



RULES FOR

**CONDITIONS OF CLASSIFICATION – OFFSHORE
UNITS AND STRUCTURES
2008**

PART 1

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

**Copyright © 2008
American Bureau of Shipping
ABS Plaza
16855 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060 USA**

Rule Change Notice (2008)

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

Listing by Effective Dates of Changes from the 2006 Rules

Notice 2 (effective on 1 February 2007), and Notice No. 4 (effective on 21 June 2007) to the 2006 Rules, which are incorporated in the 2008 Rules, are summarized below.

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 February 2007 – shown as (1 February 2007)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
1-1-4/3.3.2	Date of Contract for Construction	To reflect clarifications to IACS PR 29 to address the date of contract for construction in the event a change of ship type is made in a contract for construction after the original contract is signed between builder and Owner. (Incorporates Notice No. 2)

EFFECTIVE DATE 21 June 2007 – shown as (21 June 2007)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
1-1-4/3.3.3	Series of Vessels and Optional Vessels	To align with amendments to IACS PR 29 (Rev. 4) to only require the alterations from the original design to comply with classification requirements/amendments which have come into effect since the “date of contract for construction” of the “series”, rather than changing the date of contract for construction for the entire vessel or vessels. (Incorporates Notice No. 4)

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2008 – shown as (2008)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
1-1-8/1.3i)	<No Title>	To align information in operating manual with design limits.

PART

1

Foreword

For the 2008 edition, Part 1, “Conditions of Classification” was consolidated into a generic booklet, entitled *Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures (Part 1)* for all units, installations, vessels or systems in offshore service. The purpose of this consolidation was to emphasize the common applicability of the classification requirements in “Part 1” to ABS-classed offshore units, pipelines, risers, and other offshore structures, and thereby make “Part 1” more readily a common “Part” of the various ABS Rules and Guides, as appropriate.

Accordingly, the subject booklet, *Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures (Part 1)*, is to be considered, for example, as being applicable to and comprising a “Part” of the following ABS Rules and Guides:

- *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules)*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Installations (Offshore Installations Rules)*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Single Point Moorings (SPM Rules)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations (FPI Guide)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Facilities on Offshore Installations (Facilities Guide)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Liftboats (Liftboat Guide)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Subsea Pipeline Systems (Pipeline Guide)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Subsea Riser Systems (Riser Guide)*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Offshore LNG Terminals (LNGT Guide)*

Any unique “Conditions of Classification” requirements for a specific type of offshore unit or structure are specified in Part 1 supplements contained in the above listed Rules and Guides. The supplemental Part 1 requirements are published with the Rules and Guides for specific types of offshore units or structures. However, the supplemental Part 1 for Mobile Offshore Drilling Units is included at the end of this booklet. The generic Part 1 requirements are to be used together with the applicable supplemental Part 1 requirements for the specific type of unit or structure.

A separate Part 1 booklet, entitled *Rules for Conditions of Classification (Part 1)*, has been created to consolidate the classification requirements for non-offshore services.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	Scope and Conditions of Classification	1
Section 1	Classification	5
Section 2	Suspension and Cancellation of Classification.....	9
Section 3	Classification Symbols and Notations.....	13
Section 4	Rules for Classification	17
Section 5	Other Regulations	25
Section 6	IACS Audit	27
Section 7	Plans and Data to be Submitted	29
Section 8	Conditions for Surveys After Construction.....	31
Section 9	Fees	33
Section 10	Disagreement.....	35
Section 11	Limitation of Liability	37
Section 12	Hold Harmless	39
Section 13	Time Bar to Legal Action	41
Section 14	Arbitration.....	43
Appendix 1	Classification Symbols and Notations.....	45
Appendix 2	ABS Type Approval Program.....	47

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER

1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

CONTENTS

SECTION 1	Classification.....	5
1	Process	5
3	Certificates and Reports	5
5	Representations as to Classification.....	6
7	Scope of Classification.....	7
SECTION 2	Suspension and Cancellation of Classification	9
1	General	9
3	Notice of Surveys.....	9
5	Special Notations	9
7	Suspension of Class	10
9	Lifting of Suspension.....	11
11	Cancellation of Class	12
13	Alternative Procedures.....	12
SECTION 3	Classification Symbols and Notations.....	13
1	Drilling Units Built Under Survey.....	13
1.1	Self-Elevating Drilling Units	13
1.3	Column-Stabilized Units.....	13
1.5	Surface Type Drilling Units.....	13
1.7	Other Types of Drilling Units	13
1.9	Temporary Mooring Equipment Symbol	14
1.11	Position Mooring Equipment and Systems.....	14
3	Special Purpose Units.....	14
5	Service Limitations.....	14
7	Units Not Built Under Survey	14
9	Offshore Installations	14
11	Floating Production Installations.....	14
13	Liftboats	15
15	Subsea Pipeline Systems	15
17	Subsea Riser Systems.....	15

19	Facilities on Offshore Installations	15
19.1	Floating Installations	15
19.3	Fixed Installations	15
21	Single Point Moorings	16
23	Offshore LNG Terminals	16
SECTION 4	Rules for Classification	17
1	Application of Rules	17
1.1	General	17
1.3	Application	17
3	Effective Date of Rule Change	18
3.1	Effective Date	18
3.3	Implementation of Rule Changes	18
5	Other Conditions	19
7	Installations Not Covered by the Rules	19
9	Alternatives	19
9.1	General	19
9.3	National Standards	19
9.5	Other Rules	19
9.7	ABS Type Approval Program	20
11	Novel Features	23
13	Risk Evaluations for Alternative Arrangements and Novel Features	23
SECTION 5	Other Regulations	25
1	Governmental and Other Regulations	25
3	Other International Conventions or Codes	25
5	Governmental Regulations	25
SECTION 6	IACS Audit	27
SECTION 7	Plans and Design Data to be Submitted	29
1	Hull and Design Data	29
3	Machinery Plans	29
5	Additional Plans	29
7	Submissions	29
SECTION 8	Conditions for Surveys After Construction	31
1	Damage, Failure and Repair	31
1.1	Examination and Repair	31
1.3	Repairs	31
1.5	Representation	31
3	Notification and Availability for Survey	32
5	Attendance at Port State Request	32
7	Safety Management System	32

SECTION 9 Fees	33
SECTION 10 Disagreement	35
1 Rules	35
3 Surveyors	35
SECTION 11 Limitation of Liability	37
SECTION 12 Hold Harmless	39
SECTION 13 Time Bar to Legal Action	41
SECTION 14 Arbitration.....	43
APPENDIX 1 Classification Symbols and Notations	45
APPENDIX 2 ABS Type Approval Program	47
1 General	47
3 Limitations	48
5 Process	48
5.1 Design Assessment (DA)	48
5.3 Manufacturing Assessment (MA)	49
5.5 Product Quality Assurance Certification (PQA)	50
5.7 Certificates	51
5.9 Suspension of Certification	53
FIGURE 1 Process of the Type Approval Program	54

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 **Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION 1 **Classification**

1 Process *(1 November 2004)*

The Classification process consists of

- a) The development of Rules, Guides, standards and other criteria for the design and construction of offshore units and structures, for materials, equipment, and machinery, and
- b) The review of design and survey during and after construction to verify compliance with such Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria, and
- c) The assignment and registration of class when such compliance has been verified, and
- d) The issuance of a renewable Classification certificate, with annual endorsements, valid for five years.

The Rules and standards are, in general, developed by the International Association of Classification Societies and by Bureau staff, and passed upon by committees made up of naval architects, ocean and marine engineers, shipbuilders, engine builders, steel makers and by other technical, operating and scientific personnel associated with the worldwide maritime industries. Theoretical research and development, established engineering disciplines, as well as satisfactory service experience are utilized in their development and promulgation. The Bureau and its committees can act only upon such theoretical and practical considerations in developing Rules and standards.

Surveyors apply normally accepted examination and testing standards to those items specified for each survey by the Rules; construction procedures, safety procedures and construction supervision remain the responsibility of the shipyard, the offshore unit or structures repairer, manufacturer, Owner or other client.

For classification, the offshore units or structures are to comply with the requirements of the applicable Rules and/or Guides.

3 Certificates and Reports *(1 January 1996)*

3.1

Plan review and surveys during and after construction are conducted by the Bureau to verify to itself and its committees that an offshore unit, structure, item of material, equipment or machinery is in compliance with the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the Bureau and to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor. All reports and certificates are issued solely for the use of the Bureau, its committees, its clients and other authorized entities.

3.3

The Bureau will release information from reports and certificates to the cognizant authorities, e.g., Coastal State or Port State to assist in rectification of deficiencies during port state control intervention. Such information includes text of conditions of classification, survey due dates and certificate expiration dates. The Owner will be advised of any request and/or release of information.

3.5

The Bureau will release certain information to the offshore unit or structure's underwriters for underwriting purposes. Such information includes text of overdue conditions of classification, survey due dates and certificate expiration dates. The Owners will be advised of any request and/or release of information.

In the case of overdue conditions of classification, the Owners will be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the information prior to release.

3.7 (2003)

The Bureau may release an offshore unit or structure specific information related to the classification and statutory certification status. This information may be published on the Bureau web site or by other media and may include the an offshore unit or structure classification, any operating restrictions noted in the Bureau's *Record*, the names, dates and locations of all surveys performed by the Bureau, the expiration date of all class and statutory certificates issued by the Bureau, survey due dates, the text of conditions of classification (also known as outstanding recommendations), transfers, suspensions, withdrawals, cancellations and reinstatements of class, and other related information as may be required.

