

GATHERING VESSEL INFORMATION

For acceptance into ABS class, the owner of an existing IACS-classed ship will be asked to submit key hull, machinery, outfitting and automation plans and/or data in accordance with IACS Procedural Requirement PR1A, Section A, "Procedure for Transfer of Class".

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The IACS TOC procedure requires that the "losing" class society be notified within two working days of the official receipt of a written request from the owner indicating their intention to transfer the vessel's class. As part of this agreement and for future ABS technical support, a package of plans and data are to be sent to ABS. Any remaining drawings that the owners cannot furnish may be obtained from the "losing" class society in accordance with the IACS TOC procedure, provided the owner gives ABS specific authorization to do so.

SURVEY REQUIREMENTS:

Any surveys or outstanding recommendations that are either due or overdue with the current society must be dealt with at the time of the Transfer of Class. Once the official survey status for each vessel has been received from the losing society, the ABS Survey Department will issue the final survey requirements.

NOTE: Per IACS and ABS policies, a Preliminary Condition Survey is required for any vessel over 15 years of age. The survey requirements for these vessels will be determined by the ABS Survey Department, and the typical pre-condition survey is completed within 20 man-hours.

Typically, the requisite surveys to facilitate a Transfer of Class are scheduled with current survey activities to minimize cost.



TRANSFER OF CLASS FAQs

I recently bought a vessel classed with another organization. Is it difficult to change to ABS class?

Not at all. ABS receives frequent requests to transfer existing vessels that are classed with other societies. ABS has well-established, simple procedures to effect a Transfer of Class with minimal disruption to operations, at a minimal cost.

My vessel is classed with another IACS member. Will ABS accept the current survey status?

Yes. There are very clear rules that have been agreed to by all IACS members, which govern the transfer of vessels between members. The process is coordinated between the two societies so that the necessary standards are maintained. ABS will recognize surveys carried out by other IACS societies, subject to a confirmatory survey.

My vessel has never been classed. Will ABS accept it?

ABS will consider the vessel for class after a satisfactory condition survey is conducted. Since the vessel may not have been built to an ABS-recognized standard, the requirements that must be met are more extensive than those for a vessel transferring class and include a review and drawing approval against ABS Rule requirements. ABS does not typically class yachts that are less than 75 feet in length (note: special consideration could apply for certain vessels).