

Changes to Diver Medic Training Validity Period

There is an IMCA requirement for at least one member of the dive team, who is not diving (other than the supervisor), to be trained in advanced first aid – generally referred to as a ‘diver medic’. Diver medics usually attend an initial full diver medic training course and then are required to undertake diver medic refresher training courses at regular three-yearly intervals.

IMCA has run the IMCA Scheme for Recognition of Diver Medic Training since 1999. The number of training establishments approved by IMCA to run training courses has increased over the years and there are now 21 training establishments in 11 different countries. The scheme itself has changed little since it was introduced, though there have been significant improvements in training as a result of changes in technology and recent experience in trauma medicine.

Recently the problem of skill fade, especially with some of the more complex procedures that might need to be performed, has become an increasing cause for concern. To address the concerns over skill fade, the IMCA Diving Division Management Committee has decided that **diver medics should undertake refresher training at a more frequent interval – of two years.**

From 1 July 2013 all certificates issued by IMCA diver medic recognised training establishments will be valid for only two years instead of three years. From that date onwards diver medics will need to undertake refresher training at two-yearly intervals. Existing diver medic certificates of three years will remain valid and divers holding such certificates should arrange to undertake a refresher course at their certificate expiry time.