



ACS (Asia Classification Society)

Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Units and Structures

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Asia Classification Society
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PART

1

Generic Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures

CHAPTER **1**

Scope and Conditions of Classification

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SECTION 1 Classification

1 Process

The Classification process consists of

- a) The development of Rules, Guides, standards and other criteria for the design and construction of offshore units and structures, for materials, equipment, and machinery, and
- b) The review of design and survey during and after construction to verify compliance with such Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria, and
- c) The assignment and registration of class when such compliance has been verified, and
- d) The issuance of a renewable Classification certificate, with annual endorsements, valid for five years.

The Rules and standards are, in general, developed by the International Association of Classification Societies and by ACS staff, and passed upon by committees made up of naval architects, ocean and marine engineers, shipbuilders, engine builders, steel makers and by other technical, operating and scientific personnel associated with the worldwide maritime industries. Theoretical research and development, established engineering disciplines, as well as satisfactory service experience are utilized in their development and promulgation. The ACS and its committees can act only upon such theoretical and practical considerations in developing Rules and standards.

Surveyors apply normally accepted examination and testing standards to those items specified for each survey by the Rules; construction procedures, safety procedures and construction supervision remain the responsibility of the shipyard, the offshore unit or structures repairer, manufacturer, Owner or other client.

For classification, the offshore units or structures are to comply with the requirements of the applicable Rules and/or Guides.

3 Certificates and Reports

3.1

Plan review and surveys during and after construction are conducted by the ACS to verify to itself and its committees that an offshore unit, structure, item of material, equipment or machinery is in compliance with the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the ACS and to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor. All reports and certificates are issued solely for the use of the ACS, its committees, its clients and other authorized entities.

3.3

The ACS will release information from reports and certificates to the cognizant authorities, e.g., Port State to assist in rectification of deficiencies during port state control intervention. Such information includes text of conditions of classification, survey due dates and certificate

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expiration dates. The Owner will be advised of any request and/or release of information.

3.5

The ACS will release certain information to the offshore unit or structure's underwriters for underwriting purposes. Such information includes text of overdue conditions of classification, survey due dates and certificate expiration dates. The Owners will be advised of any request and/or release of information.

In the case of overdue conditions of classification, the Owners will be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the information prior to release.

3.7

The ACS may release an offshore unit or structure specific information related to the classification and statutory certification status. This information may be published on the ACS web site or by other media and may include the an offshore unit or structure classification, any operating restrictions noted in the ACS's *Record*, the names, dates and locations of all surveys performed by the ACS, the expiration date of all class and statutory certificates issued by the ACS, survey due dates, the text of conditions of classification (also known as outstanding recommendations), transfers, suspensions, withdrawals, cancellations and reinstatements of class, and other related information as may be required.

5 Representations as to Classification

Classification is a representation by ACS as to the compliance with applicable requirements of the Rules, Guides, and standards. The Rules, Guides, and standards of the Asia Classification Society are not meant as a substitute for the independent judgment of professional designers, naval architects, marine engineers, Owners, Operators, masters and crew nor as a substitute for the quality control procedures of offshore units or structures builders, engine builders, steel makers, suppliers, manufacturers and sellers of units, materials, machinery or equipment. ACS, being a technical society, can only act through Surveyors or others who are believed by it to be knowledgeable and competent.

The ACS represents solely to the Owner of the offshore unit or structure or other client of the ACS that when assigning class, it will use due diligence in the development of Rules, Guides, and standards, and in using normally applied testing standards, procedures and techniques as called for by the Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria of the ACS for the purpose of assigning and maintaining a class. The ACS further represents to the Owner of the offshore unit or structure or other client of the ACS that its certificates and reports evidence compliance only with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the ACS, in accordance with the terms of such certificate or report. Under no circumstances whatsoever are these representations to be deemed to relate to any third party.

The user of this document is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and other government directives and orders related to an offshore unit or structure, its machinery and equipment, or their operation. Nothing contained in any Rule, Guide, standard, certificate or report issued by the ACS shall be deemed to relieve any other entity of its duty or responsibility to comply with all applicable laws, including those related to the environment.

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7 Scope of Classification

Nothing contained in any certificate or report is to be deemed to relieve any designer, builder, Owner, manufacturer, seller, supplier, repairer, operator, insurer, or other entity or person of any duty to inspect or any other duty or warranty express or implied. Any certificate or report evidences only that at the time of survey the offshore unit or structure, item of material, equipment or machinery, or any other item covered by a certificate or report complied with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the Asia Classification Society and is issued solely for the use of the ACS, its committees, its clients or other authorized entities. Nothing contained in any certificate, report, plan or document review or approval is to be deemed to be in any way a representation or statement beyond those contained in 1-1-1/5. The ACS is not an insurer or guarantor of the integrity or safety of an offshore unit or structure, or of any of its equipment or machinery. The validity, applicability, and interpretation of any certificate, report, plan or document review or approval are governed by the Rules, Guides, and standards of the Asia Classification Society who shall remain the sole judge thereof. The ACS is not responsible for the consequences arising from the use by other parties of the Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria of the Asia Classification Society, without review, plan approval and survey by the ACS.

