

Rules for Building and Classing

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# Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways

Notices and General Information



July 2023



**RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**STEEL VESSELS FOR SERVICE ON RIVERS AND  
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAYS  
JULY 2023**

**NOTICES AND  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

**American Bureau of Shipping  
Incorporated by Act of Legislature of  
the State of New York 1862**

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## Notices and General Information

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# Notices and General Information

## Introduction

1. The year 2023 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways* consists of the seven (7) booklets as shown in Table 1. With regard to three booklets, Part 1, Part 2, and Part 7:
  - a) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification (Part 1)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 1, 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 1. The supplemental requirements previously contained in these Rules have been consolidated into Chapter 4 of Part 1.
  - b) 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.
  - c) 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 January 2023 Rules are identified and listed in Table 3. The effective date of the indicated Rule Changes is 1 July 2023, 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 Booklets Comprising July 2023 River Rules**

<b>Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intracoastal Waterways</b>		
Notices and General Information		July 2023
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	January 2023
Part 4:	Vessel Systems and Machinery	July 2023
<b>Rules for Conditions of Classification – not included</b>		
Part 1:	Rules for Conditions of Classification	July 2023*
<b>Rules for Materials and Welding – not included</b>		
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	July 2023*
<b>Rules for Survey After Construction – not included</b>		
Part 7:	Rules for Survey After Construction	July 2023*

\* *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 Guides, Downloads or may be ordered separately from the ABS Publications online catalog at [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org), Rules and Guides, Catalog.

**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** (1 July 2023)

**TABLE 3**  
**Summary of Changes from the January 2023 Rules**

**EFFECTIVE DATE 1 July 2023** – shown as (1 July 2023)  
 (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 4</b>	<b>Vessel Systems and Machinery</b>	
4-2-3/3.25.6	Steering Gear	To specify that a system response without manual intervention is not mandatory for mechanical failures such as hydraulic locking, in line with IACS UR E25 Rev.2.
4-3-2/7.1, 7.5.7, 7.5.7(a), 7.21	Piping, Valves and Fittings	To clarify “existing fire endurance”, provide requirements for test specimens and onboard testing, in line with IACS UR P4 Rev.7.
4-5-4/1.1	Machinery and Equipment	To expand and clarify document submission requirements for rotating machinery.
4-5-4/Table 1	Machinery and Equipment	To prevent incidents of generator failures by adding additional requirements for factory testing.