



FISHING VESSELS

The United States' Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 changed the law on the building, modification and maintenance of commercial fishing vessels. As such, industry members should begin taking the necessary measures to achieve compliance.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 4188) was passed into law in order to improve safety for the United States' most dangerous industry: commercial fishing. Commercial fishing industry vessels 79 feet (or more) in length, built after July 1, 2013, are required to be built and modified within the Rules of a recognized classification society, maintained in class and obtain a Load Line Certificate (LLC) in accordance with 46 CFR Subchapter E.

Fishing vessels between 50 and 79 feet in length are required to meet standards equivalent to those of a recognized class society, though they are not required to be classed.

COMPLIANCE PREPARATION

ABS offers a portfolio of solutions and services to help operators achieve and

maintain compliance with the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015. Early preparation will help to ensure a smooth transition to class, relieve uncertainty and allow businesses to continue their day-to-day activities with minimal interruptions to vessel operations.

As the only classification organization whose rules for Fishing Vessels are explicitly approved under 46 C.F.R. § 28.10, ABS can provide a custom approach that supports compliance during plan review, construction and throughout the service life of the vessel. Moreover, as a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Authorized Class Society, ABS-approved drawings are not required to be reviewed by the USCG.

ABS has a long-standing relationship with the USCG and is familiar with U.S. regulations and interpretations.

ABS EAGLE ENGINEERING MANAGER (O2E)

The ABS Eagle Engineering Manager (O2E) program provides fishing vessel yards and designers with a number of capabilities that help improve business efficiencies and enhance project management. Users can electronically submit drawings, documents and details, as well as monitor comments, reviews and due dates. O2E capabilities include:

- Digital platform for direct communication with ABS engineers on project-specific materials
- Electronic submittal of client drawings and documents to improve drawing management
- Client tracking of current reviews and open comments, including status of submitted drawings and documents and ability to view and reply to current comments
- Expedient document submittal and review to reduce review turnaround time
- Immediate availability of electronically stamped drawings and published documents
- Firewall protection and document back-up
- Download of project-specific reports (i.e. comment list, drawing report, etc.)
- No licensing or support costs



In fact, ABS has already begun and/or completed reviews for a number of fishing vessels, including:

- Classification of the FV “Northern Leader”
- 260-ft Skipsteknisk ST Ice Class (BO) Freezer Trawler
- 142-ft Vigor Freezer Longliner
- 152-ft Clam Vessel FV “SeaWatcher II”
- 184-ft Jensen Factory Longliner

COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS

Every organization and fishing vessel will have a unique approach to complying with the Authorization Act of 2015. ABS works with clients to develop a Review Schedule that meets their specific contract obligations and timeline. ABS Engineering and Survey services are available throughout the U.S., allowing for convenient and collaborative planning and implementation of solutions. Furthermore, suppliers are familiar with ABS requirements, thereby providing a more efficient certification process for clients.

ABS offers a wide variety of services to help clients comply with the USCG Authorization Act of 2015.

- Vessel Classification – Full engineering plan review and survey attendance before, during and after vessel construction to verify ABS Rules for Classification are met.
- Concept/Preliminary Design Review – General review of submitted drawings and documents for guidance on meeting ABS Classification Rules. Drawings and documents can then be submitted at a later design stage for full ABS Class Approval.
- Basic Design Review – Where classification is not required, ABS can review the intended details and design to verify they meet ABS or other acceptable standards.

- Equipment and Machinery Certification – ABS works with vendors to help them obtain the necessary equipment certification and ABS Type Approval for installation aboard an ABS Classed vessel.

An ABS team of subject matter and technical specialists are prepared to help develop the right solution for your company. Contact us today via email at FishingVessels@eagle.org.



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