The term “approved” shall be interpreted to mean that the plans, reports or documents have been reviewed for compliance with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the ACS.

The Rules and Guides are published in the understanding that responsibility for stability and trim; for reasonable handling and loading; as well as for avoidance of distributions of weight which are likely to set up abnormally severe stresses in an offshore unit or structure does not rest upon the Committee.

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SECTION 2 Suspension and Cancellation of Classification

1 General

The continuance of the classification of any offshore unit or structure is conditional upon the Rule or Guide requirements for periodical, damage, and other surveys being duly carried out. The Committee reserves the right to reconsider, withhold, suspend, or cancel the class of any offshore unit or structure, or any part of the machinery or equipment for noncompliance with the Rules or Guides, for defects or damages which are not reported to the ACS for defects reported by the Surveyors which have not been rectified in accordance with their recommendations, or for nonpayment of fees which are due on account of Classification, Statutory, Lifting Appliances, or other Surveys. Suspension or cancellation of class may take effect immediately or after a specified period of time.

1.1

The ACS reserves the right to perform unscheduled surveys of the hull, equipment, or machinery when the ACS has reasonable cause to believe that the Rule requirements for periodical, damage and other surveys are not being complied with.

1.3

Failure to permit the unscheduled surveys referred to in 1-1-2/1.1 above shall result in the suspension or cancellation of class.

3 Notice of Surveys

It is the responsibility of the Owner to ensure that all surveys necessary for the maintenance of class are carried out at the proper time. The ACS will notify an Owner of upcoming surveys and outstanding recommendations. This may be done by means of a letter or other communication. The non-receipt of such notice, however, does not absolve the Owner from the responsibility to comply with survey requirements for maintenance of class.

5 Special Notations

If the survey requirements related to maintenance of special notations are not carried out as required, the suspension or cancellation may be limited to those special notations only.

7 Suspension of Class

7.1

Suspension of classification is a withdrawal of all representations by the ACS as to an offshore

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unit or structure.

7.3

Class will be suspended and the Certificate of Classification will become invalid from the date of any use, operation, loading condition or other application of any offshore unit or structure for which it has not been approved and which affects or may affect classification or the structural integrity, quality or fitness for a particular use or service.

7.5

Class will be suspended and the Certificate of Classification will become invalid in any of the following circumstances:

- i)* If Continuous Survey items which are due or overdue at the time of Annual Survey are not completed and no extension has been granted,
- ii)* If the other surveys required for maintenance of class, other than Annual, Intermediate, or Special Periodical Surveys, are not carried out by the due date and no Rule allowed extension has been granted, or
- iii)* If any damage, failure, deterioration or repair has not been completed as recommended.

7.7

Class will be subject to a suspension procedure if recommendations issued by the Surveyor are not carried out by their due dates and no extension has been granted.

7.9

Classification may be suspended, in which case the Certificate of Classification will become invalid, upon failure to submit any damage, failure, deterioration, or repairs for examination upon the first opportunity or, if proposed repairs have not been submitted to ACS and agreed upon prior to commencement.

7.11

Class is automatically suspended and the Certificate of Classification is invalid in any of the following circumstances:

- i)* If the Annual Survey is not completed by the date which is three (3) months after the due date, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion of the Annual Survey, or
- ii)* If the Intermediate Survey is not completed by the date which is three (3) months after the due date of the third Annual Survey of the five (5) year periodic survey cycle, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion of the Intermediate Survey, or
- iii)* If the Special Periodical Survey is not completed by the due date, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion prior to resuming operation.

Under “exceptional circumstances” (limited to such cases as unavailability of drydocking facilities; unavailability of repair facilities; unavailability of essential materials,

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equipment or spare parts; or delays incurred by action taken to avoid severe weather conditions), consideration may be given for an extension of the Special Periodical Survey not exceeding three (3) months, provided an offshore unit or structure is attended and the attending Surveyor(s) so recommend(s) after the following has been carried out:

- Annual Survey; and
- Re-examination of recommendations; and
- Progression of the Special Periodical Survey as far as practicable.

7.13

When an offshore unit or structure is intended for a demolition operation with any periodical survey overdue, the offshore unit's or structure's class suspension may be held in abeyance and consideration may be given to allow the offshore unit or structure to proceed on a single direct ballast voyage from the lay-up or final facility to the demolition yard. In such cases, a short term Class Certificate with conditions for the voyage noted may be issued provided the attending Surveyor finds the offshore unit or structure in satisfactory condition to proceed for the intended operation.

