eCMID AVI festival OF KNOWLEDGE

# XII

**Save The Date!** Online event on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Plans have been finalised for the TWELFTH online eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge XII. This event awards 4 CPD points for attending on the day, and 3 CPD points for purchasing video content if you are unable to attend.

**Event time:** 09.30hrs – 14.00hrs (London/BST)

**Cost:** £95.00 to attend live on the day  
£95.00 to purchase the video content  
at your convenience

To view the agenda and book your place go to:

[eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge XII](#)

## Featured AVI, Joe McWilliam – AVI00206

### REFLECTIONS and REMINISCES by Joe McWilliam HonFIIMS

My AVI 'birthday' is 28th October - first accredited in 2015 as AVI number 206, so there are quite a few before me. I was at that time working in Singapore. The CMID system as it was at that time (the 'e' suffix did not appear for another three years or so) seemed to be more prevalent in the North Sea and Europe than East Asia. There were few AVIs in the Asia Pacific area which is how I became involved as a tutor for the AVI training courses. For my own training, I had travelled to UK to attend - expensive! I arranged a number of AVI courses for IIMS in Singapore and Jakarta. I hope some of those who attended are still around and remember me! Those were most enjoyable events, face to face and all the interaction that went with them.

However, things changed dramatically in 2019 when I was repatriated to the UK and the following year when COVID 19 arrived. The last face to face AVI accreditation course was held at Manchester Airport Hotel I think in early March 2020; everything changed very soon afterwards. The training was transferred online to the ZOOM platform. This was a major change, although I think there was a realization that travel and hotel costs for attendance at AVI courses were becoming an issue for some. But after some adjustment and support from the IIMS team this has turned out really well.

Over the 10 or so years the eCMID system has continued to develop in line with the progress of technology in the marine industries and these advances have been reflected in the eCMID system and subsequent training. ECDIS and phasing out the use of paper charts; DP has developed and received a lot of focus by IMCA than was the case in 2015; hybrid and battery systems. The number of eCMID supplements is considerably larger than it was 10 years ago.

Notably in the questions sets of the eCMID, there is one section which has marched on relentlessly over the years and that is ship and cyber security. Not without good reason I feel when the vessels are now so dependent on electronic/IT systems and we see what has happened to some very large organisations.



Regardless of the changes, the eCMID system seems to have largely retained the 'snapshot' principle on which it was founded with the safety of personnel being the foremost consideration. The AVIs performing the service are of a high standard of professionalism and competence and it's great to see more females coming into the offshore vessel inspection industry recently.

The accreditation process continues to be very effectively managed by the IIMS team. It is very pleasing to have been a part of the success of the scheme over the past 10 years.

# IMCA Updates



## 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 repeated incidents. This is achieved by members sharing the key safety matters and incidents that are referenced in the articles.



## Quality assurance of completed eCMID reports by Captain Andy Goldsmith FNI, Technical Adviser – Marine, IMCA

At the latest IMCA eCMID Committee meeting, held in March this year, the benefit of QA reviews of final reports was discussed. The committee believe that continuous scrutiny of the output from inspections will provide them with the information needed to maintain and improve the scheme. The lessons learnt from the reviews have been used to update the AVI 5 yearly revalidation course and contributed to improvements to both inspection templates, so the committee agreed to maintain the QA process.

The QA reviews, introduced in 2022, have led to several improvements to the inspection template that have either been introduced or will be at the next revision, these include:

- Reorganisation of guidance notes to make it clear what is expected and reduce the need for comments by the inspector.
- Inclusion of notes within the template to remind inspectors of the inspection summary requirements and provide assurance that procedures are not only present but being adhered to.
- Removal of the ability to add photographs to some questions therefore reducing the number of photographs of documents and certificates.
- The ability to select a disclaimer template.

These improvements are designed to improve the consistency of the final report for the reader and make the inspection process more efficient for the inspector.

As always, your feedback on the templates and inspection process is always welcome and will be fed into any future revision of the scheme.

