

Title: What is Our Position?

Author: Roald Holstad, Eirik Haagensen, *Kongsberg Maritime*

Abstract

What is our position? More than 90% of the DP operators working for major offshore companies do not know where they are. This is according to a pre-test given in the beginning of recurrent training course where they are presented a screen shot from a DP system asking them to state the vessels position deviation from the position set-point. An equally high percentage is only looking at switch board configuration and not auxiliary systems when they assess the vessel's worst case single failure. A number of incidents have also proven that operators are not able to take control of the vessel in an emergency situation. Why is it like this? It is all about competence. Generic training can only give an overview of what DP is, what it is used for and how it can be working together with all other systems and parties onboard. Does the industry see the limitations in generic training?

When the onboard experience is used to fill in gaps, we often see that new operators are getting outdated knowledge. We believe that vessel specific, system specific and operation specific training is a good way to achieve sufficient and correct knowledge of a DP vessel. This can be obtained onboard if there is sufficient competence present. We can also see the need of emergency situation training, particularly for those vessels that don't have time to do this onboard. Nothing lasts forever, not even knowledge. Recurrent training can be used to refresh competence, build competence on new systems and functions and learn from others mishaps.

The DPOs need to be given better tools for decision making, and some of these tools are in the DPOs' head as competence.

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