7.15

If due to circumstances reasonably beyond the Owner's or the ACS's control (limited to such cases as damage to the offshore unit or structure, unforeseen inability of the ACS to attend the offshore unit or structure due to the governmental restrictions on right of access or movement of personnel, unforeseeable delays in port due to unusually lengthy periods of severe weather, strikes, civil strife, acts of war, or other cases of force majeure) the offshore unit or structure is not in a port where the overdue surveys can be completed at the expiry of the periods allowed above, the ACS may allow the an offshore unit or structure to sail, in class, directly to an agreed facility and, if necessary, hence, in ballast, to an agreed facility at which the survey will be completed, provided that the ACS:

- i)* Examines the offshore unit or structure's records; and
- ii)* Carries out the due and/or overdue surveys and examination of recommendations at the first port of call when there is an unforeseen inability of the ACS to attend the offshore unit or structure in the present port, and
- iii)* Has satisfied itself that the offshore unit or structure is in a condition to sail for one trip to a discharge port and subsequent ballast voyage to a repair facility if necessary. (Where there is unforeseen inability of the ACS to attend the offshore unit or structure in the present port, the master is to confirm that his ship is in condition to sail to the nearest port of call.)

If class has already been automatically suspended in such cases, it may be reinstated subject to the conditions presented in this Paragraph.

7.17

When an offshore unit or structure is intended for a single voyage from laid-up position to repair

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yard with any periodical survey overdue, the offshore unit's or structure's class suspension may be held in abeyance and consideration may be given to allow the offshore unit or structure to proceed on a single direct ballast voyage from the site of lay up to the repair yard, upon agreement with the Flag Administration, provided ACS finds the offshore unit or structure in satisfactory condition after surveys, the extent of which are to be based on surveys overdue and duration of lay-up. A short term Class Certificate with conditions for the intended voyage may be issued. This is not applicable to offshore units or structures whose class was already suspended prior to being laid-up.

9 Lifting of Suspension

9.1

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue surveys upon satisfactory completion of the overdue surveys. Such surveys will be credited as of the original due date. However, the offshore unit or structure is declassified from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

9.3

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue recommendations upon satisfactory completion of the overdue recommendation. However, the offshore unit or structure is declassified from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

9.5

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue Continuous Survey items upon satisfactory completion of the overdue items.

11 Cancellation of Class

11.1

If the circumstances leading to suspension of class are not corrected within the time specified, the offshore unit or structure's class will be canceled.

11.3

An offshore unit or structure's class is canceled immediately when an offshore unit or structure proceeds to operate without having completed recommendations which were required to be dealt with before leaving port or resuming operations.

11.5

When class has been suspended for a period of three (3) months due to overdue Annual, Intermediate, Special Periodical, or other surveys required for maintenance of class; overdue Continuous Survey items; or overdue outstanding recommendations, class will be canceled. A longer suspension period may be granted for offshore units or structures which are either laid up, awaiting disposition of a casualty or under attendance for reinstatement.

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13 Alternative Procedures

Alternatives to 1-1-2/7.11 procedures for automatic suspension of class and 1-1-2/11.5 procedures for cancellation of class may be applied to Mobile Offshore Drilling Units.

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SECTION 3 Classification Symbols and Notations

1 Drilling Units Built Under Survey

Drilling units which have been built to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the ACS, to the full requirements of these Rules or their equivalent, where approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols ⚙ **A1** followed by the notation to the type of unit as follows.

1.1 Self-Elevating Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in the *ACS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules)*, will be assigned a notation of **Self-Elevating Drilling Unit**.

1.3 Column-Stabilized Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Column-Stabilized Drilling Unit**.

1.5 Surface Type Drilling Units

1.5.1 Ship-Type Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Drillship**.

1.5.2 Barge-Type Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Barge Drilling Unit**.

1.7 Other Types of Drilling Units

Units which are designed as mobile offshore drilling units which do not fall into the above categories will be treated on an individual basis and be assigned an appropriate classification designation.

3 Special Purpose Units

Special purpose units, which are similar in configuration and operation to drilling units, may be considered for classification on the basis of these Rules, as applicable, and assigned an appropriate class designation.


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5 Service Limitations

These Rules are intended for units designed for unrestricted service. Units which are not designed to meet the full criteria for unrestricted service will be classed with a notation **Restricted Service**.


The notation Restricted Service will not be applied to site-specific offshore units or installations (e.g., FPSO, FSO, FPS, TLP, Spar, fixed platform) when the notation includes the geographical description of the site of installation. The name of the field, identification of the block or the geographical coordinates may be acceptable means to identify the site in the class notation.

7 Units Not Built Under Survey


Units which have not been built under survey of the ACS, but which are submitted for classification will be subject to a special classification survey. Where found satisfactory and thereafter approved by the Committee, they will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols and notations as described in 1-1-3, but the mark  signifying survey during construction will be omitted.

For units which have been built under survey and according to the rules of any IACS member, the mark  will be assigned.

9 Offshore Installations

Offshore Installations which have been satisfactory design reviewed and surveyed, and installed at an Owner's specific operation site, to the requirements of the *Offshore Installations Rules* or to their equivalent, where approved by the Classification Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols and notation of  **A1, Offshore Installation**.

11 Floating Production Installations

Floating installations that have been satisfactorily design reviewed and surveyed, and installed at an Owner's specified operation site, in accordance with the full requirements of the FPI Rules or to its equivalent, where approved by the Committee for service for the specified design environmental conditions, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols  **A1**, followed by the appropriate notation for the intended service, **Floating Production, Storage and Offloading System (hull type)**, **Floating Production (and Offloading) System (hull type)** or **Floating Storage and Offloading System (hull type)**.

