

Impact of the New USCG Requirements on DP OSV Operations in the Gulf of Mexico

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Abstract

On 22nd January 2003 the 8th Coast Guard District (D8) issued Policy Letter 01-2003 entitled, "Use of Dynamic Positioning (DP) by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) for Oil and Hazmat Transfers". The policy letter was targeted at owners and operators of OSVs, providing them with guidelines for the operation of OSVs in DP at offshore facilities and rigs on the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico. The date for full compliance with the provisions of the guidelines is January 22, 2005. This paper considers the potential impact on the sector, while at the same time questioning some of the underlying premises on which the USCG has based its policy.

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