



## Abstract for OSVDPA's Proposed Presentation to the 2019 DP Conference

**Title:** "A Part of the Fleet: How the Industry should View DPOs' Experience on Vessels Without a DP Class Notation."  
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### Abstract:

The Offshore Service Vessel Dynamic Positioning Authority (OSVDPA) proposes a paper recommending a new way for the industry to consider the experience DPOs and Prospective DPOs have gained on vessels without a DP class notation.

Since 2012, mariners serving on such vessels have had limited and restricted options to secure the training and certification they need to operate these vessels in the safest manner possible. This lack of access to training does not prevent these mariners from operating DP equipment.

As these mariners will continue to operate DP equipment, the DP industry must develop ways to proactively ensure these mariners have access to DP training and are able to demonstrate competency in DP operations. The industry-recognized DPO certification schemes all have such pathways, but there are vast differences in what is required by the certification scheme of the mariner, and vessel owner. There are also differences in what DPO certificate can be earned by these mariners. This lack of standardization causes obvious problems.

For its part, the OSVDPA believes that the mariners serving on vessels without DP class notations should have access to the DP training and the experience they gain on these vessels should count towards the experience requirement of the scheme. Finally, when these mariners have passed a competency assessment, the OSVDPA believes these mariners should not face undo restrictions when they attempt to advance their careers.

Conversely, the OSVDPA believes that in order to gain the above allowances, the OSVDPA must ensure that the vessels used for such experience gathering must be proven to be nearly equivalent to class standards and are operated in a manner similar to class standards.

The OSVDPA proposes to present a paper describing this system as a best practice in the hopes that its pieces and components will be adopted by other members of the DP industry that may be facing similar questions. In turn, the OSVDPA believes this adoption will improve the safety of the industry.