The service notation will be appended by one of the following (**Ship-Type**), (**Column-Stabilized**), (**TLP**), or (**Spar**) to indicate the hull type.

Where ACS is requested only to class the main hull structure, marine systems, safety systems, and the mooring system of the Floating Production Installation, and not to class the topside production facilities, the installation will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the

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symbols and notation of ⚙ **A1, Floating Offshore Installation (hull type)**, where the “Type” will indicate type of the hull such as “Ship Shaped”, “Column-Stabilized”, “Spar” or “TLP”.

13 Single Point Moorings

SPM's which have been built under the supervision of the ACS Surveyors to the requirements of the *SPM Rules* or to their equivalent, where approved by the Classification Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols ⚙ **A1, Single Point Mooring**.

Note: The mark ⚙ signifies that the system was built, installed, and commissioned to the satisfaction of ACS.

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SECTION 4 Rules for Classification

1 Application of Rules

1.1 General

The requirements of the following Rules and Guides are applicable to those features that are permanent in nature and can be verified by plan review, calculation, physical survey or other appropriate means. Any statement in the Rules and Guides regarding other features is to be considered as a guidance to the designer, builder, Owner, operator or other client.

Where reference is made herein to the Rules or Guides, the latest edition of those Rules or Guides is intended.

- *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules)*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Installations (Offshore Installations Rules)*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations (FPI Rules)*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Single Point Moorings (SPM Rules)*
- *Guide for the Fatigue Assessment of Offshore Structures*
- *Guide for Underwater Inspection in Lieu of Drydocking Survey (UWILD) of Mobile Offshore Units*

1.3 Application

The application of the Rules and Guides is, in general, based on the contract date for construction between the shipbuilder and the prospective Owner. (e.g., Rules which became effective on 1 July 2004 are not applicable to an offshore unit or structure for which the contract for construction was signed on 30 June 2004.) See also 1-1-4/3.

The requirements in these Rules are the common requirements for conditions of classification of offshore units and structures. Any unique requirements for a specific type of offshore unit or structure are specified in the supplement to these Rules in each of the Rules and Guides as listed in 1-1-4/1.1. These Rules are to be used together with the applicable supplemental Rules for the specific type of unit or structure.

3 Effective Date of Rule Change

3.1 Effective Date

Changes to the Rules are to become effective on the date specified by the ACS. In general, the effective date is not less than six months from the date on which The ACS Rules Committee approves them. However, the ACS may bring into force individual changes before that date if necessary or appropriate.

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Guides and subsequent changes to Guides are to become effective on the date specified by the ACS. In general, the effective date is not less than six months from the date on which the Guide is published and released for its use. However, the ACS may bring into force the Guide or individual changes before that date if necessary or appropriate.

3.3 Implementation of Rule Changes

3.3.1 General

In general, until the effective date, plan approval for designs will follow prior practice unless review under the latest Rules or Guide is specifically requested by the party signatory to the application for classification.

3.3.2 Date of Contract for Construction

The date of “contract for construction” of an offshore unit or structure is the date on which the contract to build the offshore unit or structure is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder. The date is required to be indicated on the form, “Application of Request for Classification”.

If the signed contract for construction is amended to change the offshore unit or structure type, the date of “contract for construction” of this modified an offshore unit or structure, or an offshore unit or structure, is the date on which the revised contract or a new contract is signed between the Owner, or Owners, and the shipbuilder.

3.3.3 Series of Units and Optional Units

The date of “contract for construction” as defined 1-1-4/3.3.2 of a series of offshore units or structures, including specified optional offshore units or structures for which the option is ultimately exercised, is the date on which the contract to build the series is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder.

Offshore units or structures built under a single contract for construction are considered a “series of offshore units” (or structures) if they are built to the same approved plans for classification purposes. However, the offshore units or structures within a series may have design alterations from the original design provided:

- i)* Such alterations do not affect matters related to classification, or
- ii)* If the alterations are subject to classification requirements, these alterations are to comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are contracted between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder or, in the absence of the alteration contract, comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are submitted to the ACS for approval.

The “optional offshore units” (or structures) will be considered part of the same series of offshore units or structures if the option is exercised not later than one year after the contract to build the series was signed.

3.3.4 Additional Optional Units

If a contract for construction is later amended to include additional offshore units or

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structures or additional options, the date of “contract for construction” for such vessels is the date on which the amendment to the contract is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder. The amendment to the contract is to be considered as a “new contract” to which 1-1-4/3.3.2 and 1-1-4/3.3.3 above apply.

Where designs for one or more offshore units or structures comply with the Rules applicable at the time of approval, no retroactive application of later Rule changes to such offshore units or structures will be required unless necessary or appropriate.

5 Other Conditions

The Committee reserves the right to refuse classification of any offshore unit or structure where items for which there are Rule requirements are not in accordance with them.