5 Representations as to Classification

Classification is a representation by the Bureau as to the structural and mechanical fitness for a particular use or service in accordance with its Rules, Guides, and standards. The Rules, Guides, and standards of the American Bureau of Shipping are not meant as a substitute for the independent judgment of professional designers, naval architects, marine engineers, Owners, Operators, masters and crew nor as a substitute for the quality control procedures of offshore units or structures builders, engine builders, steel makers, suppliers, manufacturers and sellers of units, materials, machinery or equipment. The Bureau, being a technical society, can only act through Surveyors or others who are believed by it to be skilled and competent.

The Bureau represents solely to the Owner of the offshore unit or structure or other client of the Bureau that when assigning class, it will use due diligence in the development of Rules, Guides, and standards, and in using normally applied testing standards, procedures and techniques as called for by the Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria of the Bureau for the purpose of assigning and maintaining a class. The Bureau further represents to the Owner of the offshore unit or structure or other client of the Bureau that its certificates and reports evidence compliance only with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the Bureau, in accordance with the terms of such certificate or report. Under no circumstances whatsoever are these representations to be deemed to relate to any third party.

The user of this document is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and other government directives and orders related to an offshore unit or structure, its machinery and equipment, or their operation. Nothing contained in any Rule, Guide, standard, certificate or report issued by the Bureau shall be deemed to relieve any other entity of its duty or responsibility to comply with all applicable laws, including those related to the environment.

7 **Scope of Classification** *(1 November 2004)*

Nothing contained in any certificate or report is to be deemed to relieve any designer, builder, Owner, manufacturer, seller, supplier, repairer, operator, insurer, or other entity or person of any duty to inspect or any other duty or warranty express or implied. Any certificate or report evidences only that at the time of survey the offshore unit or structure, item of material, equipment or machinery, or any other item covered by a certificate or report complied with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the American Bureau of Shipping and is issued solely for the use of the Bureau, its committees, its clients or other authorized entities. Nothing contained in any certificate, report, plan or document review or approval is to be deemed to be in any way a representation or statement beyond those contained in 1-1-1/5. The Bureau is not an insurer or guarantor of the integrity or safety of an offshore unit or structure, or of any of its equipment or machinery. The validity, applicability, and interpretation of any certificate, report, plan or document review or approval are governed by the Rules, Guides, and standards of the American Bureau of Shipping who shall remain the sole judge thereof. The Bureau is not responsible for the consequences arising from the use by other parties of the Rules, Guides, standards or other criteria of the American Bureau of Shipping, without review, plan approval and survey by the Bureau.

The term “approved” shall be interpreted to mean that the plans, reports or documents have been reviewed for compliance with one or more of the Rules, Guides, standards, or other criteria of the Bureau.

The Rules and Guides are published in the understanding that responsibility for stability and trim; for reasonable handling and loading; as well as for avoidance of distributions of weight which are likely to set up abnormally severe stresses in an offshore unit or structure does not rest upon the Committee.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 **Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION 2 **Suspension and Cancellation of Classification (1998)**

1 **General (1 November 2004)**

The continuance of the classification of any offshore unit or structure is conditional upon the Rule or Guide requirements for periodical, damage, and other surveys being duly carried out. The Committee reserves the right to reconsider, withhold, suspend, or cancel the class of any offshore unit or structure, or any part of the machinery or equipment for noncompliance with the Rules or Guides, for defects or damages which are not reported to the Bureau for defects reported by the Surveyors which have not been rectified in accordance with their recommendations, or for nonpayment of fees which are due on account of Classification, Statutory, Lifting Appliances, or other Surveys. Suspension or cancellation of class may take effect immediately or after a specified period of time.

1.1

The Bureau reserves the right to perform unscheduled surveys of the hull, equipment, or machinery when the Bureau has reasonable cause to believe that the Rule requirements for periodical, damage and other surveys are not being complied with.

1.3

Failure to permit the unscheduled surveys referred to in 1-1-2/1.1 above shall result in the suspension or cancellation of class.

3 **Notice of Surveys**

It is the responsibility of the Owner to ensure that all surveys necessary for the maintenance of class are carried out at the proper time. The Bureau will notify an Owner of upcoming surveys and outstanding recommendations. This may be done by means of a letter or other communication. The non-receipt of such notice, however, does not absolve the Owner from the responsibility to comply with survey requirements for maintenance of class.

5 **Special Notations**

If the survey requirements related to maintenance of special notations are not carried out as required, the suspension or cancellation may be limited to those special notations only.

7 Suspension of Class

7.1

Suspension of classification is a withdrawal of all representations by the Bureau as to an offshore unit or structure.

7.3

Class will be suspended and the Certificate of Classification will become invalid from the date of any use, operation, loading condition or other application of any offshore unit or structure for which it has not been approved and which affects or may affect classification or the structural integrity, quality or fitness for a particular use or service.

7.5

Class will be suspended and the Certificate of Classification will become invalid in any of the following circumstances:

- i) If Continuous Survey items which are due or overdue at the time of Annual Survey are not completed and no extension has been granted,
- ii) If the other surveys required for maintenance of class, other than Annual, Intermediate, or Special Periodical Surveys, are not carried out by the due date and no Rule allowed extension has been granted, or
- iii) If any damage, failure, deterioration or repair has not been completed as recommended.

7.7 (1 October 2007)

Class will be subject to a suspension procedure if recommendations issued by the Surveyor are not carried out by their due dates and no extension has been granted.

7.9

Classification may be suspended, in which case the Certificate of Classification will become invalid, if proposed repairs, as referred to in 1-1-8/1 have not been submitted to the Bureau and agreed upon prior to commencement.

7.11

Class is automatically suspended and the Certificate of Classification is invalid in any of the following circumstances:

- i) If the Annual Survey is not completed by the date which is three (3) months after the due date, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion of the Annual Survey, or
- ii) If the Intermediate Survey is not completed by the date which is three (3) months after the due date of the third Annual Survey of the five (5) year periodic survey cycle, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion of the Intermediate Survey, or

- iii)* If the Special Periodical Survey is not completed by the due date, unless the offshore unit or structure is under attendance for completion prior to resuming operation.

Under “exceptional circumstances” (limited to such cases as unavailability of drydocking facilities; unavailability of repair facilities; unavailability of essential materials, equipment or spare parts; or delays incurred by action taken to avoid severe weather conditions), consideration may be given for an extension of the Special Periodical Survey provided an offshore unit or structure is attended and the attending Surveyor(s) so recommend(s) after the following has been carried out:

- Annual Survey; and
- Re-examination of recommendations; and
- Progression of the Special Periodical Survey as far as practicable.

7.13

When an offshore unit or structure is intended for a demolition operation with any periodical survey overdue, the offshore unit’s or structure’s class suspension may be held in abeyance and consideration may be given to allow the offshore unit or structure to proceed on a single direct ballast voyage from the lay-up or final facility to the demolition yard. In such cases, a short term Class Certificate with conditions for the voyage noted may be issued provided the attending Surveyor finds the offshore unit or structure in satisfactory condition to proceed for the intended operation.

7.15

If due to circumstances reasonably beyond the Owner’s or the Bureau’s control (limited to such cases as damage to the offshore unit or structure, unforeseen inability of the Bureau to attend the offshore unit or structure due to the governmental restrictions on right of access or movement of personnel, unforeseeable delays in port due to unusually lengthy periods of severe weather, strikes, civil strife, acts of war, or other cases of force majeure) the offshore unit or structure is not in a port where the overdue surveys can be completed at the expiry of the periods allowed above, the Bureau may allow the an offshore unit or structure to sail, in class, directly to an agreed facility and, if necessary, hence, in ballast, to an agreed facility at which the survey will be completed, provided that the Bureau:

- i)* Examines the offshore unit or structure’s records; and
- ii)* Carries out the due and/or overdue surveys and examination of recommendations at the first port of call when there is an unforeseen inability of the Bureau to attend the offshore unit or structure in the present port, and
- iii)* Has satisfied itself that the offshore unit or structure is in a condition to sail for one trip to a discharge port and subsequent ballast voyage to a repair facility if necessary. (Where there is unforeseen inability of the Bureau to attend the offshore unit or structure in the present port, the master is to confirm that his ship is in condition to sail to the nearest port of call.)

If class has already been automatically suspended in such cases, it may be reinstated subject to the conditions presented in this Paragraph.

9 Lifting of Suspension

9.1

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue surveys upon satisfactory completion of the overdue surveys. Such surveys will be credited as of the original due date. However, the offshore unit or structure is declassified from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

9.3

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue recommendations upon satisfactory completion of the overdue recommendation. However, the offshore unit or structure is declassified from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

9.5

Class will be reinstated after suspension for overdue Continuous Survey items upon satisfactory completion of the overdue items.

11 Cancellation of Class

11.1

If the circumstances leading to suspension of class are not corrected within the time specified, the offshore unit or structure's class will be canceled.

11.3

An offshore unit or structure's class is canceled immediately when an offshore unit or structure proceeds to operate without having completed recommendations which were required to be dealt with before leaving port or resuming operations.

11.5

When class has been suspended for a period of three (3) months due to overdue Annual, Intermediate, Special Periodical, or other surveys required for maintenance of class; overdue Continuous Survey items; or overdue outstanding recommendations, class will be canceled. A longer suspension period may be granted for offshore units or structures which are either laid up, awaiting disposition of a casualty or under attendance for reinstatement.

13 Alternative Procedures

Alternatives to 1-1-2/7.11 procedures for automatic suspension of class and 1-1-2/11.5 procedures for cancellation of class may be applied to Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, or laid-up liftboats.

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

SECTION 3 Classification Symbols and Notations

Note: A listing of Classification Symbols and Notations available to the Owners of vessels, offshore drilling and production units, and other marine structures and systems may be viewed and downloaded from the ABS website “<http://www.eagle.org/absdownloads/index.cfm>”. This Section introduces the fundamental classification symbols and notations. Additional and/or optional classification symbols and notations are described in the Rules and Guides governing the specific offshore unit or structure.

