

Rules for Building and Classing

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# Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways

Notices and General Information



January 2024



**RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**STEEL VESSELS FOR SERVICE ON RIVERS AND  
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAYS  
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 Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways* 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 (Part 1A)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 1A, as a result of including consolidated requirements for “Classification” applicable to all types of and sizes of vessels, barges and specific shipboard arrangements/systems, etc., except for those in offshore service, as specified in the Foreword to Part 1A. The supplemental requirements previously contained in these Rules have been consolidated into Chapter 4 of Part 1A.
  - 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* of PART 2 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.
  - d) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Survey After Construction (Part 7)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 7, as a result of including consolidated requirements for “Surveys After Construction” applicable to all types and sizes of vessels, barges and specific shipboard arrangements/systems, etc., as specified in Part 7, Chapter 1, Section 1.
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.
4. The effective date of each technical change since 1993 is shown in parenthesis at the end of the subsection/paragraph titles within the text of each Part. Unless a particular date and month are shown, the years in parentheses refer to the following effective dates:

(2000) and after	1 January 2000 (and subsequent years)	(1996)	9 May 1996
(1999)	12 May 1999	(1995)	15 May 1995
(1998)	13 May 1998	(1994)	9 May 1994
(1997)	19 May 1997	(1993)	11 May 1993

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.

5. 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 January 2024 River Rules**

<b>Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways</b>		
Notices and General Information		January 2024
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	January 2024
Part 4:	Vessel Systems and Machinery	January 2024
<b>Rules for Conditions of Classification – not included</b>		
Part 1A:	Rules for Conditions of Classification	January 2024*
<b>Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies – not included</b>		
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2024*
<b>Rules for Materials and Welding – not included</b>		
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	January 2024*
<b>Rules for Survey After Construction – not included</b>		
Part 7:	Rules for Survey After Construction	January 2024*

\* **Note:** The latest edition of these Rules is to be referred to. These Rules may be downloaded from the ABS website at [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org), Rules and Resources, Rules and Guides.

**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)  
(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>	
3-1-1/30	Definitions	To add definition of "watertight" in line with MVR 5A-1-14/3.8.1 for completeness.