

Rules for Building and Classing

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# Mobile Offshore Units

Notices and General Information



January 2024



**RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS  
JANUARY 2024**

**NOTICES AND  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

**American Bureau of Shipping  
Incorporated by Act of Legislature of  
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## Notices and General Information

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# Notices and General Information

## Introduction

1. The 2024 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units* consists of the Parts as shown in Table 1. In this regard, we would bring the following to the user's attention:
  - a) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures (Part 1B)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 1B, as a result of including consolidated requirements for “Classification” applicable to all types of offshore units, pipelines, risers, and other offshore structures, as specified in the Foreword to Part 1B.
  - b) The purpose of the generic *ABS Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies (Part 1D)* is to introduce a procedure for acceptance of alternative arrangements, novel concepts, and new technologies based on Goals and Functional Requirements, including a consolidated list of Tier 1 Goals.
  - c) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Materials and Welding* is to emphasize the common applicability of the requirements to ABS-classed vessels, other marine structures and their associated machinery, and thereby make PART 2 more readily a common “PART” of various ABS Rules and Guides, as appropriate. The Rules for steel, aluminum, and FRP materials have been consolidated into a single Part 2.
2. The numbering system applied in the Rules is shown in Table 2.
3. The primary changes from the July 2023 Rules are identified and listed in Table 3. The effective date of the indicated Rule Changes is 1 January 2024, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

For certain changes that have a major impact on shipyards, designers and vendors, ABS has instituted a two-year Rule cycle to give the industry more time to prepare for these changes. The text of these changes will appear in a box along with the effective date just under the existing Rule requirement.

4. The listing of CLASSIFICATION SYMBOLS AND NOTATIONS is available from the ABS website [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org) for download.

**TABLE 1**  
**Applicable Editions of Parts Comprising July 2023 MOU Rules**

Notices and General Information		January 2024
Part 1B:	Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures	January 2024
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2024
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	January 2024
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	January 2024
Part 4:	Machinery and Systems	January 2024
Part 5:	Fire and Safety – Measures and Features	January 2024
Part 6:	Rules for Equipment and Machinery Certification	January 2024
Part 7:	Surveys	January 2024
Part 8:	Specific Unit Types Chapter 1      Mobile Offshore Units Chapter 2      Drilling Units Chapter 3      Accommodation Units Chapter 4      Crane Units Chapter 5      Construction and Maintenance Units Chapter 6      Drilling Tenders Chapter 7      Pipe and Cable Laying Units Chapter 8      Wind Turbine Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Units	January 2024

**TABLE 2**  
**Division and Numbering of Rules**

<i>Division</i>	<i>Number</i>
Part	Part 1
Chapter	Part 1, Chapter 1
Section	Section 1-1-1
Subsection (see Note 1)	1-1-1/1
Paragraph (see Note 1)	1-1-1/1.1
Subparagraph	1-1-1/1.1.1
Item	1-1-1/1.1.1(a)
Subitem	1-1-1/1.1.1(a)i
Appendix	Appendix 1-1-A1 or Appendix 1-A1-1

**Note:**

- 1 An odd number (1, 3, 5, etc.) numbering system is used for the Rules. The purpose is to permit future insertions of even-numbered paragraphs (2, 4, 6, etc.) of text and to avoid the necessity of having to renumber the existing text and associated cross-references, as applicable, within the Rules and associated process instructions, check sheets, etc.