# eCMID Development Roadmap

by Adam Hugo, Head of IT, IMCA

The latest set of updates to the eCMID platform have been deployed this month, including features for both inspectors and the wider user community.

AVIs will be particularly interested in improvements to the inspection app:

- Reflecting findings of the quality assurance process undertaken by Andy Goldsmith, the summary page includes new guidance on what should be included in the text summary as follows. *“The summary section should be completed last. The inspector should provide a few sentences, summarising the type and condition of the vessel, whether it is well maintained, if the crew is knowledgeable and whether the safety management system is operating as expected. This area also provides an opportunity to add comments on areas not specifically covered in the question sets. The addition of such comments is not mandatory and, where included, such comments do not constitute ‘findings’; rather they provide information the inspector deems relevant to support the safety and environmental management system.”*
- Where any high-risk findings have been identified, the summary page includes a reminder to check that sufficient photographic evidence and comments have been included before uploading.
- The pre-upload checklist now displays a count of findings and, where none have been identified, a final prompt *“It is unusual for an inspection to identify no findings (opportunities for improvement) – are you sure?”*.

In response to inspector feedback on their dialogue with clients and vessel operators, the PDF inspection reports (both generated from the app and in the database for operators and clients) now clarify that *“Any findings shown below as ‘high-risk’ relate to questions categorised as such within the original inspection template, are applied automatically and are not editable by the inspector. These are solely intended to assist in the identification of any findings requiring urgent action by the vessel operator.”*

The Analytics Hub has also been updated, with improved filters on the inspection supplements, a new report scoped to vessels that the user has been given access to (‘My access’), and another that shows the inspection history of a specific vessel to identify any repeat findings or new risks that may both be of particular concern.

Lastly, for those assisting their clients with vessel setup, for operators of small vessels not issued with an IMO number, the request for a substitute IMCA unique identifier can now be completed wholly within the database website.

Further updates are planned in conjunction with forthcoming template updates and beyond. As always, your feedback plays a vital role in providing ideas and shaping the future direction – keep it coming to [support@ecmid.com](mailto:support@ecmid.com).

## IMCA Events

IMCA deliver 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 promote 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> and all news at <http://bit.ly/4nPpHSI>

# 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.



**TECHNICIAN MEMBERSHIP | TechIIMS**  
**The IIMS Technician membership is open to...**

Individuals holding a recognised qualification, for example, Inspector level 2 or higher (NACE, FROSIO, 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. 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 details about membership, please email **Rachel Lock**, IIMS Membership Secretary at [membershipsupport@iims.org.uk](mailto:membershipsupport@iims.org.uk)



## Upcoming IIMS activities for 2026

The Marine Surveying Academy (MSA) is a branded division of the International Institute of Marine Surveying Ltd (IIMS). IIMS hosts a variety of professional training courses and online seminars for marine surveyors.

Below is a snippet of upcoming events and information can be found on the IIMS website at <https://www.iims.org.uk>

# 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.

You can read the most recent edition:

<https://www.iims.org.uk/report-magazines/>

Each month IIMS publishes a monthly news bulletin as well as a mid-month communiqué. You can read the latest edition of the news bulletin: <https://www.iims.org.uk/news-bulletins/>



## WhatsApp Group

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 problem.

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

There are currently 150 participants in the group and if you would like to join, please email [msacourses@iims.org.uk](mailto:msacourses@iims.org.uk) with your preferred contact number, and you will be added.

## MSA Contact Details

**Sharon Holland** - Business Developer & Course Executive - [msacourses@iims.org.uk](mailto:msacourses@iims.org.uk)

**Elly Bryant** - eCMID AVI Accreditation Scheme Administrator - [msainfo@iims.org.uk](mailto:msainfo@iims.org.uk)

**Jennifer Argent** - Head of Finance - [accounts@iims.org.uk](mailto:accounts@iims.org.uk)

**IMPORTANT:** Please remember to notify us if any of your personal details change so we can update your record.