

Guide for Building and Classing

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# International Naval Ships

Notices and General Information



January 2024



**GUIDE FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**INTERNATIONAL NAVAL SHIPS  
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 *Guide for Building and Classing International Naval Ships* consists of the Parts shown in Table 1. Content has been added as necessary to extend its applicability to military vessels and other Government owned vessels in non-commercial service. The following is provided for information regarding each Part:
  - a) *Part 1A*: The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification (Part 1)* 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. Additional specific requirements are contained in Chapter 11 of Part 1A.
  - a) *Part 1D*: 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.
  - b) *Part 2*: The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)* is to reflect the common applicability of the requirements to all 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.
  - c) *Part 3*: The *ABS Guide for Building and Classing International Naval Ships (Part 3)* is based upon other existing ABS Rules and Guides to inherently incorporate baseline standards for hull design, construction, safety and environmental protection expected of all commercial vessels worldwide.
  - d) *Part 4*: The *ABS Guide for Building and Classing International Naval Ships (Part 4)* is based upon other existing ABS Rules and Guides to inherently incorporate baseline standards for machinery design, construction, safety and environmental protection expected of all commercial vessels worldwide.
  - e) *Part 5*: The *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels (Part 5A, 5B, 5C)* contains structural requirements for specific vessel types (tankers, bulk carriers, container carriers, liquefied gas carriers, passenger carriers, chemical carriers, and vessels intended to carry vehicles) that are normally classed in accordance with *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels*. The inclusion of this existing Part 5 in the *ABS Guide for Building and Classing International Naval Ships* is mainly for its potential application to certain naval ships (e.g., Oilers) and will require special consideration when applying its requirements since they were intended for application to commercial vessels and are therefore based heavily upon SOLAS and other IMO Convention standards; no modifications have been made to it at this time to tailor its applicability to military vessels or other Government-owned vessels in non-commercial service.
  - f) *Part 6*: The *ABS Guide for Building and Classing International Naval Ships (Part 6)* provides requirements regarding those optional notations offered by ABS that are most frequently requested and/or considered to be most applicable or unique to military vessels and other Government owned vessels in non-commercial service. A complete listing of available optional notations is on the ABS website ([www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org)). The requirements in Part 6 apply in addition to the basic requirements for Classification, but only apply for those optional notations that are requested.
  - g) *Part 7*: The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Survey After Construction (Part 7)* is to reflect the common applicability of survey requirements to all ABS-classed vessels, other marine structures and their associated machinery.

2. The numbering system applied in the Guide is shown in Table 2.
3. The primary changes from the July 2023 Guide 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 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 International Naval Ships Guide**

Notices and General Information		January 2024
Part 1A:	Rules for Conditions of Classification	January 2024*
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2024*
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding Rules for Testing and Certification of Materials Rules for Welding and Fabrication	January 2024*
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	January 2024
Part 4:	Vessel Systems and Machinery	January 2024
Part 5A: (Booklet 1)	Specific Vessel Types General Hull Requirements (IACS CSR Part 1)	January 2024*
Part 5B: (Booklet 1)	Specific Vessel Types Ship Types (IACS CSR Part 2)	January 2024*
Part 5C:	Specific Vessel Types Chapter 1 & 2 Oil Carrier Chapter 3 & 4 Bulk Carrier Chapter 5 & 6 Container Carrier	January 2024*
Part 5C:	Specific Vessel Types Chapter 7 Passenger Carrier Chapter 8 Liquefied Gas Carrier Chapter 9 Chemical Carrier Chapter 10 Vehicle Carrier Chapter 11 Vessels Intended to Carry Liquid Cargoes in Bulk (other than Oil or Chemical) Chapter 12 Liquefied Gas Carrier with Membrane Tanks Chapter 13 Vessels Using Gases or other Low-Flashpoint Fuels Chapter 14 Fire Fighting Vessels Chapter 15 Oil Recovery Vessels Chapter 16 Escort Vessels Chapter 17 Vessels Under 90m (295 ft) Intended for Towing Chapter 18 Fishing Vessels Chapter 19 Vessels Intended to Carry Bulk Cargoes without Upper Wing Tanks and Lower Wing Tanks Chapter 20 General Dry Cargo Vessels (New) Chapter 21 Heavy Lift Ships (New) Chapter 22 Anchor Handling Vessels (New)	January 2024*

## Notices and General Information

Part 6:	Optional Notations Chapter 1 Strengthening for Navigation in Ice Chapter 2 Bridge Design Notations (NBL, NBLES, NIBS) Chapter 3 Hull Girder Ultimate Strength Assessment Chapter 4 Naval Ship Safety Certificate Chapter 5 Mission Threats Protection Chapter 6 Underway Replenishment	January 2024
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.

