

# Accreditation

Everything you wanted to know about accreditation but never got round to asking

---

**Captain John Lloyd AFNI**  
COO, The Nautical Institute

---

**W**ith nearly half of The Nautical Institute's Headquarters staff engaged in activities related to our accreditation and certification services, Chief Operating Officer John Lloyd explains in a series of articles why this work is important to the Institute and how it fits with our strategic direction.

## Why is it important for the NI to recognise specialist training courses?

The Nautical Institute has been accrediting specialised courses since the 1980s, with a major focus on dynamic positioning qualifications. We have become the world leader in this area, certifying that many thousands of operators have received the right training and experience.

The accreditation service helps The Nautical Institute uphold consistent standards in the delivery of training and thus promotes high standards of knowledge, qualifications and competence in a sector that is constantly evolving in its quest for best and safest practices.

The work raises the profile of The Nautical Institute internationally and in recent years has made a positive funding contribution to the organisation.

## What does the DP scheme involve?

The offshore sector is highly regulated and therefore helping to meet the professional demands of the sector in a cost-effective and proficient manner is

particularly important to all the stakeholders.

The Nautical Institute has worked very hard with organisations from across the industry sectors and leading countries active in the offshore sector to develop a training and qualification scheme that meets the standard required for operators no matter what type of vessel they are serving on. The scheme is more than just a simple qualification. It is in fact the careful integration of shore-based training, assessment, onboard experience and training and finally a 'suitability' determination from a qualified Master that leads to the award of the NI certificate as DPO.

## Tell me more about how The Nautical Institute engages with stakeholders

High-quality international governance is very important to the credibility and standing of the NI scheme. To ensure we have thorough guidance and direction on the required training and experience we have established the Dynamic Positioning Training Executive Group to inform our decisions and where necessary make changes.

The group includes representatives from the following organisations: OCIMF, IMCA, the International Chamber of Shipping, ISOA and IDPOA, in addition to training providers and of course The Nautical Institute.

The group meets twice a year and spends a lot of additional time in working groups and other related activities. We are very grateful for this contribution, and the work of members around the world. It ensures we engage closely with the sector and remain responsive to its needs and to emergent trends and issues. From the scheme fees we fund travel to



The accreditation team hard at work



Checking a logbook for accuracy

regional meetings where providers can share best practice and discuss new ideas.

### Why is the accreditation of training centres so important?

The delivery of training ashore is a critical element of the scheme. It is highly complex and involves some of the most sophisticated shiphandling simulators specifically designed for dynamic positioning operations' training. The accreditation process helps us ensure that:

- All training centres meet or exceed the minimum standard required under our regulations;
- The equipment used is fit for purpose;
- The staff are suitably qualified and experienced;
- Record-keeping and other activities are functioning properly.

We also have processes in place to monitor and record the assessments conducted in the centres and to offer them support where required.

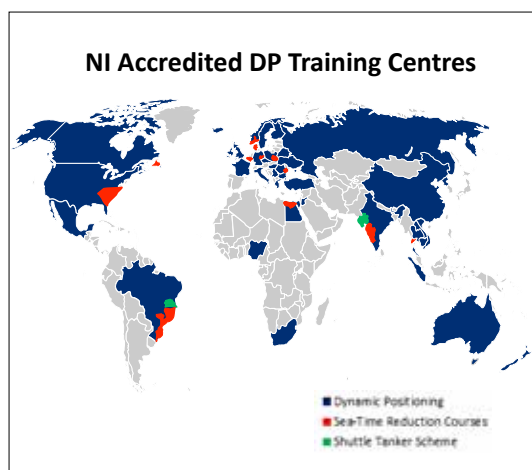
### How do training centres benefit from the scheme?

As well as requiring high standards, The Nautical Institute offers extensive benefits to the centres. We provide support for their online assessments and keep records related to DP qualifications. All training centres can buy Nautical Institute publications at a 40% discount from the cover price not only for their DP courses but in any subject area they may need across the centre. We provide online support to the centres through our Alexis Platform.

Most importantly, successful accreditation grants the centre approval to deliver training to the largest source of demand for dynamic positioning training and qualifications. Approved centres are entitled to use The Nautical Institute logo and their certification indicates they are an accredited centre.

### How many centres are there and where are they?

The Nautical Institute has approved training centres widely distributed around the world. In the case of dynamic positioning there has been a steady growth in numbers. The increase in oil price between 2008 and 2014 caused a surge in the demand for accreditation, and in 2016 there are 89 centres approved.



**John Lloyd AFNI**  
Chief Operating Officer

John joined The Nautical Institute in November 2015 from the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Tasmania where he was a Professor in the National Centre for Ports and Shipping. During his seven years at AMC he had a two-year leave of absence to set up the Angolan Maritime Training Centre. Before joining AMC he spent two years working in the Vanuatu Maritime College.

John's varied career prior to these appointments included four years in senior positions with Flagship Training in the UK, 10 years with Warsash Maritime Centre as a senior and principal lecturer in simulation and operations, and two years as a marine pilot in Walvis Bay. He served at sea from 1975 for 16 years.



**Ghulam Hussain FNI**  
Accreditation Manager

Ghulam Hussain joined the Institute as Accreditation Manager in September 2014. He is a Master Mariner, having sailed for 14 years, and has been self-employed since coming ashore. Having resided in Hong Kong for 14 years and thereafter in Bangladesh and with substantial involvement in chartering, ship broking and ship management activities, he brings with him a wide range of experience and knowledge.

He is a Fellow of The Nautical Institute and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, a chartered member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport and a member of the Royal Institute of Navigation. He also gained an MBA in Shipping and Logistics from Middlesex University.

The map gives an indication of the location of the centres and illustrates the global distribution of the training network. This is important because as each centre has been approved to deliver the training scheme of The Nautical Institute, trainees and companies may select a training provider close to their place of work or home that best suits their personal circumstances.

### How are training centres accredited?

Typically, specialist auditors will visit the training centre to review the preparedness of the facilities, staff, course materials and the infrastructure to support delivery of the programmes.

### Who are the auditors?

The auditors are all trained and qualified to conduct audits and have experience in the management and administration of training institutions or have specialist knowledge in the subject area. This experience allows the auditors to verify the work of the training establishments against the NI standard but also to offer advice on the scheme where required. This is especially important in areas such as dynamic positioning where the specialist auditor will review the provision of simulation equipment and the design of the exercises developed to support the learning outcomes.

### Where do they come from?

The auditors used by The Nautical Institute have a contract with us for the delivery of these specialist services on an 'on-call' arrangement. The NI has auditors based in Singapore, Poland, Sweden, India, Sri Lanka, Brazil and the USA, which allows for a lot of flexibility. Wherever possible we will use auditors local to the training provider to minimise costs of time and travel.

As well as the worldwide network of auditors, staff from HQ are assigned to conduct audits. This helps ensure good one-to-one relationships with our approved centres and to allow discussions about future plans and developments.



All DP users must undergo appropriate training