



FOUNDED 1862

ABS

*Setting Standards
of Excellence in
Marine and Offshore
Classification*





ABS
Safety, Service, Solutions

These three goals define the activities of ABS. They are the bedrock upon which our commitment to set standards of excellence as one of the world's leading marine and offshore classification societies is founded.

From its inception in 1862, setting safety standards for the marine industry has been the core commitment of ABS. This is achieved through the establishment and application of technical standards, known as Rules, for the design, construction and operational maintenance of ships and other marine structures. Classification is a process that certifies adherence to these Rules.

From its World Headquarters in Houston, ABS delivers services and solutions to a worldwide client list through a network of more than 200 local representative offices in 70 countries. It is the goal of ABS to provide the most responsive service to our clients – ***global reach, local response.***



Core Competencies

The core competencies of the worldwide network of ABS professionals lie in the fields of survey, engineering and auditing.

Our engineers offer a spectrum of skills from naval architecture to hydrodynamics and ergonomics. Our marine surveyors bring experience and professional judgment to their task of assessing the compliance of a vessel or structure with the ABS Rules and relevant statutory regulations. Our auditors specialize in management and security systems, particularly those conforming to the ISM and ISPS Codes.

Backing these field representatives is an unequivocal commitment to research and development. ABS recognizes that the classification world is changing with more emphasis on complex structures, life cycle management, unified standards and safety equivalencies. At ABS, we are dedicated to providing leadership in the development of new technologies intended to improve the safety standards for the marine and offshore industries.



Classification Procedure

The responsibility of the classification society is to verify that merchant ships and marine structures comply with Rules that the society has established for design, construction and periodic survey.

The classification process includes:

- the development of standards, known as Rules
- technical plan review and design analysis
- surveys during construction
- source inspection of materials, equipment and machinery
- acceptance by the Classification Committee
- subsequent periodic surveys for maintenance of class
- survey of damage, repairs and modifications



Reasons to Class

Protection of Capital Investment

Financiers usually require that a vessel has been designed, built and maintained to appropriate classification standards.

Conformance with Underwriting Requirements

Classification signifies that a vessel complies with industry-developed standards. This is usually mandated by insurance underwriters.

Indication of Due Diligence

Classification is one indication that the shipowner has exercised due diligence during the construction and service life of the vessel.

Indication of Proper Maintenance

To remain in class, a vessel must undergo periodic surveys to verify that it is maintained to class standards and in conformance with the Rules.

Conformance with Statutory Requirements

In most nations the governing authorities have mandated that certain vessels entering into their registry be classed.



Reasons to Class with ABS

The ultimate goal of classification is to promote the safety of the passengers, the crew, the cargo, the vessel and the environment in which it operates.

More than a Century of Experience

Since 1862, ABS has strived to meet the needs of the shipping industry. The ABS Rules incorporate the knowledge gathered from more than 150 years of operating experience and a continuing program of technological research.

Statutory Recognition of ABS Standards

Many flag States require vessels on their register to be classed with one of a selected number of approved societies. ABS serves as a Recognized Organization for more than 120 governments. These governments have recognized that ABS possesses a global network of exclusive, qualified surveyors and extensive resources in manpower and technology to act on their behalf to conduct the technical reviews, audits and surveys required by the flag State under applicable international conventions, national laws and regulations.



Reasons to Class with ABS

A Network of Regional Technical Offices

ABS provides responsive professional technical services to designers, builders and shipowners. through a network of local engineering offices that have been strategically placed in major shipowning and shipbuilding centers including Athens, Busan, Gdansk, Genoa, Hamburg, Houston, Istanbul, London, New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai, Singapore, Veracruz, Washington DC and Yokohama.

A Network of Field Surveyors

ABS is able to offer responsive, professional, 24 hours a day – seven days a week, multilingual survey services to clients around the world.

Advanced Technology Capabilities

ABS has some of the most respected research and development resources in the marine industry and is dedicated to providing greater understanding of marine design and construction. The ABS Rules address many of the standards relating to overall strength, stability, machinery, safety equipment and pollution.



Practical Solutions

ABS has a thorough understanding of the commercial pressures that confront clients and has developed an unparalleled reputation for developing rapid, practical solutions to help clients avoid costly delays.

ABS is committed to being the most efficient provider of marine and offshore classification services. We have been able to achieve that goal through the innovative thinking, enthusiasm and professionalism of our staff.

Our clients have been the beneficiaries. Our service levels and pricing structure are reflective of those efficiencies. Wherever in the world our clients are located ABS can be there, able to offer responsive, practical solutions to their operational challenges.

At ABS, setting standards of excellence in marine and offshore classification is more than a motto – it is the way we conduct business.



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WORLD HEADQUARTERS

16855 Northchase Drive

Houston, TX 77060 USA

Tel: 1-281-877-5800

Fax: 1-281-877-5803

Email: abs-worldhq@eagle.org

www.eagle.org

TX 03/14 5000 14141