1 Drilling Units Built Under Survey

Drilling units which have been built to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Bureau, to the full requirements of these Rules or their equivalent, where approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols **✕ A1** followed by the notation to the type of unit as follows.

1.1 Self-Elevating Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in 3-1-1/3.1 of the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules)*, will be assigned a notation of **Self-Elevating Drilling Unit**.

1.3 Column-Stabilized Units

Units of this type, as described in 3-1-1/3.3 of the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Column-Stabilized Drilling Unit**.

1.5 Surface Type Drilling Units

1.5.1 Ship-Type Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in 3-1-1/3.5.1 of the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Drilling Unit**.

1.5.2 Barge-Type Drilling Units

Units of this type, as described in 3-1-1/3.5.2 of the *MODU Rules*, will be assigned a notation of **Barge Drilling Unit**.

1.7 Other Types of Drilling Units

Units which are designed as mobile offshore drilling units which do not fall into the above categories will be treated on an individual basis and be assigned an appropriate classification designation.

1.9 Temporary Mooring Equipment Symbol (1994)

The symbol Ⓔ will be placed after the symbols of classification to signify that the equipment for temporary mooring of the drilling unit is in compliance with 3-4-1/3 of the *MODU Rules* or applicable portions of other Rules or Guides.

1.11 Position Mooring Equipment and Systems (1994)

1.11.1 Symbol Ⓜ

The symbol Ⓜ will be placed after the symbols of classification, provided the position mooring equipment complies with 3-4-1/5 of the *MODU Rules*.

1.11.2 Symbol Ⓟ

The symbol Ⓟ will be placed after the symbols of classification to signify that the position mooring systems are in compliance with 3-4-1/7 and Appendix 3-4-A1 of the *MODU Rules*.

3 Special Purpose Units

Special purpose units, which are similar in configuration and operation to drilling units, may be considered for classification on the basis of these Rules, as applicable, and assigned an appropriate class designation.

5 Service Limitations

These Rules are intended for units designed for unrestricted service. Units which are not designed to meet the full criteria for unrestricted service will be classed with a notation **Restricted Service**. See also Section 1-1-5 of the *MODU Rules*.

7 Units Not Built Under Survey

Units which have not been built under survey to this Bureau, but which are submitted for classification will be subject to a special classification survey. Where found satisfactory and thereafter approved by the Committee, they will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols and notations as described in 1-1-3/1, 1-1-3/19, 1-1-3/21, 1-1-3/23 and 1-1-3/25, but the mark ✕ signifying survey during construction will be omitted.

9 Offshore Installations

Offshore Installations which have been built under the supervision of the Surveyors of the Bureau to the requirements of the *Offshore Installations Rules* or to their equivalent, where approved by the Classification Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols ✕ **A1 Offshore Installation**.

11 Floating Production Installations

Systems that have been built, installed and commissioned to the satisfaction of the Surveyors to the Bureau to the full requirements of the *FPI Guide* or to its equivalent, where approved by the Committee for service for the specified design environmental conditions, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbol ✕ **A1**, followed by the appropriate notation for the intended service, **Floating Production, Storage and Offloading System (FPSO), Floating Production (and Offloading) System (FPS) or Floating Storage and Offloading System (FSO)**.

13 Liftboats

Liftboats which have been built to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Bureau, to the full requirements of the *Liftboat Guide* or the equivalent, where approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the classification notation **⌘ A1 Liftboat ⌘ AMS** where **⌘ A1** indicates compliance with the hull requirements of the *Liftboat Guide* and **⌘ AMS** indicates compliance with the machinery requirements for self-propelled liftboats.

15 Subsea Pipeline Systems

Pipelines which have been built, installed, tested and commissioned to the satisfaction of the Surveyors of the Bureau to the full requirements of the *Pipeline Guide* or to its equivalent, where approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by **⌘ A1 Offshore Installation – Offshore Pipelines**

17 Subsea Riser Systems

Risers which have been built, installed, tested and commissioned to the satisfaction of the Surveyors of the Bureau to the full requirements of the *Riser Guide* or to its equivalent, where approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by **⌘ A1 Offshore Installation – Offshore Risers**.

19 Facilities on Offshore Installations

19.1 Floating Installations

For floating installations, systems which have been designed, built, installed, and commissioned in accordance with approved plans to the satisfaction of the Bureau Surveyors, and which are deemed to meet the full requirements of the applicable ABS Rules and Guides, or their equivalent, where approved by the Committee, for service in specified design environmental conditions, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols **⌘ A1** followed by the appropriate notation for the system's intended service, **Floating Production, Storage and Offloading System (FPSO)**, **Floating Production (and Offloading) System (FPS)**, or **Floating Storage and Offloading System (FSO)**.

19.3 Fixed Installations

For fixed installations, systems which have been designed, built, installed, and commissioned in accordance with approved plans to the satisfaction of the Bureau Surveyors, and which are deemed to meet the full requirements of the applicable ABS Rules and Guides, or their equivalent, where approved by the Committee for service in specified design environmental conditions, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols **⌘ A1** followed by the appropriate notation for the system's intended service, **Offshore Installation – Hydrocarbon Processing** or **Offshore Installation – Hydrocarbon Production**

Note: The mark **⌘** (Maltese Cross) signifies that the system was built, installed, and commissioned to the satisfaction of the ABS Surveyors.

21 Single Point Moorings

SPM's which have been built under the supervision of the Surveyors of the Bureau to the requirements of the *SPM Rules* or to their equivalent, where approved by the Classification Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols **⌘ AI Single Point Mooring**. Data as described in 1/1.3.4 of the *SPM Rules* will be indicated in the *Record*.

23 Offshore LNG Terminals

Offshore LNG terminals that have been built, installed and commissioned to the satisfaction of the Surveyors to the Bureau to the full requirements of the *LNGT Guide*, where approved by the Committee for service for the specified design environmental conditions, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbol **⌘ A1**, followed by the appropriate notation for the intended service listed in the Guide.

25 Propulsion Machinery (29 November 2007)

Propulsion machinery and boilers which are required for propulsion and which have been constructed and installed to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, to the full requirements of the *MODU Rules* or their equivalent, when found satisfactory after a trial and approved by the Committee, will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the notation **⌘ AMS**. This notation is mandatory for classification of self-propelled commercial units built under survey to the Bureau, classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the notation **⌘ A1**.

27 Thrusters (1994)

Thruster machinery for propulsion assist or athwartship thrust complying with the applicable requirements of Section 4-3-5 of the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels (Steel Vessel Rules)*, manufactured and installed under the survey to this Bureau and found satisfactory after trials, will be distinguished in the *Record* by the notation **⌘ PAS** or **⌘ APS**, as appropriate.

29 Dynamic Positioning Systems (1994)

Dynamic positioning systems complying with the requirements of Section 4-3-5 of the *Steel Vessel Rules*, manufactured and installed under the survey to this Bureau and found satisfactory after trials, will be distinguished in the *Record* by the notation **⌘ DPS-0**, **⌘ DPS-1**, **⌘ DPS-2** or **⌘ DPS-3**, as appropriate.

31 Drilling Systems

A notation **⌘ CDS** will be added in the *Record* for drilling units whose drilling systems and equipment comply with the requirements of the *ABS Guide for the Certification of Drilling Systems*, manufactured and installed under survey to this Bureau and found satisfactory after tests.

33 Ice Strengthening

A notation **Ice Strengthening** will be added in the *Record* for drilling units that comply with Appendix 3-2-A1 of the *MODU Rules*.

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

SECTION 4 Rules for Classification

1 Application of Rules

1.1 General

The requirements of the following Rules and Guides are applicable to those features that are permanent in nature and can be verified by plan review, calculation, physical survey or other appropriate means. Any statement in the Rules and Guides regarding other features is to be considered as a guidance to the designer, builder, Owner, operator or other client.

Where reference is made herein to the Rules or Guides, the latest edition of those Rules or Guides is intended.

- *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Installations*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Single Point Moorings*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Liftboats*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Subsea Pipeline Systems*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Subsea Riser Systems*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Facilities on Offshore Installations*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Offshore LNG Terminals*

1.3 Application

The application of the Rules and Guides is, in general, based on the contract date for construction between the shipbuilder and the prospective Owner. (e.g., Rules which became effective on 1 July 2004 are not applicable to an offshore unit or structure for which the contract for construction was signed on 30 June 2004.) See also 1-1-4/3.

The requirements in these Rules are the common requirements for conditions of classification of offshore units and structures. Any unique requirements for a specific type of offshore unit or structure are specified in the supplement to these Rules in each of the Rules and Guides as listed in 1-1-4/1.1. These Rules are to be used together with the applicable supplemental Rules for the specific type of unit or structure.

3 Effective Date of Rule Change

3.1 Effective Date

Changes to the Rules are to become effective on the date specified by the Bureau. In general, the effective date is not less than six months from the date on which The ABS Rules Committee approves them. However, the Bureau may bring into force individual changes before that date if necessary or appropriate. The effective date of changes to the Rules can be found in the Introduction to the Bureau publication, “Notices and General Information”, that is published with the respective Rules or Guides.

Guides and subsequent changes to Guides are to become effective on the date specified by the Bureau. In general, the effective date is not less than six months from the date on which the Guide is published and released for its use. However, the Bureau may bring into force the Guide or individual changes before that date if necessary or appropriate.

3.3 Implementation of Rule Changes

3.3.1 General (2005)

In general, until the effective date, plan approval for designs will follow prior practice unless review under the latest Rules or Guide is specifically requested by the party signatory to the application for classification.

3.3.2 Date of Contract for Construction (*1 February 2007*)

The date of “contract for construction” of an offshore unit or structure is the date on which the contract to build the offshore unit or structure is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder. The date is required to be indicated on the form, “Application of Request for Classification”.

