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## PRESS RELEASE

**These are the International Diving Schools Association  
and the International Marine Contractor Association**

# Dive Training, IDSA and IMCA the only two acronyms that indicate their criteria

PALERMO (15 June 2024) - The International Diving Schools Association (IDSA), founded in 1982, develops common international diving standards. IDSA is dedicated to developing diving education in inshore, offshore and inland water environments and has already established international diving training standards based on the consensus membership of its many members. The standards provide a reference point for those responsible for managing existing national standards or creating new ones as well as a guide for customers, diving contractors and divers themselves. The introduction of internationally agreed diver training standards will have the effect of improving safety, providing contractors with direct input to the diver training programme and that of bidding across national borders under fairer conditions, improving the quality of the diver by providing more job opportunities.

Some governments such as Norway, Denmark, the United States and Italy (Sicily) have established their own national diver training requirements, while for all other countries, IDSA provides a means to equalise national standards through an equivalency table.

In Italy, IDSA has been mentioned since 2003 in the ENI and SAIPEM document "Indications of the working group on hyperbaric diving activities" (Annex to the letter HSE/S Prot. 03 of 2003).

In 2011, the Sicilian Region requires IDSA standards in the "Guidelines for the planning and presentation of training proposals under PROF 2011", while in 2014 IDSA is mentioned in an ENEL document entitled "General contract conditions Enel Group" applied to supply, service and work contracts governed by Italian law and concluded between an Enel Group company and a contractor.

In 2016, Law No. 7 of 21 April 2016 (Discipline of training contents for the exercise of industrial diving activities) was issued in Sicily and published in the Italian Official Gazette on 15 October 2016). During the same year, the Council of Ministers No. 121 - resolves not to appeal for the Sicily Region Law No. 7 of 21/04/2016 "Discipline of the training contents for the exercise of the activities of industrial diving". On 21 April 2016 in the GURS (Official Gazette of the Sicilian Region), Sicilian Regional Law no. 7 (Discipline of the training contents for the exercise of industrial diving activities) is published.

In 2019 in the GURS (Official Gazette of the Sicilian Region) No. 10 of 1 March 2019 - of the implementing regulation and Annex 1 on IDSA times provided for by Article 5 of Law 07/2016 and Presidential Decree No. 31 of 7 December 2018 (IT)

Today, the Telematic Directory of Industrial Subcontracting is active at the Department of Labour, Employment, Guidance, Services and Training Activities of the Sicilian Region, Service VI - Coordination of Employment Centres Services - Youth Policies - Precarious Policies - National and Transnational Mobility - PON IOG - PON SPAO Management, which today manages the Directory with 140 members from all regions of Italy and many EU and non-EU countries. The Telematic Directory of Industrial Diving is a reference point for Italian companies looking for qualified workers in the sector.

The IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association), has also looked to IDSA's training courses since 2004. In one of its documents and after the implementation of the Sicilian Region's law, it published two notes in 2023 (IMCA Information Note 1384 and 1385) where it specifies that IMCA's minimum criteria for Surface Supplied Air Diver (SSDE) training can be met by observing the current IDSA Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver (IDSA Level 3) training standard. The routes must be controlled and monitored by a public body, the only point of contact. This function in Italy is performed by the Sicilian Region's Department of Labour, which manages the Telematic Directory of Industrial Diving

In 2024, in a new document 'Diving Personnel Certification', the IMCA specifies that 'the association does not approve or otherwise recognise individual diver training institutes or initial diver training courses outside of the pathways specified in the previous notes setting out the criteria used by IMCA to identify appropriate certification and training'.

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IDSA (International Diving Schools Association) Full Member - Diver Training n. FF 24  
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