

Rules for Building and Classing

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# Mobile Offshore Units

Notices and General Information



July 2023



**RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS  
JULY 2023**

**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. ABS Rules and Guides are developed and updated to keep pace with the offshore industry. This has resulted in a complex library of Rules and Guides. Many requirements are repeated throughout the ABS Rules and Guides making use and maintenance of Rules/Guides more challenging. To address the duplication of requirements and to provide a set of Rules that is easier to navigate, ABS has consolidated Rules for both Vessels and Offshore Units.

For offshore units, the *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units* and the *Guide for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units* have been consolidated into the **Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units** (the *Mobile Offshore Unit Rules*).

2. The year 2023 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units* consists of the nine (9) booklets as shown in Table 1.

The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures (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 offshore units, pipelines, risers, and other offshore structures, as specified in the Foreword to Part 1.

With regard to Part 2, 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.

Part 8 is a new Part that covers additional requirements for each type of unit (Drilling and Non-drilling Units). The requirements for drilling units have been relocated from Parts 3 through 6 of the *MODU Rules*. The requirements for non-drilling units are based on the *MOU Guide*.

3. The numbering system applied in the Rules is shown in Table 2.
4. 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.

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 MOU Rules**

Notices and General Information		July 2023
Part 1:	Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures	July 2023
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	July 2023
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	July 2023
Part 4:	Machinery and Systems	July 2023
Part 5:	Fire and Safety – Measures and Features	January 2023
Part 6:	Rules for Equipment and Machinery Certification	July 2023
Part 7:	Surveys	July 2023
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 2023

**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)**

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
<b>PART 1</b>	<b>Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures</b>	
1-1-7/9	Submission of Plans	To simplify the plan submittal process and align it with our legal duty to verify compliance with IMO, IACS requirements related to Asbestos-free declaration. This newly created section proposes a consolidated ABS policy regarding Asbestos-free declaration whereby individual declarations are no longer necessary.

**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 3</b>	<b>Hull Construction and Equipment</b>	
3-1-2/1	Plans and Design Data to be Submitted	To include a detailed description of the categorization of the hull structure as special, primary and secondary in order to support Surveyors on their evaluation of wastage allowances.
<b>PART 4</b>	<b>Machinery and Systems</b>	
4-2-2/5.3	Pumps, Pipes, Valves, and Fittings	To add an industry standard EEMUA 234 to allow the welded Cu-Ni pipes for the fire main pipe with size greater than 24 inches.
4-2-2/7.1, 7.5.7, 7.5.7(a)	Pumps, Pipes, Valves, and Fittings	To clarify “existing fire endurance”, provide requirements for test specimens and onboard testing, in line with IACS UR P4 Rev.7.
<b>PART 6</b>	<b>Material, Marine Equipment and Machinery Certification</b>	
6-1-7/3.1	Electrical Systems and Control Equipment	To expand and clarify document submission requirements for rotating machinery.
6-1-7/Table 2	Electrical Systems and Control Equipment	To prevent incidents of generator failures by adding additional requirements for factory testing.

**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” (1 July 2023) is to apply for units undergoing survey on or after 1 July 2023].

**EFFECTIVE DATE 1 July 2023 – shown as (1 July 2023)**

<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	Survey Intervals	To correct inconsistency with wording for extensions, in line with ABS MOU Rules Part 1 and IACS PRIC.
7-2-3/1.11	Survey Pre-Planning	To improve timely discussing and addressing ABS requirements with regards to jacking systems.
7-2-3/1.5	Survey Pre-Planning	To include a detailed description of the categorization of the hull structure as special, primary and secondary in order to support Surveyors on their evaluation of wastage allowances.
7-2-5/1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 5.1.2, 5.3.2, Table 2	Special Periodical Surveys	To provide clarification and references to Part 3 for Special, Primary and Secondary Structure that may require CVI, NDE, etc. at the Special Survey.

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<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
7-2-A2/5	Survey of Portable Modules	To clarify that the portable industrial module surveys are to be conducted as part of the Annual Survey.