If the signed contract for construction is amended to change the offshore unit or structure type, the date of “contract for construction” of this modified an offshore unit or structure, or an offshore unit or structure, is the date on which the revised contract or a new contract is signed between the Owner, or Owners, and the shipbuilder.

3.3.3 Series of Units and Optional Units (*21 June 2007*)

The date of “contract for construction” as defined 1-1-4/3.3.2 of a series of offshore units or structures, including specified optional offshore units or structures for which the option is ultimately exercised, is the date on which the contract to build the series is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder.

Offshore units or structures built under a single contract for construction are considered a “series of offshore units” (or structures) if they are built to the same approved plans for classification purposes. However, the offshore units or structures within a series may have design alterations from the original design provided:

- i) Such alterations do not affect matters related to classification, or
- ii) If the alterations are subject to classification requirements, these alterations are to comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are contracted between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder or, in the absence of the alteration contract, comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are submitted to the Bureau for approval.

The “optional offshore units” (or structures) will be considered part of the same series of offshore units or structures if the option is exercised not later than one year after the contract to build the series was signed.

3.3.4 Additional Optional Units (2005)

If a contract for construction is later amended to include additional offshore units or structures or additional options, the date of “contract for construction” for such vessels is the date on which the amendment to the contract is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder. The amendment to the contract is to be considered as a “new contract” to which 1-1-4/3.3.2 and 1-1-4/3.3.3 above apply.

Where designs for one or more offshore units or structures comply with the Rules applicable at the time of approval, no retroactive application of later Rule changes to such offshore units or structures will be required unless necessary or appropriate.

5 Other Conditions

The Committee reserves the right to refuse classification of any offshore unit or structure where items for which there are Rule requirements are not in accordance with them.

7 Installations Not Covered by the Rules

These Rules do not apply to the structure of industrial equipment used exclusively in drilling, offshore maintenance and construction, or related operations, except insofar as their installation may affect the structural integrity and stability of the offshore unit or structure. Determination of the adequacy of sea bed bearing capacity, resistance to possible sliding and anchor holding capability is not covered by these Rules. The assessment of the required holding capacity, arrangement, and operation of position mooring equipment and dynamic positioning equipment used for station keeping is the responsibility of the Owner and is not covered by these Rules.

9 Alternatives

9.1 General

The Committee is at all times ready to consider alternative arrangements, designs, and scantlings which can be shown, through either satisfactory service experience or a systematic analysis based on sound engineering principles, to meet the overall safety, serviceability, and long-term strength standards of the Rules and Guides.

9.3 National Standards

The Committee will consider special arrangements or details of hull, equipment, or machinery which can be shown to comply with standards recognized in the country in which the offshore unit or structure is registered or built, provided they are not less effective.

9.5 Other Rules

The Committee will consider hull, equipment or machinery built to the satisfaction of the Surveyors of the Bureau in accordance with the plans that have been approved to the Rules of another recognized classification society with verification of compliance by the Bureau. A notation will be entered in the *Record* indicating that classification has incorporated the provisions of this Subparagraph. Submission of plans is to be in accordance with Section 1-1-7.

9.7 ABS Type Approval Program (2003)

9.7.1 Type Approval

Products that can be consistently manufactured to the same design and specification may be Type Approved under the ABS Type Approval Program. The ABS Type Approval Program is a voluntary option for the demonstration of compliance of a product with the Rules or other recognized standards. It may be applied at the request of the designer or manufacturer. The ABS Type Approval Program generally covers Product Type Approval (1-1-4/9.7.3), but is also applicable for a more expeditious procedure towards Unit-Certification as specified in 1-1-4/9.7.2.

9.7.2 Unit-Certification

Unit-Certification is a review of individual materials, components, products and systems for compliance with ABS Rules, Guides or other recognized standards. This allows these items to be placed on a unit, marine structure or system to become eligible for classification. Certification is a “one-time” review. The process is:

- i) A technical evaluation of drawings or prototype tests of a material, component, product or system for compliance with the ABS Rules, Guides or other recognized standards,
- ii) A survey during manufacture for compliance with the ABS Rules, Guides, or other recognized standards and results of the technical evaluation,
- iii) Alternatively, a Confirmation of Type Approval (see below) will expedite the requirements of *i)* and *ii)* above,
- iv) Products found in compliance are issued “Individual Unit Certification”,
- v) There is no requirement for subsequent reviews or surveys.

9.7.3 Product Type Approval

Product Type Approval is a voluntary program used to prove eligibility for certification by demonstrating a product manufacturer’s conformance to a specific standard or specification. Manufacturers who can demonstrate the ability to produce consistent products in compliance with these standards are issued “Confirmations of Type Approval” (see 1-1-A2/5.3). The Confirmation of Type Approval is neither an alternative to nor an equivalent to an Individual Unit Certificate. In order to remain valid, the Confirmation of Type Approval requires routine audits of the manufacturer and continued compliance of the product with existing or new specifications.

9.7.4 Approval on Behalf of Administrations

The Bureau has also been authorized and/or notified to type approve certain equipment on behalf of Administrations. The list of authorizations and notifications are maintained at each Bureau Technical Office.

9.7.5 Applicable uses of Type Approved Products

- i) When a product is at a stage suitable for testing and/or for use in a classed unit, and unit certification is required, the manufacturer is to present the product to an attending Surveyor for witnessing of all required Rule testing. Unless specified in the Design Assessment, technical evaluation would not normally be required.
- ii) When a product is at a stage suitable for use in a classed unit, and unit certification is not required, the product may be installed, to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor, without the need for technical evaluation.

9.7.6 Definitions

Audit. A systematic and independent examination to determine whether quality activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve the stated objectives.

General Audit. An audit that addresses the general operation of a site, and addresses applicable sections of the Quality and Environmental System Manual, quality and environmental system procedures, and operating procedures and process instructions.

Surveillance Audit. An audit that addresses specific areas within the operation at a site, and addresses selected sections of the Quality and Environmental System Manual, quality and environmental system procedures, and operating procedures and process instructions.

Audit Checklist. A listing of specific items within a given area that are to be audited.

Audit Report/Checklist. A combination of audit report and associated checklist.

Component. Parts/members of a product or system formed from material.

Finding. A statement of fact supported by objective evidence about a process whose performance characteristics meet the definition of non-conformance or observation.

Manufacturing Process. The process is the steps that one takes to produce (manufacture) a product.

Manufacturing System. The system is bigger than the manufacturing process, since it considers all of the factors that affect the process. This includes control of the process inputs, process controlling factors (such as competency of personnel, procedures, facilities and equipment, training, etc.) process outputs and measurements of quality, process and product for continual improvement, etc.

Material. Goods used that will require further forming or manufacturing before becoming a new component or product.

Non-conformance. Non-fulfillment of a specified requirement.

Observation. A detected weakness that, if not corrected, may result in the degradation of product or service quality or potential negative impact of the environment.

Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). The OEM is the person or legal entity that has the legal or patent rights to produce the material, component, product or system.

Product. Result of the manufacturing process.

Production Testing. This is the destructive and nondestructive testing of the materials and components used in the manufacture of a product and its final testing that is recorded in Unit Certification. The waiving of witnessed testing during production testing may only be allowed as defined in 1-1-A2/3 “Limitations” and 1-1-A2/5.5 “Product Quality Assurance Certification”.

Prototype Testing. This is the destructive and nondestructive testing of the materials and components presented for evaluation of the original design of a product. If a Surveyor’s witness is required, this may not be waived under any section of this Guide, unless it is done by a recognized third party.

Recognized Third Party. Is a member of the International Association of Classification Societies, a Flag Administration, a Nationally Certified testing Laboratories and others who may be presented to the Bureau for special consideration.

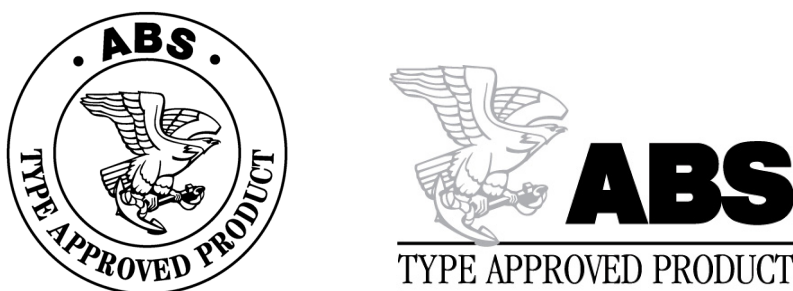
Type Testing. This is the destructive and nondestructive testing of the materials and components of the first article of a product manufactured. If a Surveyor’s witness is required, this may not be waived under any section of the Rules.

9.7.7 The Terms and Conditions for use of ABS Type Approved Product Logo

When a product is eligible for a Confirmation of Type Approval (1-1-A2/5.3.4), the Type Approved Product Logo may also be used with the understanding that it is copyrighted and its use must be controlled as follows:

- i) Any advertisement or other use of the logo is to be presented to the Manager of ABS Programs for review prior to use
- ii) The logo may only be used on correspondence, advertising and promotional material and must not be used except in connection with those goods or services described in the scope and conditions of the Product Design Assessment Certificate.
- iii) The logo may be used only on those materials (i.e., Internet site, letterhead, marketing literature, advertising, invoice stock forms, packaging, etc.) relating to the particular facility and process/product lines included within the Confirmation of Type Approval.
- iv) The logo may not, under any circumstances, be used directly on or closely associated with products in such a way as to imply that the products themselves are “Unit – certified” by the Bureau.
- v) If used with other logos, the Bureau may ask that the manufacturer discontinue any use of other logos that are unacceptable to the Bureau and any form of statement that, in the opinion of the Bureau, might be misleading.
- vi) Upon the termination of certification, for whatever reason, the manufacturer must undertake to immediately discontinue all use of the logo and to destroy all stocks of material on which they appear.
- vii) When advertising the product as ABS Type Approved, the manufacturer’s name, if different from the parent company, is to be used in conjunction with this logo. Any use should be specific to the process/product line covered and not represented as a blanket approval of the company.
- viii) The logo may be scaled uniformly to any size necessary. The color of the logo shall be either black or blue (reflex blue or PMS 294 blue).
- ix) Logos are available by e-mail from type_approval@eagle.org.

