

Towing Vessel Safety: Subchapter M Compliance

The ABS Difference

As a not-for-profit classification society, ABS offers an independent and uncompromised perspective on safety and environmental protection for our members and clients. ABS leverages its more than 150 years of experience serving the marine industry by providing an impartial assessment that relies on time-tested techniques and incorporates some of today's most advanced engineering rigor. To maintain and continually improve our knowledge, ABS makes significant investments in research and development, employee training and industry partnerships which all further the mission of ABS.

Building upon the strong legacy of its parent company, ABS Group* provides unparalleled safety, risk, and compliance services to the maritime industry beyond traditional classification services. Acting as a strategic partner, ABS Group offers services which support the mission of ABS to promote the security of life and property and protect the natural environment.



Compliance Options

Option #1	ISM + Class	Demonstrates a more comprehensive approach to operational safety and lifecycle asset management. Relies upon well-established international standards for the design, construction and maintenance of towing vessels.
Option #2	ISM + Load Line (Over 79')+ Third Party Inspection	Leverages internationally recognized standard for marine safety management systems to demonstrate compliance with Subchapter M. Also takes advantage of class ability to conduct structural inspections and an approved third party for other regulatory requirements. This approach may present some risk due to USCG not yet having approved third party inspectors for the regulation.
Option #3	ISM + Third Party Inspection	Leverages internationally recognized standard for marine safety management systems to demonstrate compliance with Subchapter M. Relies on third party inspectors for annual inspection of the vessels. This approach may present an increased risk due to USCG not yet having approved third party inspectors for the regulation.
Option #4	TSMS (Or other safety management system) + Third Party Inspection	Utilizes approved safety management standard for USCG. Relies on third party inspectors for annual inspection of the vessels. This approach may present an increased risk due to USCG not yet having approved third party inspectors for the regulation.
Option #5	USCG Inspection	Relies upon USCG to conduct annual inspections for compliance to the regulation.

■ Full ABS/ABS Group Services

■ Partial or No Involvement

*Service not related to classification or statutory certification are provided by ABS Group
Copyright, 2015 ABS All Rights Reserved

ABS and ABS Group Subchapter M Compliance Services

Towing vessel operators have a number of options available to demonstrate compliance with the United States Coast Guard's pending safety regulations. Utilizing the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels for Service on Rivers and Intercoastal Waterways* with appropriate regulatory addenda, ABS provides owners and operators with the opportunity to begin demonstrating compliance with Subchapter M inspection requirements. By combining classification with an ABS certification of a vessel to International Safety Management Code (ISM) owners and operators not only demonstrate full compliance with the pending Subchapter M requirements, but also show a commitment to a more comprehensive approach to safety and environmental protection.

For those deciding not to class their vessel, ABS and ABS Group offer a number of solutions that can assist an owner or operator in showing compliance with the pending regulation. ABS services related to ISM certification and Load Line Certification will help meet a number of the new requirements. If these services and those provided by ABS Group such as third party inspection services are combined, owners and operators should comply with the regulation.

The ABS Network

Operating from 30 locations in the United States, no other organization has the geographic coverage necessary to meet the needs of the inland and intercoastal towing vessel industry. With more than 300 surveyors and auditors and more than 200 engineers and naval architects across the country, ABS is prepared to assist owners and operators in meeting their Subchapter M compliance needs.



★ Engineering Support

● Survey/inspection Support