7 Installations Not Covered by the Rules

These Rules do not apply to the structure of industrial equipment used exclusively in drilling, offshore maintenance and construction, or related operations, except insofar as their installation may affect the structural integrity and stability of the offshore unit or structure. Determination of the adequacy of sea bed bearing capacity, resistance to possible sliding and anchor holding capability is not covered by these Rules. The assessment of the required holding capacity, arrangement, and operation of position mooring equipment and dynamic positioning equipment used for station keeping is the responsibility of the Owner and is not covered by these Rules.

9 Alternatives

9.1 General

The Committee is at all times ready to consider alternative arrangements, designs, and scantlings which can be shown, through either satisfactory service experience or a systematic analysis based on sound engineering principles, to meet the overall safety, serviceability, and long-term strength standards of the Rules and Guides.

9.3 National Standards

The Committee will consider special arrangements or details of hull, equipment, or machinery which can be shown to comply with standards recognized in the country in which the offshore unit or structure is registered or built, provided they are not less effective.

9.5 Other Rules

The Committee will consider hull, equipment or machinery built to the satisfaction of the Surveyors of the ACS in accordance with the plans that have been approved to the Rules of another recognized classification society with verification of compliance by the ACS. A notation will be entered in the *Record* indicating that classification has incorporated the provisions of this Subparagraph. Submission of plans is to be in accordance with Section 1-1-6.

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9.7 ACS Type Approval Program

9.7.1 General

The scope of classification requires that specified materials, components and systems intended for the offshore units and structures are certified according to the classification rules. The objective of certification shall ensure that materials, components and systems used in the offshore units and structures to be classed by the Society comply with the rule requirements.

Certification normally includes both plan approval and survey during production and/or of the final product.

The applicable parts, chapters and sections of the rules define the extent of the certification that is required for classification.

Quality control of materials, components and systems, shall be traceable and documented in writing. Further, quality control shall be carried out by qualified personnel at facilities and with equipment suitable for that control.

Certification of materials, components and systems will be documented by the following types of documents:

(a) ACS Certificate (ACC):

A document validated and signed by a surveyor of the Society stating:

- conformity with rule requirements
- that tests are carried out on the certified product itself and/or
- that tests are made on samples taken from the certified product itself
- that tests are performed in presence of the surveyor or in accordance with special agreements.

(b) Works Certificate (ACW):

A document signed by the manufacturer stating:

- conformity with rule requirements
- that tests are carried out on the certified product itself and/or
- that tests are made on samples taken from the certified product itself
- that tests are witnessed and signed by a qualified department of the manufacturers.

(c) Test Report (TR):

A document signed by the manufacturer stating:

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- conformity with rule requirements
- that tests are carried out on samples from the current production.

The applicable parts, chapters and sections of the rules specify which of the above mentioned documents are required.

Where the rules require works certificate or test report, the surveyor may at any time require the tests to be carried out in his presence and/or that the surveyor check elements of the production control.

For identification and traceability, certified products shall be marked in accordance with the description given in the product certificate and as specified by the applicable chapters of the rules.

For certain components and systems the certification will be based on defined internationally acceptable standards and certification schemes as defined in applicable chapters of the rules. Compliance with the requirements of the standard shall be documented as required by that standard.

To ensure an efficient, cost effective and correct certification process, a certification agreement shall normally be established between the Society and the manufacturer of ACS certified products. Such agreement may be part of a manufacturing survey arrangement and shall include information on the procedures for plan approval and survey and to specify information that shall be transferred between the customer and the Society.

9.7.2 Plan Approval / Type Approval

The plan approval of materials, components and systems shall either be on a case by case basis or follow the procedure for type approval.

When the case by case procedure is used, documentation of the design shall be submitted for approval for each application as required in the applicable chapters of the rules.

A plan approval letter or design verification report will be issued by the Society when compliance with the requirements for the design has been confirmed.

Type approval is a procedure for plan approval. Type approval can be applied to:

- products
- groups of products
- systems
- retention survey.

This procedure should normally be used for approval of standard designs.

The type approval procedure may consist of the following elements:

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- plan approval
- initial survey
- type testing
- issue of a type approval certificate.

When the type approval procedure is used, the following shall be submitted for approval as required in type approval programmes and the applicable chapters of the rules:

- documentation of the design
- results of type testing normally witnessed by a surveyor.

A type approval certificate will be issued by the Society when compliance with the design requirements is confirmed.

The type approval certificate has a validity of 1 year from the date of issue.

For certain products and systems as defined in applicable chapters of the rules, only type approval is required. For these products and systems no survey is required, i.e. no product certificate is required.

For certain products and systems as defined in the applicable chapters of the rules, type approval is a mandatory procedure for plan approval.

Products and systems manufactured for stock shall normally be type approved.

For type approved products, where the basis for approval is the rules of the Society, plans and technical descriptions of the product need not be submitted for approval for each vessel unless otherwise stated as a condition on the type approval certificate. In such cases only the arrangement or system plans, interface plans and those plans mentioned on the type approval certificate shall be submitted for approval.

9.7.3 Survey

The survey of materials, components and systems shall either be on a case by case basis or on the basis of an established manufacturing survey arrangement (MSA).

