

Faulty governors

Safety Flash Published on **26 August 2008** Generated on **20 January 2025** IMCA SF 13/08

A member has reported a series of incidents involving the shutdown of two different diesel generators onboard a long term chartered vessel.

What happened?

On three separate occasions these incidents caused a full blackout, a partial blackout and the loss of a generator. The DP class II multi-purpose support vessel has four governors of the Woodward PG-EG58 type. During the incident investigation and fault finding process, two suspect governors were removed and replaced with two new units from a separate batch. The two suspect governors were returned to the manufacturer for inspection. The results of this inspection are summarised below:

- Broken check valves were found in the governor oil pumps of both units.
- The oil spray nozzle filters were blocked in both units. Small metal particles and pieces of check valve were identified.
- The filter in the oil line to the torque motor was blocked in both units. Small metal particles and pieces of check valve were identified.
- Foreign metal particles were found inside one of the governor units. These particles had caused the filters to become blocked, preventing oil flow to the hydraulic valve.

Although the governor can operate without the check valve, the pieces of broken valve were carried in the hydraulic system. This caused malfunction of the hydraulic valve.

Swipe to see next image

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

IMCA makes every effort to ensure both the accuracy and reliability of the information shared, but is not be liable for any guidance and/or recommendation and/or statement herein contained.

The information contained in this document does not fulfil or replace any individual's or Member's legal, regulatory or other duties or obligations in respect of their operations. Individuals and Members remain solely responsible for the safe, lawful and proper conduct of their operations.

Share your safety incidents with [IMCA online](#). Sign-up to receive Safety Flashes [straight to your email](#).