



Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/13

Issued: 6th May 2009

Subject: DP Reference Signal Interference

Summary:

A near miss incident occurred on a vessel operating on DP2 whilst alongside a fixed platform. The vessel was positioned alongside the installation on DP after completing the normal checks. The reference signals being utilised were dual DGPS and Fan Beam.

After a period of time alongside, the fan beam reference signal became erratic and on investigation it was discovered that this was a result of a group of 8 to 10 of the platform personnel emerging from the accommodation wearing the type of overalls fitted with reflective tape.

The problem of interference to the fan beam signal from the installation identification name plates (reflective paint) has been accepted as an issue previously but it would appear that the potential problem of the personnel PPE has not been widely known.

Apart from this problem, vessels operating on DP should be aware of other potential material on installations which may interfere with fan beam reference signals.

