

Title: Revisions to the Guidelines for Safe Operations of Dynamically Positioned Offshore Supply Vessels

Author: Ian Giddings, *International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)*

Abstract

It has been over a year since these guidelines were issued as IMCA M182 and it had been agreed that these would be reviewed after such a period. This paper will look at some of the issues which have arisen and continue to do so during this process.

Some of these are subject to much discussion and debate. These include: -

- Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) for equipment class 1 vessels.
- Should all DP OSVs now be equipment class 2 or 3?
- Is this guidance applicable to an unclassified vessel with DP capability
- Are the DP OSV Capability levels appropriate?
- Similarly are the Category A and Category B competency standards appropriate?
- The guidelines are based on the ability to swiftly disconnect but this is not the case when working hoses.

The guidelines are intended to be international in their application so this development will be of interest to offshore supply vessels working in North West Europe, Gulf of Mexico and Brazil as well as elsewhere around the world. This in turn brings further considerations such as how to recognize local guidance and regulations.

It is hoped that this paper will highlight some of the issues in this revision and lead to discussion on this document, particularly on the possible implications for OSVs around the world.

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