

Title: DPO Competency Review. A Statistical Analysis of the Data from the OSVDPA's Competency Assessments

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Abstract

The Offshore Service Vessel Dynamic Positioning Authority (OSVDPA) presents the following paper summarizing the trends and commonalities of DPOs' competencies, skillsets, and knowledge captured via the OSVDPA's practical assessment system.

The OSVDPA's DPO Certification Scheme is predicated on the belief that certification is a product of classroom learning, experience gathering, and the passing of theoretical and practical assessments. The OSVDPA's practical assessments are conducted after the third phase of training and the final phase of training. Additional assessments are required to upgrade, transfer into the OSVDPA scheme, and/or revalidate one's DPO certificate.

The OSVDPA's practical assessment system contains of a bank of Assessment Items with each item measuring a single competency or a group of related competencies. The Assessment Items have been grouped by subject matter, applicability, and difficulty. By utilizing different combinations of items—in similar ratios—the assessments can be customized to the DPO's industrial missions and vessels, while ensuring each assessment is of comparable content and difficulty.

Additionally, each assessment item contains a unique identifier. These identifiers are also included on the assessment recordings. As such, the OSVDPA is able to track performance on an item-by-item basis.

The OSVDPA intends to use the assessment data for multiple purposes (improving the OSVDPA practical assessment system, discovering deficiencies in instruction, etc.). However, sharing this aggregate and anonymous data with the broader industry is where this data can be most useful, as it exposes common faults made by those taking the assessments.

By presenting this data, the OSVDPA hopes to improve the safety of our industry. Specifically, highlighting the areas in need of prioritization during DPO training and accounted for in the planning and execution of DP operations. In turn, these informed actions will lead the industry toward our shared goal of incident free operations.