See the ABS Type Approved Product Logo as follows:



See the *ABS Type Approval Program* in Appendix 1-1-A2.

11 Novel Features

Offshore units or structures which contain novel features of design with respect to buoyancy, elevating arrangements, structural arrangements, machinery, equipment, etc. to which these Rules or Guides are not directly applicable, may be classed when approved by the Committee on the basis that these Rules or Guides, insofar as applicable, have been complied with and that special consideration has been given to the novel features, based on the best information available at the time.

13 Risk Evaluations for Alternative Arrangements and Novel Features

Risk evaluations for the justification of alternative arrangements or novel features may be applicable either to the offshore unit or structure as a whole, or to individual systems, subsystems, equipment, or components. The Bureau will consider the application of risk evaluations for alternative arrangements and novel features in the design, verification Surveys during construction, and Surveys for Maintenance of Class.

When applied, risk assessment techniques should demonstrate that alternatives and novel features provide acceptable levels of safety in line with current offshore and marine industry practice. The *ABS Guide for Risk Evaluations for the Classification of Marine-Related Facilities* provides guidance to Bureau clients on how to prepare a risk evaluation to demonstrate equivalency or acceptability for a proposed design.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION **5 Other Regulations**

1 Governmental and Other Regulations

While these Rules cover the requirements for the classification of new offshore units or structures, the attention of Owners, builders, and designers is directed to the regulations of international, governmental, canal and other authorities dealing with requirements in addition to or over and above the classification requirements, including stability, structural, machinery and electrical features, particularly in hazardous areas where gas may be present or accumulate. Other considerations may include the arrangement and extent of watertight bulkheads and decks, fire-retarding bulkheads, the acceptability of watertight doors, ventilation systems, lifesaving appliances and means of escape.

3 Other International Conventions or Codes (1994)

Where authorized by the Administration of a country signatory thereto and upon request of the Owners of a classed offshore units or structures, or one intended to be classed, the Bureau will survey a new or existing offshore unit or structure for compliance with the provisions of International Conventions and Codes, including the following, and certify thereto in the manner prescribed in the Convention or Code.

- Code for the Construction and Equipment Of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1989. (1989 MODU Code) International Convention on Load Lines, 1966.
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.
- International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution for Ships, 1973/78, as amended.
- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1979 (1979 MODU Code)

5 Governmental Regulations (1 November 2004)

Where authorized by a government agency and upon request of the Owners of a classed offshore unit or structure or one intended to be classed, the Bureau will survey and certify a new or existing offshore unit or structure for compliance with particular regulations of that government on their behalf.

All work performed on behalf of governments shall be governed by the terms and conditions of these Rules unless the government specifies otherwise.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION **6 IACS Audit (1995)**

The International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) conducts audits of processes followed by all of its member societies to assess the degree of compliance with the IACS Quality System Certification Scheme requirements. For this purpose, auditors from IACS may accompany Bureau personnel at any stage of the classification or statutory work which may necessitate the auditors having access to the offshore unit or structure, or access to the premises of the manufacturer or shipbuilder.

In such instances, prior authorization for the auditor's access will be sought by the local Bureau office.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 **Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION 7 **Plans and Design Data to be Submitted**

1 Hull and Design Data (1992)

Plans showing the scantlings, arrangements and details of the principal parts of the structure of each offshore unit or structure to be built under survey are to be submitted for review and approved before the work of construction are commenced. These plans are to clearly indicate the scantlings, joint details and welding, or other methods of connection as described in the relevant Rules or Guide are to be submitted and approved before proceeding with the work.

3 Machinery Plans

Plans showing the arrangements and details of all propulsion and auxiliary machinery, steering gear, boilers and pressure vessels, electrical systems, jacking or other self-elevating systems, bilge and ballast systems, fire extinguishing systems, and other pumps and piping systems as described in the relevant Rules or Guide are to be submitted and approved before proceeding with the work.

5 Additional Plans

Where certification under the other regulation described in Section 1-1-5 is requested, submission of additional plans and calculations may be required.

7 Submissions

Plans from designers and builders are generally to be submitted in triplicate, one copy to be returned to those making submission, one copy for the use of Surveyor where the unit is being built and one copy to be retained in the Technical office for records.

Manufacturer's plans are to be submitted in quadruplicate where construction is to be carried out at a plant other than that of the builder.

Additional copies may be required when the required attendance of the Surveyor is anticipated at more than one location.

Alternatively, electronic submission of plans is also available. The Technical office should be contacted for details.

All plan submissions originating from manufacturers are understood to have been made with the cognizance of the builder.

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION **8 Conditions for Surveys After Construction**

1 Damage, Failure and Repair *(1 January 1996)*

1.1 Examination and Repair

Damage, failure, deterioration or repair to the hull, legs, columns or other structures, machinery or equipment of a offshore unit or structure, which affects or may affect classification, is to be submitted by the Owners or their representatives for examination by a Surveyor at first opportunity. All repairs found necessary by the Surveyor are to be carried out to the Surveyor's satisfaction.

1.3 Repairs

Where repairs to the hull, legs, columns or other structures, machinery or equipment of offshore unit or structure, which affect or may affect classification, are planned in advance to be carried out, a complete repair procedure, including the extent of proposed repair and the need for Surveyor's attendance, is to be submitted to and agreed upon by the Bureau reasonably in advance. Failure to notify the Bureau in advance of the repairs may result in suspension of the offshore unit or structure's classification until such time as the repair is redone or evidence submitted to satisfy the Surveyor that the repair was properly carried out.

Note: The above applies also to repairs during voyage or on site.

The above is not intended to include maintenance and overhaul to hull, other structures, machinery and equipment in accordance with the recommended manufacturer's procedures and established marine and offshore practice and which does not require Bureau approval. However, any repair as a result of such maintenance and overhauls which affects or may affect classification is to be noted in the unit's log and submitted to the Surveyor, as required by 1-1-8/1.1

1.5 Representation

Nothing contained in this Section or in a rule or regulation of any government or other administration, or the issuance of any report or certificate pursuant to this Section or such a rule or regulation, is to be deemed to enlarge upon the representations expressed in 1-1-1/1 through 1-1-1/7 hereof and the issuance and use of any such reports or certificates are to be governed in all respects by 1-1-1/1 through 1-1-1/7 thereof.

3 Notification and Availability for Survey (1 November 2004)

The Surveyors are to have access to classed offshore units or structures at all reasonable times. For the purpose of Surveyor Monitoring, monitoring Surveyors shall also have access to classed offshore units or structures at all reasonable times. Such access may include attendance at the same time as the assigned Surveyor or during a subsequent visit without the assigned Surveyor. Auditors from the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) or flag administration shall also be granted access when requested by the Bureau and accompanied by Bureau personnel. The Owners or their representatives are to notify the Surveyors on all occasions when a offshore unit or structure can be examined in dry dock or on a slipway; parts of pipelines or risers not ordinarily accessible are to be examined.

The Surveyors are to undertake, with adequate notification, all surveys on classed offshore units or structures upon request of the Owners or their representatives and are to report thereon to the Committee. Should the Surveyors find occasion during any survey, to recommend repairs or further examination, notification is to be given immediately to the Owners or their representatives in order that appropriate action may be taken. The Surveyors are to avail themselves for every convenient opportunity for carrying out periodical surveys in conjunction with surveys of damages and repairs in order to avoid duplication of work.

The Owners or their representatives are responsible for establishing and maintaining safe working conditions in accordance with applicable safety standards and for providing Surveyors with safe access to sites and assistance during construction, repairs, testing and trials. Surveyors shall comply with Owner's safety procedures to the extent such procedures are communicated to them. If the Surveyors feel the proposed working conditions are unsafe they may refuse to attend the work site.

5 Attendance at Port State Request (1 January 1996)

It is recognized that Port State authorities legally may have access to a offshore unit or structure. In cooperation with Port States, Bureau Surveyors will attend onboard a classed offshore unit or structure when so requested by a Port State and upon concurrence by the offshore unit or structure's master will carry out a survey in order to facilitate the rectification of reported deficiencies or other discrepancies that affect or may affect classification. Bureau Surveyors will also cooperate with Port States by providing inspectors with background information, if requested. Such information includes text of conditions of class, survey due dates and certificate expiration dates.

Where appropriate, the offshore unit or structure's flag state will be notified of such attendance and survey.

7 Safety Management System (2003)

It is recognized that a Safety Management System is a positive mechanism for managing maintenance of compliance with classification requirements on vessels subject to compliance with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, as defined in SOLAS IX/1.1. If during any survey the attending Bureau Surveyor finds evidence that the required safety management system is not in operation or functioning as required by the Code, this will be communicated to the relevant flag administration or the organization which issued the safety management certificate on behalf of the flag administration for their consideration and action.

PART

1

CHAPTER

1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

SECTION

9 Fees

Fees in accordance with normal Bureau practice will be charged for all services rendered by the Bureau. Expenses incurred by the Bureau in connection with these services will be charged in addition to the fees. Fees and expenses will be billed to the party requesting that particular service.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of Classification**

SECTION **10 Disagreement**

1 Rules

Any disagreement regarding either the proper interpretation of the Rules or translation of the Rules from the English language edition is to be referred to the Bureau for resolution.