When the case by case procedure is used, the survey shall be performed on the basis of approved design documentation for the actual application and as required in the applicable chapters of the rules. Compliance with the approved design documentation and applicable requirements will be documented by certificates as required in the applicable chapters of the rules.

When the survey is based on an MSA, the survey shall be performed on the basis of approved design documentation, applicable rule requirements and in accordance with requirements and procedures laid down in the MSA. Compliance with the approved design documentation and applicable requirements shall be documented by certificates as specified in the MSA and/or as required in the applicable chapters of the rules.

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When the procedures and processes of a manufacturer's quality system meet the requirements of the rules, a manufacturing survey arrangement (MSA) may be established with the manufacturer as an alternative to the survey described in the applicable rule chapters.

The MSA shall be described in a document stating the requirements, scope, acceptance criteria, documentation and the roles of the Society and the manufacturer in connection with the survey.

When it is agreed through an MSA that the majority of the required surveys and test are completed without the presence of a surveyor, it required that the manufacturer has in operation a quality system certified by an accredited certification body to ISO 9001, or equivalent.

When establishing an MSA, an initial assessment of the manufacturer's ability to control product quality and to comply with the scope, requirements and criteria laid down in the MSA will be performed.

The extent and frequency of periodical assessments of the manufacturer will be included in the MSA.

A MSA is normally given a validity of 4 years. When the MSA is based on a certified quality system, the MSA automatically becomes invalid if the quality system certificate no longer is valid.

9.7.4 Suspension and Withdrawal of Certificates

A product certificate, type approval certificate or approval of manufacturer certificate may be suspended or withdrawn at any time if the Society finds it justified.

The decision to suspend or withdraw a certificate is made by the Society.

Suspension or withdrawal of a certificate may take effect immediately or after a specified period of time. In special cases, the withdrawal of a certificate may be made with retroactive effect.

When a certificate is suspended or withdrawn the Society will:

- notify the customer in writing
- make the information publicly available.

In the cases of suspension, a time limit will be given for when the certificate will be withdrawn.

11 Novel Features

Offshore units or structures which contain novel features of design with respect to buoyancy,

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elevating arrangements, structural arrangements, machinery, equipment, etc. to which these Rules or Guides are not directly applicable, may be classed when approved by the Committee on the basis that these Rules or Guides, insofar as applicable, have been complied with and that special consideration has been given to the novel features, based on the best information available at the time.

13 Risk Evaluations for Alternative Arrangements and Novel Features

Risk evaluations for the justification of alternative arrangements or novel features may be applicable either to the offshore unit or structure as a whole, or to individual systems, subsystems, equipment, or components. The ACS will consider the application of risk evaluations for alternative arrangements and novel features in the design, verification Surveys during construction, and Surveys for Maintenance of Class.

When applied, risk assessment techniques should demonstrate that alternatives and novel features provide acceptable levels of safety in line with current offshore and marine industry practice.

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Section	5	Other Regulations

SECTION 5 Other Regulations

1 Governmental and Other Regulations

While these Rules cover the requirements for the classification of new offshore units or structures, the attention of Owners, builders, and designers is directed to the regulations of international, governmental and other authorities dealing with requirements in addition to or over and above the classification requirements, including stability, structural, machinery and electrical features, particularly in hazardous areas where gas may be present or accumulate. Other considerations may include the arrangement and extent of watertight bulkheads and decks, fire-retarding bulkheads, the acceptability of watertight doors, ventilation systems, lifesaving appliances and means of escape.

3 Other International Conventions or Codes

Where authorized by the Administration of a country signatory thereto and upon request of the Owners of a classed offshore units or structures, or one intended to be classed, the ACS will survey a new or existing offshore unit or structure for compliance with the provisions of International Conventions and Codes, including the following, and certify thereto in the manner prescribed in the Convention or Code.

- Code for the Construction and Equipment Of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1989 (1989 MODU Code).
- International Convention on Load Lines, 1966.
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.
- International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution for Ships, 1973/78, as amended.
- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1979 (1979 MODU Code)

5 Governmental Regulations

Where authorized by a government agency and upon request of the Owners of a classed offshore unit or structure or one intended to be classed, the ACS will survey and certify a new or existing offshore unit or structure for compliance with particular regulations of that government on their behalf.

All work performed on behalf of governments shall be governed by the terms and conditions of these Rules unless the government specifies otherwise.

Owners of a classed offshore unit or structure are required to notify ACS when an offshore unit or structure changes flag so that appropriate action can be determined with respect to the scope of ACS's authorization by the new flag Administration.

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Section	6	Plans and Design Data to be Submitted

SECTION 6 Plans and Design Data to be Submitted

1 Hull and Design Data

Plans showing the scantlings, arrangements and details of the principal parts of the structure of each offshore unit or structure to be built under survey are to be submitted for review and approved before the work of construction are commenced. These plans are to clearly indicate the scantlings, joint details and welding, or other methods of connection as described in the relevant Rules or Guide are to be submitted and approved before proceeding with the work.

3 Machinery Plans

Equipment List (listing of all items that are to be fitted on the offshore unit or structure, including the item label, model/type, and manufacturer) is to be submitted.

