



# TRANSFER OF CLASS

Transferring Existing  
Vessels to ABS Class



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## ABS TRANSFER OF CLASS



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## ABS TRANSFER OF CLASS

Transferring existing vessels to ABS class from other International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) members can be a quick, simple and relatively inexpensive process. Owners are able to reap significant operational advantages by placing more of their fleet with ABS. The combined power of the maintenance management software provided by ABS Nautical Systems and the industry-leading technology embodied in the ABS Eagle Survey Manager Program offers owners analytical tools for optimizing fleet efficiencies.

### **PROMPT, RESPONSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

In addition to the basic requirements detailed in the IACS Transfer of Class (TOC) procedures, ABS has established procedures to help ease an owner through the process with minimal disruption to commercial and vessel operations.

An owner can initiate the Transfer of Class process by contacting any ABS office. A dedicated project team will manage the process, beginning with a review of the ship's current status and history, followed by the coordination of necessary arrangements for meeting the requirements. The ABS Project Team Coordinator works closely with the owner during this process and serves as the single point of contact, working to ensure a smooth transition from the class society from which the vessel is being transferred.

ABS representatives will also assist with collection of the plans and information needed by ABS to facilitate the class transfer. The Project Team Coordinator will alert the owner to any potential issues in advance of scheduling the vessel's transfer surveys.

## THE ABS ADVANTAGE

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01<br>One year enrollment in the Rapid Response Damage Assessment program | 02<br>Discounts available based on fleet volume | 03<br>Support from an established global network of surveyors and engineers | 04<br>One of the largest and most respected class societies |
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## OPTIMIZING FLEET EFFICIENCIES

Significant operational efficiencies can be gained by forging a mutually beneficial alliance between an owner and a single class society. By consolidating a fleet under ABS class, owners are able to tap into the most powerful suite of life cycle management tools available to the industry today.

When a vessel is transferred into ABS class, it automatically receives several value-added benefits, at no charge. These include:

- Access to the My Eagle web portal
- Personalized account access to the ABS Eagle Survey Manager tool
- One year enrollment in the ABS Rapid Response Damage Assessment program

This package of programs provided by ABS forms a valuable tool that will help shipowners monitor the condition of their vessels. Whether a single ship or an entire fleet, no classification society delivers a more comprehensive or responsive suite of classification services than ABS.

## CLIENT WEB PORTAL

A gateway to ABS services, the My Eagle web portal provides access to news, regulatory information, services and software designed to assist ship operators in managing their classification services. Through My Eagle, users can tap into a host of software programs, including Rule Manager, a searchable online database of ABS Rules and IMO requirements. My Eagle also provides access to the HSQE tools designed for owners to quickly identify best practices for upgrading their quality management systems or identify regulatory requirements based on specific project details.

Also available through the My Eagle web portal is the ABS Eagle Engineering Manager, which is currently used by thousands of ABS clients to manage the administration of their drawings throughout plan review. Used for both new construction and modification projects, this secure program tracks the progress of multiple drawings during the approval process, consolidating comments, generating reports and providing optional email alerts.

## SURVEY MANAGER

Through ABS Eagle Survey Manager, owners can track the survey status and history of each vessel within a fleet, request surveys online and conduct sophisticated trend analyses between sister ships or across the entire fleet.

Owners are able to select the interval for receiving messages regarding upcoming and overdue surveys, and multicolored timelines of survey due dates significantly diminish the need to view individual listings of survey items such as hull, machinery and equipment. Furthermore, the user-friendly survey planning document displays precise gauging, tank testing and close-up inspection requirements for each vessel.

Owners are able to review and download survey reports - from the complete survey status to the electronic storage of plans, gauging data and digitized damage condition photographs. Survey Manager turns data into information and information into a powerful new tool for owners to increase the operating efficiencies of their fleet. Access to ABS Eagle Survey Manager is available to operators of any ABS-classed vessel through the My Eagle web portal.