3 Surveyors

In case of disagreement between the Owners or builders and the Surveyors regarding the material, workmanship, extent of repairs or application of the Rules relating to any unit classed or proposed to be classed by this Bureau, an appeal may be made in writing to the Committee, who will order a special survey to be held. Should the opinion of the Surveyor be confirmed, the expense of this special survey is to be paid by the party appealing.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER

1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

SECTION

11 Limitation of Liability *(1 November 2004)*

The combined liability of American Bureau of Shipping, its committees, officers, employees, agents or subcontractors for any loss, claim or damage arising from its negligent performance or nonperformance of any of its services or from breach of any implied or express warranty of workmanlike performance in connection with those services, or from any other reason, to any person, corporation, partnership, business entity, sovereign, country or nation, will be limited to the greater of a) \$100,000 or b) an amount equal to ten times the sum actually paid for the services alleged to be deficient.

The limitation of liability may be increased up to an amount twenty-five times that sum paid for services upon receipt of Client's written request at or before the time of performance of services and upon payment by Client of an additional fee of \$10.00 for every \$1,000.00 increase in the limitation.

Under no circumstances shall American Bureau of Shipping be liable for indirect or consequential loss or damage (including, but without limitation, loss of profit, loss of contract, or loss of use) suffered by any person as a result of any failure by the Bureau in the performance of its obligations under these Rules. Under no circumstances whatsoever shall any individual who may have personally caused the loss, damage or expense be held personally liable.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER

1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

SECTION

12 Hold Harmless *(1 November 2004)*

The party requesting services hereunder, or his assignee or successor in interest, agrees to release the Bureau and to indemnify and hold harmless the Bureau from and against any and all claims, demands, lawsuits or actions for damages, including legal fees, to persons and/or property, tangible, intangible or otherwise which may be brought against the Bureau incidental to, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, the work to be done, services to be performed or material to be furnished hereunder, except for those claims caused solely and completely by the negligence of the Bureau, its agents, employees, officers, directors or subcontractors. The parties agree that for the purposes of the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, the Bureau is a person for whose acts the shipowner is responsible.

Any other individual, corporation, partnership or other entity who is a party hereto or who in any way participates in, is engaged in connection with or is a beneficiary of, any portion of the services described herein shall also release the Bureau and shall indemnify and hold the Bureau harmless from and against all claims, demands, lawsuits or actions for damages, including legal fees, to persons and/or property, tangible, intangible or otherwise, which may be brought against the Bureau by any person or entity as a result of the services performed pursuant to this Agreement, except for those claims caused solely and completely by the negligence of the Bureau, its agents, employees, officers, directors or subcontractors.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of
Classification**

SECTION **13 Time Bar to Legal Action**
(1 November 2004)

Any statutes of limitation notwithstanding, Owner's right to bring or to assert against the Bureau any and all claims, demands or proceedings whether in arbitration or otherwise shall be waived unless (a) notice is received by the Bureau within ninety (90) days after Owner had notice of or should reasonably have been expected to have had notice of the basis for such claims; and (b) arbitration or legal proceedings, if any, based on such claims or demands of whatever nature are commenced within one (1) year of the date of such notice to the Bureau.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER

**1 Scope and Conditions of
Classification**

SECTION

14 Arbitration *(1 November 2004)*

Any and all differences and disputes of whatsoever nature arising out of services under these Rules shall be put to arbitration in the City of New York pursuant to the laws relating to arbitration there in force, before a board of three persons, consisting of one arbitrator to be appointed by the Bureau, one by the Client, and one by the two so chosen. The decision of any two of the three on any point or points shall be final. Until such time as the arbitrators finally close the hearings either party shall have the right by written notice served on the arbitrators and on an officer of the other party to specify further disputes or differences under these Rules for hearing and determination. The arbitration is to be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Society of Maritime Arbitrators, Inc. in the English language. The governing law shall be the law of the State of New York, U.S.A. The arbitrators may grant any relief other than punitive damages which they, or a majority of them, deem within the scope of the agreement of the parties, including, but not limited to, specific performance. Awards made in pursuance to this clause may include costs including a reasonable allowance for attorney's fees and judgment may be entered upon any award made hereunder in any court having jurisdiction.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER **1 Scope and Conditions of
Classification**

APPENDIX **1 Classification Symbols and
Notations**

The listing of Classification Symbols and Notations previously contained in this Appendix may be viewed and downloaded from the Bureau website “<http://www.eagle.org/absdownloads/index.cfm>”.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

PART

1

CHAPTER 1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

APPENDIX 2 ABS Type Approval Program

1 General (2003)

When Type Approval is desired, applicants are required to submit a signed Request for Product Type Approval, identifying all adopted standards by the year of their last issuance. The Type Approval Program is made up of two components, Design Assessment and Manufacturing Assessment:

Design Assessment, which is approval of the product design, consists of:

- i) Design evaluation, and
- ii) Survey and/or testing of a prototype or a production unit (as appropriate)

Manufacturing Assessment, which is approval of the manufacturer, consists of:

- i) *Management Assessment.* Evaluating the quality assurance and quality control system of the manufacturing facilities in order to assess and verify their capability to meet the manufacturer's specified level of product quality consistently and satisfy the requirements of the Rules, as applicable. Three categories of quality assurance and quality control are in the Program:
 - Acceptable Quality System (AQS) is a system in substantial agreement with a standard such as ISO 9000 series or equivalent and found acceptable by the Bureau.
 - Recognized Quality Standard (RQS) is a system that is in compliance with a recognized standard at least to ISO 9000 series or equivalent and so certified by a recognized certification body.
 - Product Quality Assurance (PQA) is a system meeting the requirements for RQS and having additional approved procedures to carry out tests and surveys as required by the Rules.
- ii) *Production Assessment.* Evaluating the product specific manufacturing process of the manufacturer in order to assess and verify that manufacture and inspections of the products are established to provide the manufacturer's specified level of quality control, and to satisfy the requirements of the Rules.

The Design Assessment portion of the Type Approval Program may be applied individually for products submitted without a Request for Product Type Approval. It is normally to be done with a signed Request for Type Approval, and in conjunction with the Manufacturing Assessment portion of the Type Approval Program. The application of the Manufacturing Assessment portion can be done only in conjunction with Design Assessment. When a manufacturer has already been granted Manufacturing Assessment, further submittals of new products or drawing updates do not need to be accompanied by a new request for Type Approval.

The purposes of the Type Approval Program are:

- i) To avoid repeated evaluation of identical designs,
- ii) To allow acceptance of the product based on periodic surveillance of the manufacturer's quality assurance program and, where applicable, selective inspection and tests in lieu of surveying and testing individual units at the manufacturer's facility, (see 1-1-A2/5.3 and 1-1-A2/5.5) and
- iii) To maintain a list of these approvals on the Bureau website so that the information can be made available to the industry.

3 Limitations (2003)

The application of the Type Approval Program to a specific product is at the discretion of the Bureau. Those products that may not be type approved under The Type Approval Program are identified in the appropriate Sections of the Rules. For reference purposes, Tables 1 through 6 of Part 4, Chapter 1, Section 1 of the *Steel Vessel Rules* contain examples of the limitations of the program for machinery and equipment.

Products for which the Rules require witnessed testing by a Surveyor as part of their certification for use on a vessel, MODU, or facility classed by the Bureau will require witnessed testing where the option for Acceptable Quality System (AQS) or Recognized Quality Standard (RQS) system is exercised. Where Product Quality Assurance Certificate (PQA) is granted, witnessed testing during the manufacture of the product, which otherwise would be required by the Rules, may be waived at the discretion of the Surveyor in Charge.

Where the product is manufactured to an Administration standard, any request to waive witnessed testing must be approved by the Administration.

5 Process (2003)

The process of the Type Approval Program is shown schematically in 1-1-A2/Figure 1. Each step in the process will be described in the following.

5.1 Design Assessment (DA) (2003)

5.1.1 Design Evaluation (2005)

Plans showing details of construction, and documentation such as product specifications, performance data, standard of compliance, engineering analyses, etc., as applicable, are to be submitted for review. The design review must first show compliance with applicable requirements of the Rules or an alternative standard as may be permitted by the Rules, prior to further consideration for ABS Type Approval. Products for which there are no specific standards in the Rules may be evaluated based on applicable industry standards or, in the absence of applicable Rules or industry criteria, the manufacturer's standard or specifications and/or engineering analyses. The basis of design evaluation will be stated in the Bureau's documentation concerning the product. The design assessment is intended to fulfill the requirements of the first element of the Type Approval Program, as described in 1-1-A2/1. It is the first step in determining that, provided that all other Rule requirements are complied with and subject to completion of manufacture and testing to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor, the product may be used onboard an offshore unit or structure classed by the Bureau.

5.1.2 Survey and/or Testing of Prototype or Production Units

Where applicable, and as deemed necessary for the evaluation process, the manufacturer is to carry out performance, nondestructive, destructive, environmental, or other tests on the product as may be specified in the Rules, in the applicable standard, or in the manufacturer's specifications in the presence of a Surveyor. If the required testing has been or is done in a recognized independent testing facility that is acceptable to the Bureau, consideration will be given to acceptance of test results obtained without a Surveyor present. Each Bureau Technical Office will maintain a list of recognized testing facilities.

5.1.3 Design Assessment Certificate

Products evaluated in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.1.1 and 1-1-A2/5.1.2 and found to be in conformance with the applicable provisions of the Rules, standards, or specifications will be issued a Design Assessment Certificate. Designs so approved will be eligible for listing on the Bureau's website under the Design Approved Products (PDA) index. They will remain in this index until a Manufacturing Assessment Certificate (MA) is issued at which point the listing will be relocated to the Type Approved Product (PTA) index with the MA certificate data added.

