ABS Remote Survey for Vessels

Quality and flexible survey made easy.

The ABS Remote Survey program augments traditional survey through the transfer of digital documentation such as reports, photos, and videos for non-attendance verification of select surveys. Adoption of this program reduces surveyor logistical costs, and improve scheduling efficiencies to diminish operational disruptions. With ABS Remote Survey you can meet Rule requirements by completing surveys on time without physical surveyor attendance for five survey types. All requests are subject to ABS review and acceptance on a case-by-case basis.

**Concurrent Load Line**

A vessel that has been issued valid Concurrent Load Line Certificates and has had assignments permanently marked under a surveyor’s oversight may be eligible for remote surveys with authorization from the vessel’s Flag Administration. In the past, a surveyor was needed to attend when a request was made to postpone Auxiliary Boilers Survey due date. With the ABS Remote Survey Program, external overall examination of the boiler, both examination and operational tests for safety valve relieving gear (easing gear) and boiler’s protective devices (alarms and shutdowns), as well as records review, can be achieved remotely. A vessel that has been issued valid Class Certificates may be eligible for remote surveys with authorization from the vessel’s Flag Administration. If found satisfactory, the remote survey will grant an up to three (3) months extension.

**Boiler Three-Month Extension Survey**

In the past, a surveyor was needed to attend when a request was made to postpone Auxiliary Boilers Survey due date. With the ABS Remote Survey Program, external overall examination of the boiler, both examination and operational tests for safety valve relieving gear (easing gear) and boiler’s protective devices (alarms and shutdowns), as well as records review, can be achieved remotely. A vessel that has been issued valid Class Certificates may be eligible for remote surveys with authorization from the vessel’s Flag Administration. If found satisfactory, the remote survey will grant an up to three (3) months extension.

**Continuous Machinery Survey (CMS)**

CMS remote survey is available for vessels maintaining the Preventative Maintenance Program (PMP) notation. Machinery parts are individually reviewed and may require follow-up validation prior to crediting the next Annual survey. Non-attendance verification documentation:

- Computer maintenance system records
- Photos or videos of operational test

**Tail Shaft Survey Three-Month Extension**

Any vessel with a Tail Shaft Survey is eligible for remote survey to extend the Tail Shaft Survey due date for three months. Non-attendance verification documentation:

- Photos of visual inspection of the shafting system
- Photos of the inboard seal
- Review of the previous wear down and or clearance recordings
- Review of service and test records
- Verification of no reported repairs by grinding or welding
- No reported abnormal vibration
- Review of lube/fresh water analysis
- Oil or fresh water sample examination

**Benefits You Want**

- Eliminate surveyor travel time
- Reduce logistical costs and time
- Minimize down time
- Optimize scheduling efficiencies
- Increase operational flexibility
- Foster an efficient class process

- Photos of equipment
- Condition monitoring reports such as oil analysis, vibration analysis, thermographic imaging, etc
- Equipment health report
- Calibration records of measuring equipment

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MINOR DAMAGE SURVEY
Minor damage surveys are eligible for remote survey upon ABS review and acceptance of the remote survey request. Structural damages or statutory items may require authorization by the Flag Administration if ABS will not attend. Upon review of verification documentation, survey validation is given at a future scheduled survey.

Examples of Minor Damage:
• Set-in or fracture that corresponds to 3 points or fewer in accordance with the Inspection Grading Criteria for ABS Hull Inspection and Maintenance Program (HIMP)
• Hopper damage
• Machinery damage on a case-by-case basis

Non-attendance verification documentation:
• Details of damage including sketches, photos or videos
• Information or specifications from OEM
• Non-destructive testing reports and photos
• Repair plan and supporting documentation

REMOTE UNDERWATER EXAMINATION OF OFFSHORE UNITS
The underwater portion of the drydock survey for offshore units is eligible for remote survey. The underwater examination must be performed by an ABS approved external specialist. A remote underwater examination may be requested to take advantage of a ROV staged on an offshore unit and available for use in underwater examinations when not needed for operations.

Remote verification requirements:
• Preapproval of survey plan including communications
• ABS approved external specialists to execute examination
• Submission of UWILD (underwater in lieu of drydocking) report

- Re-examination of existing Condition of Class or Statutory Condition for extension of due date
- Verification of equipment calibration where the physical condition of the equipment has been surveyed by ABS
- Verification of periodic inspection or servicing where physical condition of the equipment has already been

CONDITION OF CLASS AND STATUTORY CONDITION
Vessels with Condition of Class or Statutory Condition are eligible for remote survey upon ABS review and acceptance. In some cases, Statutory Condition remote surveys are subject to Flag Administration authorization. Examples of items considered include:
• Repair of non-essential machinery or installation of replacement parts
• ROV audio, video communication feed with minimum 720p resolution, 30 frames per second, and less than 6 seconds of lag
• Coordination of ABS surveyor and client attending same facility

DRYDOCK EXTENSION
ABS allows for remote drydock surveys to be extended by one month and up to three months as long as the last drydocking was not more than 36 months prior. Traditionally, to grant an extension ABS would have to send a surveyor onboard to confirm if immediate repairs were needed. By leveraging approved ABS External Specialists who can conduct underwater examinations in lieu of drydocking (UWILD), ABS can accept the results via remote attendance process. Exceptions for remote attendance for a Drydock Extension Survey, include:
• Conditions of class for repairs to propeller, rudder, stern frame, underwater structure or sea valves and their attachment (unless there are provisions to blank the sea valve for repair/renewal)
• Suspended classification
• Vessels more than 15 years of age

SAFETY RADIO SURVEY
Safety Radio Surveys are credited in collaboration with flag authorization and an approved ABS External Specialist who goes on board to test and confirm the functionality of safety critical, radio equipment. Periodical and renewal surveys can be completed remotely following an approved ABS External Specialist report which confirms there are no findings. Exceptions for remote attendance for a Safety Radio Survey, include:
• No Flag State authorization
• Initial Surveys
• Suspended classification
• Specific vessel types (Passenger vessels/Ferries and ROPAX vessels)
• Open Statutory conditions(s) against radio equipment that cannot be repaired prior to or during the remote radio survey