**Title:** **Training and Competency Evaluation of DPOs**

**Author:** Capt. Sameer Singh, *Independent*

## Abstract

With many different types of vessels with varying levels of complexity, it is extremely important that the personnel manning the vessels and operating them are also competent in the positions. Even though the DP systems are becoming more reliable and complex at the same time, the trend of incidents/accidents has still not shown a downward trend yet. The root cause of most incidents/accidents is human error, incompetency or inadequate procedures. Failure to comprehend the situation or evaluate machinery/systems is often classed as equipment failure, whereas there is a good possibility that with the right competent personnel in charge, it was preventable. Companies are losing money as often there are delays/downtime, and there is also an increased level of scrutiny by Clients and defending actions to safeguard interests. Companies are leaving themselves exposed to legal action in case of any incident/accident for failure to implement proper training schemes and evaluation of competence levels of DPOs onboard. With the number of poorly trained DPOs having increased manifold in the recent years, it is slowly becoming a problem for the entire industry. A field day for the lawyers, were they to get involved, it is entirely possible to overturn this rut. With the war on talent set to intensify further in the coming years, it is only appropriate that the industry gets together, and addresses the issue soonest. A few steps would be required to begin with, starting from the recruitment phase itself. The selection criteria will have to be more stringent as to who qualifies for the training. Once the candidates are selected, they will have to undergo much more thorough training, than that is presently being done, before granting of the DPO Certificate. As presented in a subsea vessel conference in 2012, both the Nautical Institute and DNV schemes have structural flaws in them. Both schemes are not able to produce the DPOs with the levels of competence required for the safe and efficient operations of the present day complex vessels. However, by having the best of both schemes, it is entirely possible to have much better trained DPOs for the future. Two important things stand out – DP knowledge and its implementation. The presentation revolves around both these, and how we can use simulators to overcome the shortcomings of the present system of training and certification. Starting from the selection process itself, wherein a great amount of shift is required in the recruitment process, to ensure the personnel with the correct aptitude and attitude are taken in and precious resources of time and bunk space, are utilized to the maximum. A lot of companies give emphasis to the training, but is the training that is being actually imparted, in line with the thought process and industry best practices. How can the evaluation be done impartially, and are there ways and methods to improve the existing processes. Can the industry get together and just as standards are laid down for the hardware, can standards for evaluation of competence be laid down. The presentation aims to give a brief outline of these items, and some ideas put across, which could contribute to better trained DPOs for the future

***Click below to:***

Review the complete paper

Review the presentation

Return to the Session Directory