**Rule Change Notice (2024)**

**TABLE 3**  
**Summary of Changes from the July 2023 Rules**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2024 – shown as (2024)**

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
<b>PART 1B</b>	<b>Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures</b>	
1B-1-1/7, 9	Classification	To provide definition of different stamps in the Rules to clarify the scope of review and limit ABS liability.
1B-1-4/1.3, 1.7	Rules for Classification	To not indicate the publication year for referenced standards to prevent confusion and conflict in the application of the Rules and to clarify the meaning of commentary in ABS Rules.
1B-1-7/3	Submission of Plans	To require submission of the list of all the system integrators for a vessel to identify the responsible parties for submission of documentation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2024 – shown as (2024)**  
 (based on the contract date for new construction between builder and Owner)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
<b>PART 3</b>	<b>Hull Construction and Equipment</b>	
3-2-1/1.17	Structural Analysis	To clearly indicate in Part 3 of the MOU Rules what are the FDFs applicable for fatigue assessment of SEUs and CSUs.
3-2-3/13.1.1	Self-Elevating Units	To add requirements for when internal inspection of spudcans may be waived due to safety concerns.
3-2-A1/1.1, 1.3.2, 3, 7, 9, 11.1, 13, 15	Strengthening of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units for Navigation in Ice	To update rule reference to ice class rules.
3-3-2/5.3.5	Stability and Watertight/Weathertight Integrity	To add a specific rule requirement for construction and hose-test of windows in MOU Rules.
<b>PART 4</b>	<b>Machinery and Systems</b>	
4-3-2/21	Electrical Systems	To add remote camera system requirement for MOU Rules as prescribed in the IACS UI SC235.
4-3-4/6	Machinery and Equipment	To add reference to new Cyber Requirements in Marine Vessel Rules 4-9-13 and 4-9-14 based on IACS UR E26 and E27.
4-3-6/11	Hazardous Areas	To permit fired equipment to be installed in Zone 2 hazardous areas if safeguards have been incorporated into the design of such equipment, in line with the IMO MODU Code.
<b>PART 5</b>	<b>Fire and Safety – Measures and Features</b>	
5-2-3/3.1.4	Additional Fixed Fire Fighting Systems	To align with the requirement 4-7-3/3.1.6(b) of Marine Vessel Rules.
<b>PART 6</b>	<b>Material, Marine Equipment and Machinery Certification</b>	
6-1-7/1.5	Electrical Systems and Control Equipment	To align the Rule requirements with IEC 60092-302-2, Clause 8.210.2, and add handrail requirements applicable to the equipment in association with specific Class notations for floating type units.
<b>PART 8</b>	<b>Specific Unit Types</b>	
8-1-1/7	General	To add reference to new Cyber Requirements in Marine Vessel Rules 4-9-13 and 4-9-14 based on IACS UR E26 and E27 and to introduce a new notation "CR".

**Part 7 “Surveys”**

The reference date which is indicated in the parentheses following the title of the requirement in this Part is the date that the requirement becomes effective [e.g., 7-2-2/1.3, 1.5 “Survey Intervals” (2024) is to apply for units undergoing survey on or after 1 January 2024].

**EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2024 – shown as (2024)**

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
<b>PART 7</b>	<b>Surveys</b>	
7-2-2/1.3, 1.5 (SMP)	Survey Intervals	To include Survey Management Program (SMP) in the Survey Extensions for Special and Continuous Surveys.
7-2-5/7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.3.2, 7.3.3, 7.5.2, 7.5.3	Special Periodical Surveys	To provide clarifications for examination requirements for cylinder type Legs, added new requirement for examinations for the leg at the top of the jackhouse during transit conditions and added Special Periodical Survey – Hull requirements for GVI, CVI and NDE for cylinder type SEU legs based on recent issues.
7-2-6/1.5	Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent	To specify a new requirement for examinations for the leg at the top of the jackhouse during transit condition and to provide clarifications of requirements for UWILDs on SEUs.
7-2-6/1.5, Table 1	Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent	To remove requirement for internal spud can examination, as these examinations are not required by IACS UR Z15, are very dangerous to the Surveyor and Rig Crews and typically provide no new information.
7-2-6/1.7	Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent	To supplement early identification of issues that can support the requirements of Annual Surveys, since Ballast and Preload Tanks are subject to increased risk of wastage and structural issues when the coatings are less than FAIR.