Design Assessment Certificate, by itself, does not reflect that the product is type approved. For that purpose, manufacturing assessment is to be carried out in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.3 or 1-1-A2/5.5.

5.1.4 Product Design Assessment, Limited (2005)

When a Product Design Assessment Certificate expires or is superseded by a Rule or specification change, the option of maintaining the listing in the category of Product Design Assessment, Limited (PDA Ltd.) is available. There will be two categories in this PDA Ltd:

- i) A product that has expired is pending renewal and requires technical revalidation prior to being used. The term of validity will be one year from the date of expiration of the PDA.
- ii) A product that will be listed as in compliance with a previous Rule and remains valid only for vessels, MODUs, or facilities contracted on or before the effective date of the Rule. The effective date will be included in the service restrictions of the product. The term of validity will be five years subject to continued compliance with the applicable Rule.

5.3 Manufacturing Assessment (MA) (2003)

5.3.1 Quality Assurance Standard

5.3.1(a) Acceptable Quality Standard (AQS). The manufacturer is to have in place an effective quality assurance system that will be evaluated by Surveyors for essential compliance with a recognized quality standard, such as the ISO 9000 series, or equivalent. The system, as implemented, is to be acceptable to the Bureau. The evaluation will involve initial, annual and renewal audits of the quality system, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable quality assurance standard. Where considered necessary by the attending Surveyor, more frequent surveillance may be required to maintain the certification.

5.3.1(b) Recognized Quality Standard (RQS). The requirements are the same as those for AQS except that the manufacturer is to have in place an effective quality assurance system certified by an internationally recognized certification body as complying with a recognized quality standard at least equivalent to the ISO 9000 series. Such certification is to be valid at least during the validity of Manufacturing Assessment Certificate. In addition, the system as implemented by the manufacturer is to be acceptable to the Bureau. For that purpose, a confirmatory evaluation will be conducted by the Surveyor, which will involve initial, annual and renewal audits of the quality system, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable quality assurance standard. Where considered necessary by the attending Surveyor, more frequent surveillance may be required to maintain the certification.

5.3.1(c) *Quality Manual*. The manufacturer is to maintain a quality manual as may be required by the standard. Where a recognized certification body has approved the Quality Manual, the Bureau will not require them to be submitted for the Bureau's approval.

5.3.2 Quality Control

Typical quality plans describing methods of assuring and controlling quality during production as may be required by the product specifications or standard will be subject to evaluation by the Bureau. In particular, quality plans are to reflect specific surveys, tests, etc. wherever required by the Rules. The manufacturer is to present a sample or specimen of the product, representative of the "type" to be approved, to the Surveyor for the purpose of verifying that the "type" has been manufactured in conformance with the design documents.

5.3.3 Manufacturing Assessment Certificate (MA)

Manufacturing facilities that are successfully audited in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.3.1 and 1-1-A2/5.3.2 and are found to:

- i) Have undergone a satisfactory product design evaluation, and
- ii) Comply with a quality assurance standard, and
- iii) Have manufacturing quality control that meets the applicable provisions of the Rules, or of the applicable product standard, or the manufacturer's specifications,

will be issued a Manufacturing Assessment Certificate (MA) by the attending Surveyors. Manufacturers so assessed will be eligible for listing on the Bureau's website under the Type Approved Product (PTA) index together with the PDA Certificate data, as appropriate.

5.3.4 Confirmation of Type Approval (CTA) (2005)

Those products with both a valid Design Assessment Certificate (1-1-A2/5.1.3) and a valid Manufacturing Assessment Certificate (1-1-A2/5.3.3) are eligible for a Confirmation of Type Approval. This certificate may be printed from the Bureau website only when all parts of the Type Approval Program remain current. (See also 1-1-A2/5.7.3) The Confirmation of Type Approval represents the information recorded by the Bureau on the product as of the date and time the certificate is printed.

5.5 Product Quality Assurance Certification (PQA) (2005)

Quality Assurance Certificate (PQA) will be issued to a manufacturer who has requested that Rule-required surveys and tests be conducted without a Bureau Surveyor in attendance. For that purpose, the manufacturer is to meet the requirements for Type Approval as described in 1-1-A2/5.3.1(b) and, in addition, is to have a quality assurance system in operation that is at least as effective as the Surveyor's attendance at those surveys and tests. The scope of manufacturing assessment will be expanded to include a confirmatory evaluation, including at least initial, semi-annual, annual, and renewal audits of the quality system, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable quality assurance standard and ABS own criteria. When requested by the manufacturer, consideration will be given to crediting a semi-annual audit based on a Surveyor's recommendation after attendance for Unit Certification or a surveillance visit on or about the due date of the semi-annual audit. The semi-annual audit will have a window of 30 days before and 30 days after the midpoint between annual audits.

The issuance of a Product Quality Assurance Certificate is contingent upon the recommendation by the attending Surveyor, seconded by the Surveyor in Charge and final approval by the Manager of the Type Approval Program. During the manufacture of the product, the Product Quality Assurance certification will provide an alternative to the requirements for witnessed testing by a Surveyor. This is not a relaxation of the Rule requirement for production testing, but rather allows such testing to be conducted without a Surveyor being present.

Where conditions justify the need for increased surveillance, the PQA does not preclude the Surveyor in Charge from expanding the scope of surveillance. Where the situation (e.g., frequency of ABS Unit Certification, batch test results, etc.) warrants such action, the Bureau may require a closer interval of surveillance surveys. In such instances, the requirement for a renewal audit will be specially considered. See 1-1-A2/5.7.4. The Bureau also reserves the right to conduct unscheduled surveillance surveys.

Manufacturers receiving a Product Quality Assurance Certificate will be distinguished on the Bureau's website by an added notation (PQA).

5.7 Certificates (2003)

5.7.1 Unit-Certification

When a Type Approved Product is proposed for use onboard a vessel, MODU, or facility, it is to comply with all applicable requirements in the Rules, including 1-1-A2/5.7.3 hereunder. Where required by the ABS Rules, Unit Certification is also to be completed as follows:

5.7.1(a) Products Covered by Product Quality Assurance (1-1-A2/5.5). Products requiring unit-certification for use on a vessel, MODU, or facility classed with the Bureau will be unit-certified by the Bureau office having jurisdiction over the manufacturer. The manufacturer will be responsible to advise the Bureau office of deliveries of products and to supply the Bureau office with all documentation required for unit-certification of the product.

5.7.1(b) Products Covered by Manufacturing Assessment (1-1-A2/5.3). Where the Rules require attendance of the Bureau Surveyor during any stage of manufacturing, including but not limited to any testing, the unit certification will be issued by the attending Surveyor upon completion of all required surveys and tests. Where the attendance of the Surveyor is not required by the Rules, no unit certification is required.

At the discretion of the Surveyor, a unit-certification of this category may be credited to the annual audit, when conducted on or about its due date.

5.7.2 Issuance and Updating of Certificates

5.7.2(a) Issuance of Certificates. The certificates indicated in 1-1-A2/5.1.3, 1-1-A2/5.3.3 and 1-1-A2/5.5 will be issued initially for five years.

These certificates are renewable for another five-year period (from the expiry date of the previous certificate), subject to assessment of design and manufacturing in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.7.4. Failure for renewal of the manufacturing assessment certificate will cause invalidation of type approval certification at the end of the five-year period. Where for a practical reason the renewal process of any certificate cannot be completed before expiry of the five-year period, a short-term extension may be considered upon application. When the certificate is renewed within 90 days of its expiration date, the new certificate is to be valid from the expiration of the previous certificate.

These certificates will be updated in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.7.2(b) or 1-1-A2/5.7.2(c) where the design, Rules or Regulations used for certification is changed during the five years period. The updated certificate will be issued for five years from the date of the updating.

In addition, the following requirements will apply.

5.7.2(b) Changes to Design, Procedures and Regulations other than ABS Rules. At any time, where there is a change in the design, procedures or the applicable standards (other than ABS Rules), as listed in 1-1-A2/5.9 i) through iv), the manufacturer is to endeavor to notify the Bureau of those changes with an application either for incorporation of the change for record purposes, or for re-assessment of the product, procedures and/or regulations, as the case may be. Failure to notify the Bureau about those changes may invalidate the certificate.

Where a specific implementation date is indicated in the change(s) to the Regulation adopted for the product, the certification will become invalid effective on the implementation date of the new regulation or the end of the five year period whichever comes first, unless the product is found or placed in compliance with the new requirement as a result of reassessment.

5.7.2(c) Changes to ABS Rules. The foregoing requirements on changes to other regulations will generally apply to the changes to ABS Rules shown on the Design Assessment Certificate. In this case, the Bureau is to endeavor to notify the manufacturer of the Rule changes, to call the attention of the manufacturer to the need for reassessment of the product design and manufacture and eventual updating as may be found necessary.

The listing on the Bureau website will be replaced by the new listing upon completion of the updating, which is to be effected within the five year period shown on the certificate.

Where a retroactive application of the change(s) to ABS Rules is required and their implementation date is specified, the certification will become invalid effective on the specified implementation date or the end of the five year period whichever comes first, unless the product is found or placed in compliance with the new requirement as a result of reassessment.

5.7.2(d) Website Entry. When the Product Type Approval becomes invalid due to overdue manufacturing audits, the products on the Bureau website will be relocated from the PTA index to the PDA index provided that the design assessment certification is still valid.

When the design assessment certification is withdrawn or expired, all related entries on the Bureau website will be deleted at that point.

5.7.3 Acceptability of Type Approved Products

Unless a specific implementation date is indicated in the adopted Regulation [see 1-1-A2/5.7.2(b)] or a retroactive application of the Rule change is required [see 1-1-A2/5.7.2(c)], a type approved product may be accepted for use on a vessel, MODU, or facility classed or to be classed with the Bureau provided its type approval is valid at the time of the new construction contract of the vessel, MODU, or facility.

