DP CPD CHANGES

IMCA FAQs - April 2023

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Changes for DP Operators

What changes have been announced by the Nautical Institute (NI)?

To ensure that DP operators are keeping pace with developing standards in a fast-changing industry, DP Operators will be required to demonstrate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) alongside experience of at least 150 days of sea time.

My certificate is due for renewal next year, what does this mean?

As mentioned above, you will need to have undertaken one year of CPD before your certificate can be revalidated. The NI are offering a 12-month extension to existing certificates to ensure everyone renewing in 2024 has the time to meet the new requirements.

When will the changes be implemented? What is the timeframe?

Now. If you are revalidating after January 2024, you will be required to have undertaken one year of CPD (two modules). This is why it is vital that you consider your CPD requirements as soon as possible.

If you are revalidating in subsequent years, you will still need to demonstrate CPD, but over a longer timeframe.

Year of cert. renewal	Requirements
2024	One year of an NI-approved CPD programme and online exam; OR four-day onshore NI DP Refresher course and online exam.
2025	Two years of an NI-approved CPD programme and online exam; OR four-day onshore NI DP Refresher course and online exam.
2026	Three years of an NI-approved CPD programme and online exam; OR four-day onshore NI DP Refresher course and online exam.
2027	Four years of an NI-approved CPD programme and online exam; OR four-day onshore NI DP Refresher course and online exam.
2028	Five years of an NI-approved CPD programme and online exam; OR four-day onshore NI DP Refresher course and online exam.

Does the NI recommend any CPD providers?

IMCA's Key Personnel DP App which has been formally accredited by the NI for use in revalidating your DP Certificate. Other providers are also available.

Is CPD now compulsory to update my DP certificate?

Yes, CPD is now compulsory and is no longer voluntary if you wish to revalidate your DP certificate as an alternative to the DP refresher course.

What is the difference between doing the CPD and doing the four-day revalidation course?

The onshore four-day revalidation course takes place once every five years. It will incur travel and accommodation costs, time off for attendance, as well as one-off course fees.

The IMCA Key personnel DP App is continuous over a five-year period and can be carried out in a DP Operators' spare time with no additional costs for travel, accommodation or time off incurred.

How can I demonstrate CPD to meet the new requirements?

There are only two ways to demonstrate your CPD:

1. Attending a four day on-shore NI DP Refresher course and subsequently completing the online NI examination; OR
2. Be enrolled in an NI accredited CPD programme and completing the online NI exam.

Does this affect any other DP personnel?

Yes, the rule changes also apply to Vessel Maintainer personnel which will also require proof of CPD. As this is a relatively new scheme, it will not be required until 2026, however. As with DP Operators, you should start thinking about how you will demonstrate the new CPD requirements.

IMCA Key Personnel DP App

What is the IMCA Key Personnel DP App?

The IMCA Key Personnel DP App is a continuing professional development learning programme, in which the content has been developed by IMCA in collaboration with the NI to provide CPD to DP Operators and other key DP personnel who perform a safety critical role onboard offshore DP vessels.

Designed to allow DP Operators to carry out CPD requirements at their convenience, the user-friendly App can be downloaded on any phone or tablet and links directly into the NI's Alexis platform offering immediate proof of CPD.

Why should I choose the IMCA Key Personnel DP App?

There are several reasons why you could choose the IMCA Key Personnel DP App to meet the new CPD requirements:

1. The first DP CPD App to be fully accredited by the NI.
2. Delivered in close collaboration with the NI and fully integrated into its Alexis Platform – ensuring ease of registration and immediate proof of your CPD.
3. Providing access to current DP industry best practice from IMCA and the NI, as well through real-life case studies and examples.
4. Engaging content for key DP personnel in an easy-to-digest format.

What platform does it work on?

The App is available on both Android and Apple devices (iPhone, iPad) and is designed to work on both phones and tablets. It is also available to access online via an internet browser. You will receive instructions on how to download and access it once payment has been completed through the Nautical Institute's Alexis platform.

How much does the IMCA Key personnel DP App cost?

It normally costs £50/US$60 per module, or £100/US$120 a year. Fees are charged at registration by the NI – and payment is made through the NI's Alexis Platform and excludes VAT (taxes).

Why should you trust IMCA?

We have strong foundations in Dynamic Positioning and a tangible "real-life" understanding thanks to:

1. Our history in bringing the industry together to adopt technical standards and recommended Codes of Practice.
2. We have more than 30 years' experience of developing DP guidance documents. Our knowledge of DP is second to none, which is why we often say that, "DP is in our DNA."
3. Being the only organisation, which shares DP Events with the industry to improve safety.

The IMCA Key Personnel DP App is the next step in our mission to improve the industry's safety performance.

I'm at sea with poor internet connection. Will the App still work?

Of course! The App has been designed to work offline with units downloadable to be completed without an internet connection. You will need to be connected to the internet to complete the assessment tasks.

How do I get the App?

You can register for the IMCA Key personnel DP App directly from the NI website and fees are paid through their Alexis platform.

You will be provided details on downloading the App from either the Apple or Google App Stores depending on the type of device.

What is the structure/format of the IMCA Key Personnel DP App?

IMCA produces two modules a year. This means that over a five-year period, DP operators using the App will have completed ten modules as part of their requirements to demonstrate CPD.

By structuring the scheme in this way, it ensures that content is always up-to-date and follows the latest best practice.

Ready to download?

The IMCA Key Personnel DP App is the easiest way to meet your new CPD requirements and is only available via the Nautical Institute's Alexis Platform.

Download now

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