Plans showing the arrangements and details of all propulsion and auxiliary machinery, steering gear, boilers and pressure vessels, electrical systems, jacking or other self-elevating systems, bilge and ballast systems, fire extinguishing systems, and other pumps and piping systems as described in the relevant Rules or Guide are to be submitted and approved before proceeding with the work.

Where electrical cables, hydraulic lines, etc., penetrate watertight or fire rated bulkheads by the use of standardized penetration kits, a schedule is to be provided indicating the location, number, manufacturer, model number and type of Bulkhead Penetration Devices provided to maintain the bulkhead integrity.

5 Additional Plans

Where certification under the other regulation described in Section 1-1-5 is requested, submission of additional plans and calculations may be required.

7 Submissions

Plans from designers and builders should generally be submitted electronically to ACS. However, hard copies will also be accepted.

All plan submissions originating from manufacturers are understood to have been made with the cognizance of the builder.

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Section	7	Conditions for Surveys after Construction

SECTION 7 Conditions for Surveys after Construction

1 Damage, Failure and Repair

1.1 Examination and Repair

Damage, failure, deterioration or repair to the hull, legs, columns or other structures, machinery or equipment of a offshore unit or structure, which affects or may affect classification, is to be submitted by the Owners or their representatives for examination by a Surveyor at first opportunity. All repairs found necessary by the Surveyor are to be carried out to the Surveyor's satisfaction.

1.3 Repairs

Where repairs to the hull, legs, columns or other structures, machinery or equipment of offshore unit or structure, which affect or may affect classification, are planned in advance to be carried out, a complete repair procedure, including the extent of proposed repair and the need for Surveyor's attendance, is to be submitted to and agreed upon by ACS reasonably in advance.

Note: The above applies also to repairs during voyage or on site.

The above is not intended to include maintenance and overhaul to hull, other structures, machinery and equipment in accordance with the recommended manufacturer's procedures and established marine and offshore practice and which does not require ACS approval. However, any repair as a result of such maintenance and overhauls which affects or may affect classification is to be noted in the unit's log and submitted to the Surveyor, as required by 1-1-7/1.1

1.5 Suspension of Classification

Failure to submit a damage, failure, deterioration, or repair governed by 1-1-7/1.1 to a Surveyor for examination at first opportunity, or failure to notify ACS in advance of the repairs contemplated by 1-1-7/1.3, may result in suspension of the offshore unit or structure's classification from the date of arrival at the first port of call after the initial damage, failure, deterioration, or repair until such time as the damage, failure, or deterioration is repaired to the Surveyor's satisfaction, or the repair is redone or evidence submitted to satisfy the Surveyor that the repair was properly carried out.

1.7 Representation

Nothing contained in this Section or in a rule or regulation of any government or other administration, or the issuance of any report or certificate pursuant to this Section or such a rule or regulation, is to be deemed to enlarge upon the representations expressed in 1-1-1/1 through 1-1-1/7 hereof and the issuance and use of any such reports or certificates are to be governed in all respects by 1-1-1/1 through 1-1-1/7 thereof.

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3 Notification and Availability for Survey

The Surveyors are to have access to classed offshore units or structures at all reasonable times. For the purpose of Surveyor Monitoring, monitoring Surveyors shall also have access to classed offshore units or structures at all reasonable times. Such access may include attendance at the same time as the assigned Surveyor or during a subsequent visit without the assigned Surveyor. Auditors from the flag administration shall also be granted access when requested by the ACS and accompanied by ACS personnel. The Owners or their representatives are to notify the Surveyors on all occasions when a offshore unit or structure can be examined in dry dock or on a slipway; parts of pipelines or risers not ordinarily accessible are to be examined.

The Surveyors are to undertake, with adequate notification, all surveys on classed offshore units or structures upon request of the Owners or their representatives and are to report thereon to the Committee. Should the Surveyors find occasion during any survey, to recommend repairs or further examination, notification is to be given immediately to the Owners or their representatives in order that appropriate action may be taken. The Surveyors are to avail themselves for every convenient opportunity for carrying out periodical surveys in conjunction with surveys of damages and repairs in order to avoid duplication of work.

The Owners or their representatives are responsible for establishing and maintaining safe working conditions in accordance with applicable safety standards and for providing Surveyors with safe access to sites and assistance during construction, repairs, testing and trials. Surveyors shall comply with Owner's safety procedures to the extent such procedures are communicated to them. If the Surveyors feel the proposed working conditions are unsafe they may refuse to attend the work site.

5 Attendance at Port State Request

It is recognized that Port State authorities legally may have access to a offshore unit or structure. In cooperation with Port States, ACS Surveyors will attend onboard a classed offshore unit or structure when so requested by a Port State and upon concurrence by the offshore unit or structure's master will carry out a survey in order to facilitate the rectification of reported deficiencies or other discrepancies that affect or may affect classification. ACS Surveyors will also cooperate with Port States by providing inspectors with background information, if requested. Such information includes text of conditions of class, survey due dates and certificate expiration dates.

Where appropriate, the offshore unit or structure's flag state will be notified of such attendance and survey.