## ABS NAUTICAL SYSTEMS

For more than 30 years, ABS Nautical Systems (NS) has been developing software for the maritime industry. The NS software design, implementation approach, industry expertise and ongoing support capabilities reflect a deep history in the marine sector. NS offers powerful solutions for a complex world with fleet management solutions that meet today's challenges and grow with our clients' business.

Leveraging features and functionality from across the product and service portfolio, NS offers a number of solutions designed to meet critical operational and compliance challenges:

- NS Asset Management
- NS Compliance Management
- NS Workforce Management
- NS Insight

The NS Fleet Management solution is made up of a totally integrated suite of software modules that deliver unparalleled operational and compliance support to improve efficiency, ensure safety and drive performance:

- Hull Manager
- Maintenance Manager
- Voyage Performance Manager
- Purchasing Manager
- Drydock Manager
- Crew and Payroll Manager
- Document Manager
- HSQE and Vetting Manager

NS currently has more than 200 global clients operating 2,000+ vessels, all supported by a global client service organization with strategically located offices around the world. The NS professional services organization works to ensure success for our clients through services that help accelerate projects and improve operations.

**Note:** As part of a TOC, some NS services are provided complimentary to new clients. Upon request, your local account manager can provide details and schedule a demonstration.

## **RAPID RESPONSE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Operators of tankers, bulk carriers, gas carriers, containerships and tank barges transferring into ABS class will be offered complimentary enrollment into the Rapid Response Damage Assessment (RRDA) program for the first year. The normal charge for developing the electronic model of each vessel that is used for calculating damage stability will also be waived. The service extends your capacity for responding to emergency incidents effecting hull strength and stability.

In addition, those vessels that elect to enter the program will be offered the new ABS optional class notation "RRDA", which will provide evidence to port State authorities and other interested parties that the vessel meets the requirement for access to a shore-based, damage stability program.

## **MAINTAINING STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

ABS is recognized by the majority of international flag States and has been delegated authority to act as a Recognized Organization on behalf of more than 120 governments issuing a range of internationally required certificates for SOLAS, MARPOL and the Load Line Convention on the flag Administration's behalf.

When a vessel transfers class to ABS from another IACS member, certain statutory certificates may remain valid. This varies depending on the flag Administration and circumstances. The ABS project team will work closely with the owner to ensure the statutory certificates are in order.

When transferring class, a change in flag may also be requested and new statutory certificates may be required. The new flag Administration will determine which certificates are needed. The ABS project team will coordinate with the new flag Administration to facilitate the process for the owner. When the exact requirements of the new flag have been determined, ABS will conduct the necessary reviews and surveys.



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## 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).

### **Is there an age limit for being accepted into ABS class?**

The review of vessels over 15 years of age is more stringent than for younger vessels. For older vessels, an ABS exclusive surveyor will conduct a preliminary condition survey prior to starting the transfer of class process. There is no charge to the owner or operator for this survey. Manned submersibles and vessels that are over 20 years of age and more than 80,000 dwt, including tankers, bulk carriers and passenger vessels, require special approval from the ABS Chief Surveyor. However, ABS does not typically class fishing vessels that are older than 10 years of age.

### **How long does the transfer of class take?**

In most instances the Transfer of Class process can be completed quickly. The IACS TOCA sets specific time limits on certain elements within the process to promote minimal operational disruption.

### **Can I continue to trade the vessel while it is being considered for ABS class?**

Yes. As soon as the required surveys and drawings have been satisfactorily completed, ABS will issue an Interim Class Certificate to replace the existing classification arrangement. Until ABS has issued this Interim Certificate, the owner may operate the vessel under the existing classification certificate.

### **How will I know that the vessel has been accepted by ABS?**

A full term class certificate is sent to the owner when the vessel has been accepted by the ABS Classification Committee.