Parts 5A, 5B, and 5C are parts of the ABS *Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels*.

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

<i><b>Division</b></i>	<i><b>Number</b></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.

## Change Notice (2024)

**TABLE 3**  
**Summary of Changes from the July 2023 Guide**

**EFFECTIVE DATE 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>	
3-2-14	Rudders and Steering Equipment	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.
3-3-1/19	General Requirements	To consolidate the requirements for onboard stability programs into the Marine Vessel Rules.
3-3-A2	Computer Software for Onboard Stability Calculations	To consolidate the requirements for onboard stability programs into the Marine Vessel Rules.
<b>PART 4</b>	<b>Vessel Systems and Machinery</b>	
4-2-1-A1	Rating of Cylindrical and Bevel Gears	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.
4-3-2/5.9	Propulsion Shafting	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.
4-3-3/5.11 & 5.15.2	Propellers	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.
<b>PART 5</b>	<b>Specific Vessel Types</b>	
5-6-2/9.13.5	Metallic Piping	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.
<b>PART 6</b>	<b>Optional Notations</b>	
6-1-1/3	General	To update reference to ice class requirements, in line with revisions to Marine Vessel Rules Part 6, Chapter 1.

## Definition of Terms Used Throughout the Guide

*Naval Vessel:* This term is used to broadly refer to Government owned vessels in non-commercial service; primarily vessels whose purpose is for safety, security and/or defense. As such, it applies to vessels of the Navy, the Coast Guard, or other Government agency of a country; the main differences from commercial vessels being: (1) such vessels are not required by law to comply with national or international codes or standards with which commercial vessels must comply, and (2) in many cases such vessels are equipped and outfitted for combat or related military missions which requires vessel systems, functions, and capabilities to address operational scenarios not encountered by commercial vessels.

The criteria in this Guide was developed around the following features/characteristics/assumptions with regard to the vessels to which this Guide applies: surface vessels, non-nuclear, welded steel construction, welded aluminum construction, areas of composite structure (other than primary structure), mono-hull, displacement type (however, the Guide does address dynamically supported vessels), no restrictions on length, IMO/SOLAS not mandatory (if invoked in whole or in part it is invoked by choice/policy of the Naval Administration), unrestricted service (but criteria is included to allow for lesser service routes), fitted with systems that support aircraft operations, combat operations, or other military-unique missions.

*Naval Administration:* The department, directorate, bureau or command to whom the National Government has delegated authority over the acquisition, acceptance, maintenance and technical requirements of naval vessels, and who acts on the Government's behalf in all matters relating to the procurement and support of the vessels. In the case where these authorities are invested in separate departments within the naval organization, the term "Naval Administration" means the ensemble of departments having those authorities, or the command that overarches these departments.



*Special Consideration:* Where the term “special consideration” is used in this Guide, it is intended to indicate that ABS will consider a particular specified arrangement, detail, or proposed alternative or equivalency, or that application of the criteria in the Guide may require modification from what is prescribed in order to satisfy the intent of the requirements. Arrangements, details and proposed alternatives or equivalency determinations that require special consideration for ABS classification will be reviewed in conjunction with submitted calculations and other supporting documentation in accordance with sound engineering practice.

*Recognized Standard:* A document developed and maintained by an organization whose functions include the development and maintenance of specifications and standards, and designated as applicable for use in marine applications or made suitable by the addition of supplemental criteria. Acceptance of a recognized standard and any required supplemental criteria are subject to review and approval by ABS.

*HM&E System:* Hull, mechanical and electrical (HM&E) systems are those systems relating to the safety of vessel and crew in the basic operation and navigation of the vessel (i.e., aspects of the platform other than mission systems and mission-related or military-unique aspects that are the domain of other designated authorities).

*Mission System:* The systems, subsystems and individual equipment directly dedicated to carrying out the mission of the ship as opposed to those systems needed for crew and vessel safety regarding basic operation and navigation of the vessel. Mission systems include combat systems (weapons and sensors), C4ISR systems (including information security), and those systems and features related to military-unique aspects that are required for operation in a military environment (aspects such as signatures, shock, survivability, weapons effects, etc.).