

Marine Safety Flash

A15-34 (15th December)

Cyscan Signal Swap



Incident Overview

A vessel had completed working at an offshore installation and was standing by to recover the ship's portable radascan transponder unit back from the platform. It was then seen by the Dynamic Positioning Officer that the Cyscan swapped targets from the installation's Cyscan reflector to another weak reflection (retro-reflective banding on a person's boiler suit walking past the reflector) and the vessel began to move off position; this is stated as being a regular occurrence when a poorly maintained Cyscan reflector is in position on the facility and offshore staff walk past.

Key Findings

1. Signals from cyscan tubes may not be the most reliable, especially when the vessel is pitching and rolling, and/or when there are other reflective materials in the vicinity.
2. Vessels have on occasions provided installations with Ship-made reflective tubes.

Recommendations

1. Report any instances where issues occur with installation Position Reference Systems (including lack of appropriate equipment, poorly maintained or positioned equipment, and switching off radarscan while the signal is still in use), any DP failures and excursions, or any other significant event that may be of concern.
2. Ship-made cyscan reflectors should no longer be in use; report to BSM office if there is a request for a Ship-made cyscan.