
LAY-UP AND REACTIVATION OF OSVs AND MODUs

A responsible plan for laying up OSVs and MODUs includes identifying the strategic steps required to bring the asset back into service. To help owners develop those plans, ABS has published two complementary guides for the lay-up and reactivation of OSVs and MODUs. These guides provide class requirements for laying up idle assets with guidance on the steps required for reactivation.

OSVs and offshore drilling units are fitted with hardware and software technologies and specialized equipment that require a great amount of planning and consideration when being removed from service. This fact is especially true for assets that are planned to be returned to service at a later date. Effective planning and preparation will improve reactivation efforts and provide operational safety and productivity.

To aid the industry, ABS provides guidance that details two formal lay-up options for OSVs and four options for MODUs. The complexities associated with specialized equipment and software are addressed, together with the additional risks associated with proposed lay-up sites for MODUs. Depending upon the lay-up status, the progression of the ABS Class “clock” can be stopped.

LAID-UP COLD STACKED

A Laid-up Cold Stacked asset is not operating, is positioned in a sheltered location and is unmanned with the associated lay-up procedures approved by ABS. Class and statutory surveys are held in abeyance, but annual lay-up surveys are required. A reactivation survey that considers the degree of maintenance conducted while the vessel/unit was laid up,

including all due and overdue statutory surveys, is carried out before the asset re-enters service.

LAID-UP WARM STACKED

A Laid-up Warm Stacked vessel or unit not in operation is positioned in a sheltered location and has a crew on board carrying out routine maintenance and preservation activities described in the ABS agreed lay-up procedure. Class surveys are held in abeyance and statutory surveys are maintained when required by the flag Administration. However, annual lay-up surveys are required. Before a vessel or unit returns to active service, a reactivation survey takes place that considers the degree of maintenance conducted while the asset was laid up. All due and overdue statutory surveys are also completed at the time of reactivation.

ENHANCED (MODU ONLY)

Having a unit enrolled in the Enhanced Lay-up program allows better life cycle management and preserves asset value by minimizing risk exposure. Enhanced lay-up also reduces the time and cost for reactivation. The additional requirements that apply to the enhanced versions of Laid-up Warm Stacked or Laid-up Cold Stacked include a review of the proposed lay-up procedures, a risk analysis of the lay-up location and moorings and provisions for emergency response. In addition, the mooring system must be surveyed every three years along with the Annual Verification Survey. The enhanced status appears on the ABS Record either as Enhanced Laid-up Cold Stacked or Enhanced Laid-up Warm Stacked.



SERVICES

The four lay-up life cycle status designations are Laid-up Warm Stacked, Laid-up Cold Stacked, Enhanced Laid-up Warm Stacked and Enhanced Laid-up Cold Stacked.

LAID-UP COLD STACKED	ABS reviews the lay-up plan. No permanent personnel on board. Remote monitoring system and patrols required with ABS initial and annual verification surveys.
LAID-UP WARM STACKED	ABS reviews the lay-up plan. Power and personnel on board. ABS initial and annual hull and machinery verification surveys required.
ENHANCED LAID-UP COLD STACKED	ABS reviews the lay-up plan and carries out a risk assessment of proposed location, mooring system, manning, services and port and flag requirements. Initial and annual hull survey with in-water exam of mooring every three years.
ENHANCED LAID-UP WARM STACKED	ABS reviews the lay-up plan and carries out a risk assessment of proposed location, mooring system, manning, services and port and flag requirements. Initial and annual hull and machinery surveys with in-water exam of mooring every three years.



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SUMMARY OF OPTIONS

	MODUs only				
	Laid-up	Laid-up Cold Stacked*	Laid-up Warm Stacked*	Enhanced Laid-up Cold Stacked	Enhanced Laid-up Warm Stack
Owner sends notification to ABS that unit is laid-up	X	X	X	X	X
Lay-up procedure reviewed		X	X	X	X
Engineering review of mooring design		*	*	X	X
Survey of mooring		*	*	X	X
Initial lay-up survey		X	X	X	X
Annual hull survey equivalent		X	X	X	X
Annual machinery survey equivalent			X		X
Underwater examination of mooring system every 3 years		*	*	X	X
Surveys held in abeyance	X	X	X	X	X
Deduction of time in lay-up		X	X	X	X
Reactivation survey	X	X	X	X	X
Reactivation survey considers lay-up procedure		X	X	X	X
Reactivation follows submitted reactivation procedure				X	X

KEY: X = Required * = Can be conducted at Owner's request

For additional information on the lay-up and reactivating of OSVs and MODUs, please contact us at globaloffshore@eagle.org.



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