### **What will it cost to change my vessel to ABS class?**

ABS is mindful of the commercial pressures under which shipowners operate. The ABS procedures for transferring class on existing vessels have been streamlined to provide owners with the most cost-effective and responsive service possible. ABS charges only for credited classification surveys.

### **Who should I contact at ABS to arrange my transfer of class?**

The process can be started by contacting any ABS office. There are 220 ABS offices located in 70 countries around the world. ABS staff members will obtain the relevant particulars to begin the process to make the change as seamless and efficient as possible.

While a ship is most often classed with one society during construction and throughout its life cycle, many owners transfer class either on delivery, on transfer of ownership or for other reasons. It is a straightforward matter to transfer a vessel in class with another IACS member to ABS class while the ship is in service. ABS has streamlined procedures in place to carry out the transfer smoothly and efficiently.

## **24-HOUR GLOBAL SUPPORT**

The ABS Global Client Support team was developed to aid our divisions around the world by responding to client concerns and questions 24 hours-a-day. This exclusive team provides visibility to clients' service delivery concerns globally, and will leverage the ABS worldwide organization to provide best-in-class support to our clients. The ABS Global Client Support team's area of responsibility includes working with local ABS Port offices and clients to assist with all Transfer of Class projects.

Contact: [absglobalsupport@eagle.org](mailto:absglobalsupport@eagle.org)



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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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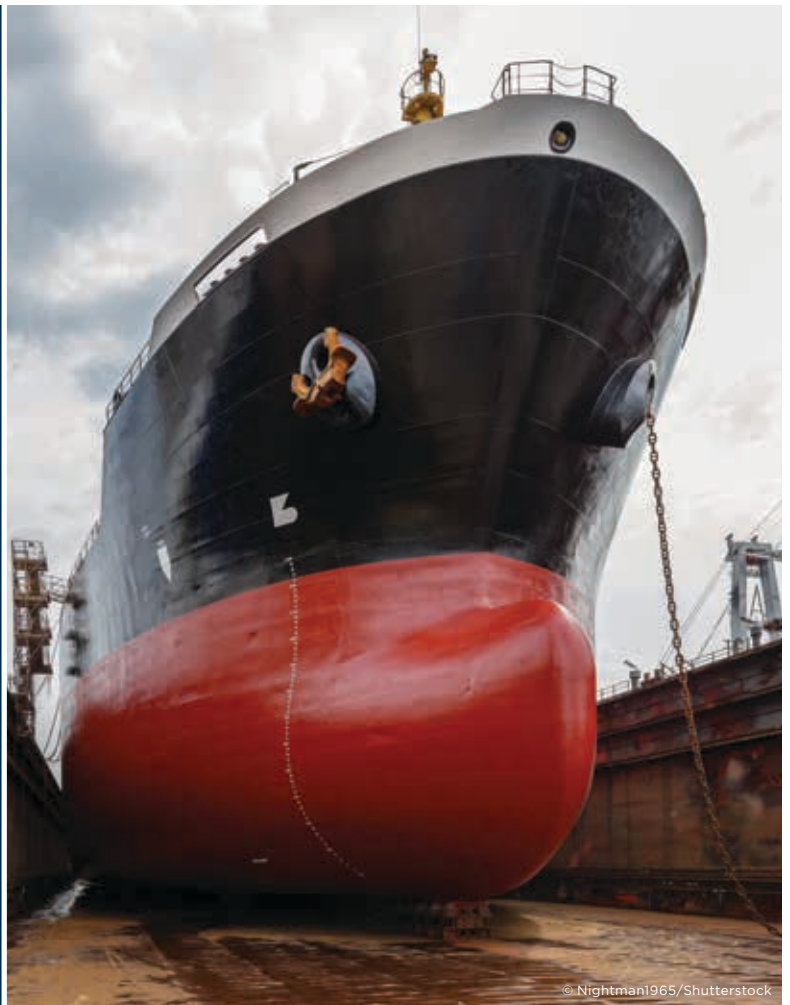
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