If the implementation of change to Rules or Regulation is based on the keel laying date, then a type approved product with type approval valid at the time of keel laying of the vessel, MODU, or facility will be acceptable.

5.7.4 Renewal

For renewal of certificates, the manufacturer is to inform the Bureau of any change to the product design, and the following are to be conducted, as appropriate:

- i)* Re-evaluate the product design in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.1, to update and verify if there is a design or specification change or a change to the applicable Rules or standards; and
- ii)* Re-audit the quality plan in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.3.2 or 1-1-A2/5.5; and
- iii)* Verify by survey that a valid quality assurance system has been maintained in accordance with 1-1-A2/5.3.1 or 1-1-A2/5.5.

Where the manufacturer is on semi-annual or closer audit, the renewal audit for Manufacturing Assessment Certificate may be specially considered.

5.7.5 Overdue Audit

When a periodic (renewal, annual or closer) audit is not completed within 90 days after the anniversary date of the Manufacturing Assessment Certificate (for renewal or annual audit) or within 90 days after the due date (where a closer interval is specified), the entry in the Bureau website will be relocated from the PTA index to the PDA index if the PDA is still valid and, therefore, the Confirmation of Type Approval is deemed suspended.

5.9 Suspension of Certification

ABS Type Approval is controlled by the terms within the Request for Product Type Approval. Any changes to the product or its manufacturing procedures are to be monitored by the manufacturer and substantial changes are to be submitted to the Bureau for evaluation. Unless the change is submitted to the Bureau for a new evaluation and audit, any of the following will cause immediate suspension of either the Certificate of Design Assessment or the Certificate of Manufacturing Assessment.

- i)* Redesign of the product or products covered by the certificate;
- ii)* Change in production methods;
- iii)* Substantial change in management organization;
- iv)* Substantial change in frequency or curriculum for personnel training;
- v)* Refusing access to Bureau personnel for periodic or renewal audits;
- vi)* Failure to correct a non-compliance identified in service or during an audit;
- vii)* Failure to pay ABS fees.

FIGURE 1
Process of the Type Approval Program (2003)

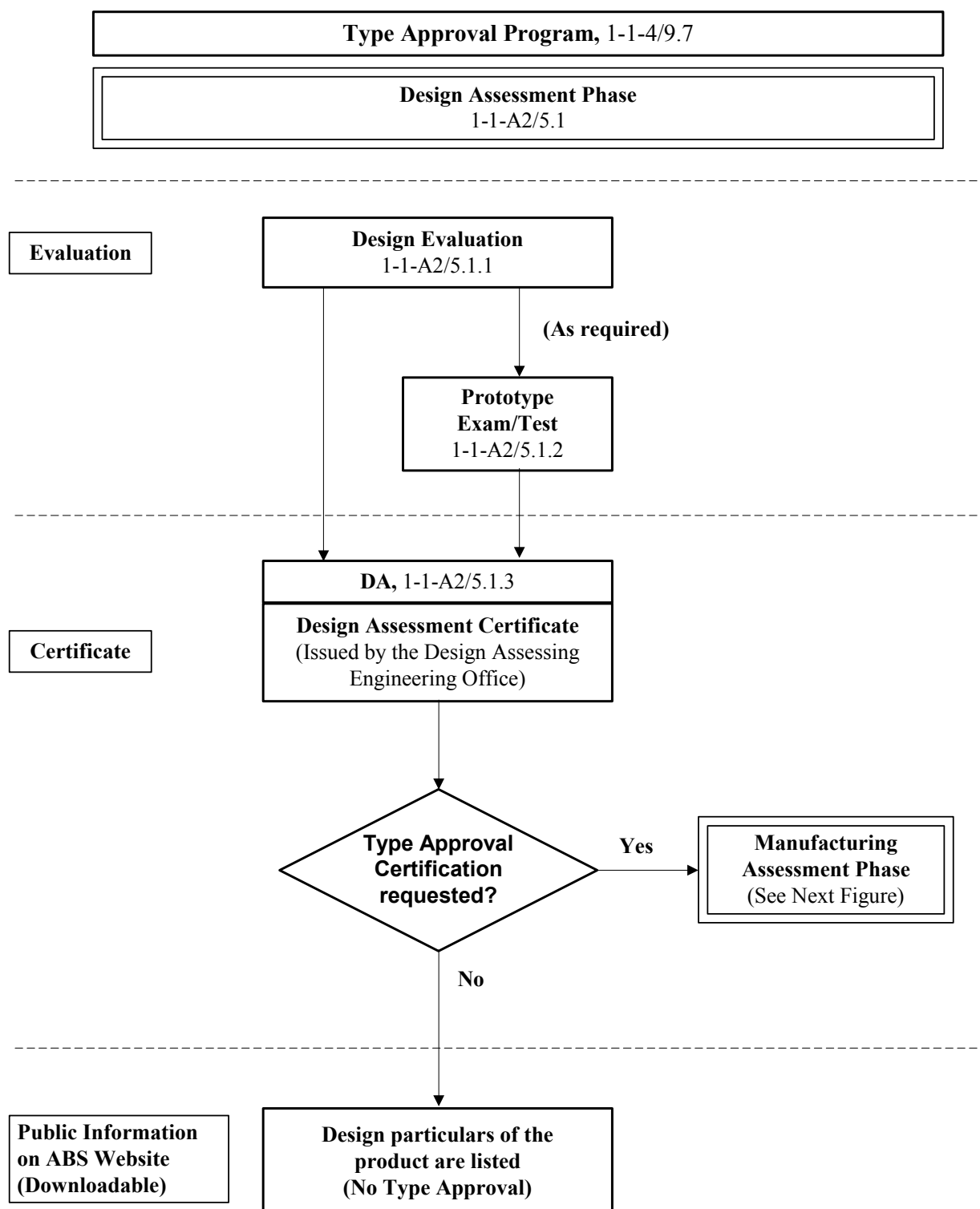
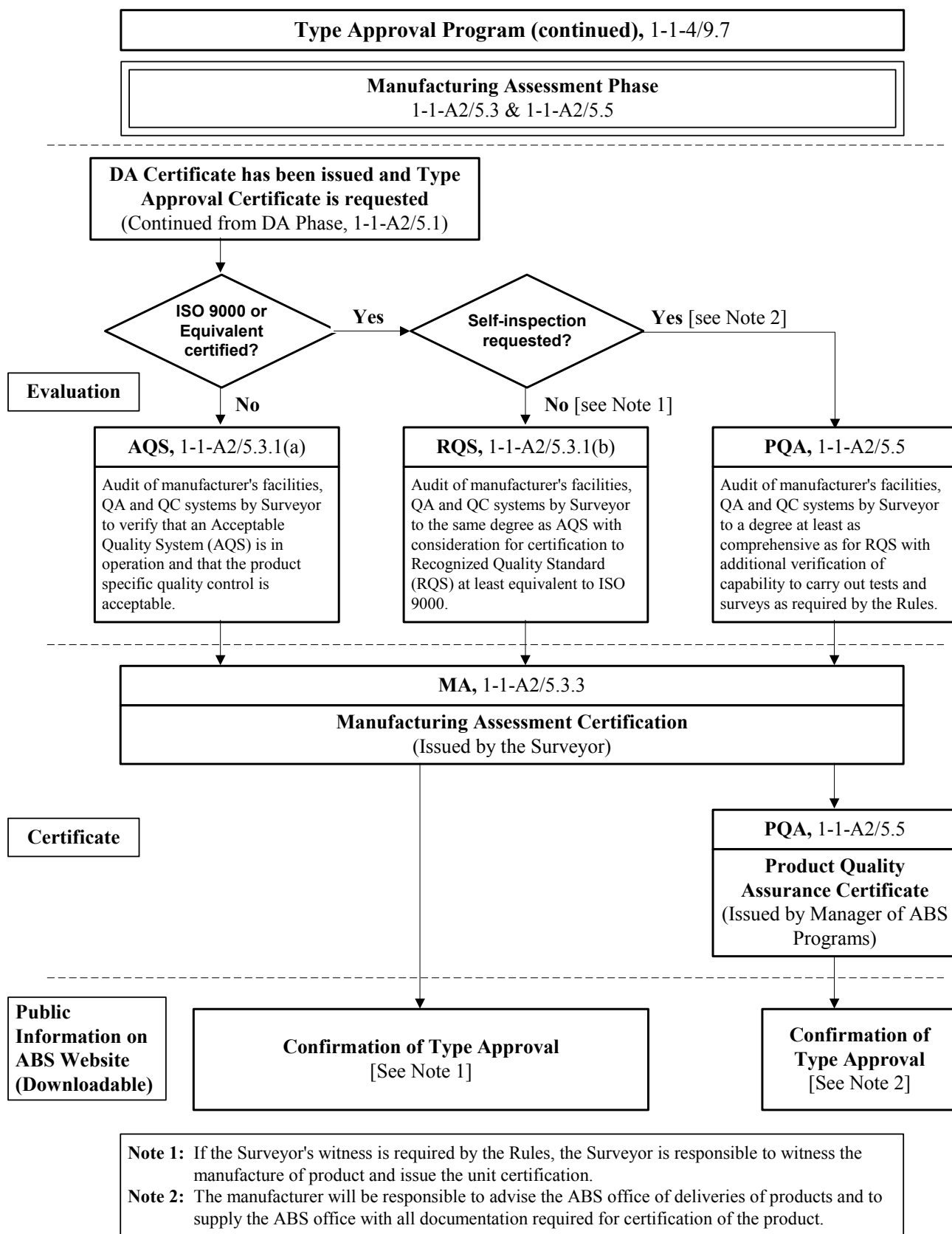


FIGURE 1 (continued)
Process of the Type Approval Program (2003)



This Page Intentionally Left Blank