

## **Abstract 028 – M3Marine Expertise**

**Title:** MTS Guidelines and Class Rules. How to bridge the gaps?

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## **MTS Guidelines and Class Rules. How to bridge the gaps?**

Guidance documents on DP, Design and Operations, were published by the MTS DP Technical Committee in 2011 and 2010, subsequent engagement has occurred with:

- Classification Societies (DNV, ABS).
- United States Coast Guard (USCG).
- Marine Safety Forum (MSF).

It became apparent that a mechanism needed to be developed and implemented to address the following in a pragmatic manner.

- Feedback provided by the various stakeholders. Additional information and guidance that the MTS DP Technical Committee wished to provide.
- Means to facilitate revisions to the documents and communication of the same to the various stakeholders.

The use of Technical and Operations Guidance Notes (TECHOP) was deemed to be a suitable vehicle to address the above.

TECHOPs are published as relevant and appropriate. These TECHOPs are written in a manner that facilitates them to be used as standalone documents.

The TECHOPs are intended to supplement the information provided in all parts of the MTS DP Vessel Design Philosophy Guidelines.

Each TECHOP includes a 'case for action', which, in the case of those applicable to design (D), provide real life examples of DP Incidents which necessitate the guidance.

However, often there are challenges with implementation of the guidance on existing vessels and even on new build vessels, due to various factors including the requirements of the main class rules.

This paper will explore those challenges, provide examples of solutions and provide suggestions on how improvements can be made to avoid problems during pre-hire acceptance of DP vessels where those vessels are assessed against the MTS guidelines.