7 Safety Management System

It is recognized that a Safety Management System is a positive mechanism for managing maintenance of compliance with classification requirements on vessels subject to compliance with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, as defined in SOLAS IX/1.1. If during

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any survey the attending ACS Surveyor finds evidence that the required safety management system is not in operation or functioning as required by the Code, this will be communicated to the relevant flag administration or the organization which issued the safety management certificate on behalf of the flag administration for their consideration and action.

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Section	8	Fees

SECTION 8 Fees

Fees in accordance with normal ACS practice will be charged for all services rendered by the ACS. Expenses incurred by the ACS in connection with these services will be charged in addition to the fees. Fees and expenses will be billed to the party requesting that particular service.

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Section	9	Disagreement

SECTION 9 Disagreement

1 Rules

Any disagreement regarding either the proper interpretation of the Rules or translation of the Rules from the English language edition is to be referred to the ACS for resolution.

3 Surveyors

In case of disagreement between the Owners or builders and the Surveyors regarding the material, workmanship, extent of repairs or application of the Rules relating to any unit classed or proposed to be classed by this ACS, an appeal may be made in writing to the Committee, who will order a special survey to be held. Should the opinion of the Surveyor be confirmed, the expense of this special survey is to be paid by the part appealing.

SECTION 10 Limitation of Liability

Whilst ACS and its Board/ Committee use their best endeavors to ensure that the functions of ACS are properly carried out, in providing services, information or advice, neither ACS nor any of its servants or agents warrants the accuracy of any information or advice supplied. Except as set out herein, ACS nor any of its servants or agents (on behalf each of whom ACS has agreed this clause) shall be liable for any loss damage or expense whatever sustained by any person due to any act or omission or error of whatsoever nature and howsoever caused of ACS, its servants or agents or due to any inaccuracy of whatsoever nature and howsoever caused in any information or advice given in any way whatsoever by or on behalf of ACS, even if held to amount to a breach of warranty. Nevertheless, if any person uses services of ACS, or relies on any information or advice given by or on behalf of ACS and suffers loss, damage or expenses thereby which is proved to have been due to any negligent act omission or error of ACS, its servants or agents or any negligent inaccuracy in information or advice given by or on behalf of ACS, then ACS will pay compensation to such person for his proved loss up but not exceeding the amount of the fee charged by ACS for that particular services, information or advice.

Any notice of claim for loss, damage or expense as referred shall be made in writing to ACS Head Office within six months of the date when the service, information or advice was first provided, failing which all the rights to any such claim shall be forfeited and ACS shall be relieved and discharged from all liabilities.

SECTION 11 Hold Harmless

The party requesting services hereunder, or his assignee or successor in interest, agrees to release the ACS and to indemnify and hold harmless the ACS from and against any and all claims, demands, lawsuits or actions for damages, including legal fees, to persons and/or property, tangible, intangible or otherwise which may be brought against the ACS incidental to, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, the work to be done, services to be performed or material to be furnished hereunder, except for those claims caused solely and completely by the negligence of the ACS, its agents, employees, officers, directors or subcontractors. The parties agree that for the purposes of the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, the ACS is a person for whose acts the shipowner is responsible.

Any other individual, corporation, partnership or other entity who is a party hereto or who in any way participates in, is engaged in connection with or is a beneficiary of, any portion of the services described herein shall also release the ACS and shall indemnify and hold the ACS harmless from and against all claims, demands, lawsuits or actions for damages, including legal fees, to persons and/or property, tangible, intangible or otherwise, which may be brought against the ACS by any person or entity as a result of the services performed pursuant to this Agreement, except for those claims caused solely and completely by the negligence of the ACS, its agents, employees, officers, directors or subcontractors.

SECTION 12 Time Bar to Legal Action

Any statutes of limitation notwithstanding, Owner's right to bring or to assert against the ACS any and all claims, demands or proceedings whether in arbitration or otherwise shall be waived unless (a) notice is received by the ACS within ninety (90) days after Owner had notice of or should reasonably have been expected to have had notice of the basis for such claims; and (b) arbitration or legal proceedings, if any, based on such claims or demands of whatever nature are commenced within six (6) months of the date of such notice to the ACS.

SECTION 13 Arbitration

Any and all differences and disputes of whatsoever nature arising out of services under these Rules shall be put to arbitration in Iran pursuant to the laws relating to arbitration there in force, before a board of three persons, consisting of one arbitrator to be appointed by the ACS, one by the Client, and one by the two so chosen. The decision of any two of the three on any point or points shall be final. Until such time as the arbitrators finally close the hearings either party shall have the right by written notice served on the arbitrators and on an officer of the other party to specify further disputes or differences under these Rules for hearing and determination. The arbitration is to be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Society of Maritime Arbitrators, Inc. in the English language. The governing law shall be the law of the Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R.I). The arbitrators may grant any relief other than punitive damages which they, or a majority of them, deem within the scope of the agreement of the parties, including, but not limited to, specific performance. Awards made in pursuance to this clause may include costs including a reasonable allowance for attorney's fees and judgment may be entered upon any award made hereunder in any court having jurisdiction.