

## **The History and Development of the U.S. Coast Guard Policy for DP Offshore Supply Vessels**

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### **Abstract**

This paper documents the efforts undertaken by owner/operators of dynamically positioned offshore supply vessels to assist in the development of US Coast Guard policy. The Coast Guard published an opinion that held that DP vessels were in violation of pollution prevention regulations if they conducted transfer of oil or hazardous materials while operating in the DP mode.

This paper examines the foundations of the initial USCG opinion, and the process spanning over a year to develop and promulgate an official policy that satisfactorily addressed USCG concerns without imposing undue hardship on vessel owners and operators. It also addresses the positive role of trade associations in flushing issues and building consensus.

The substance of the USCG policy is discussed, with special emphasis on the means operators may use to determine compliance, including the role of classification societies.

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