



**RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING**

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**MARINE VESSELS  
2018**

**NOTICES AND  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

**American Bureau of Shipping  
Incorporated by Act of Legislature of  
the State of New York 1862**

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1701 City Plaza Drive  
Spring, TX 77389 USA**

## Notices and General Information

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# Notices and General Information

## Introduction

1. ABS Rules and Guides are developed and updated to keep pace with the marine industry. This has resulted in a complex library of Rules and Guides. Many requirements are repeated throughout the ABS Rules and Guides, making use and maintenance of Rules/Guides more challenging. To address the duplication of requirements and to provide a set of Rules that is easier to navigate, ABS is consolidating Rules for both Vessels and Offshore Units.

For vessels, the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels*, the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels Under 90 meters (295 feet) in Length* and the *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Support Vessels* are being consolidated into the ***Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels*** (the *Marine Vessel Rules*).

For the period from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2020, designers can choose to use the *Marine Vessel Rules* or the applicable Steel Vessel, Under 90m or OSV Rule sets. On 1 January 2020, the Steel Vessel, Under 90M and OSV Rule sets will be withdrawn and only the *Marine Vessel Rules* will remain for the design of marine vessels.

2. The year 2018 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels* consists of the eleven (11) booklets as shown in Table 1. In this regard, we would bring the following to the user's attention:
  - a) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification (Part 1)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 1, as a result of including consolidated requirements for "Classification" applicable to all types of and sizes of vessels, barges and specific shipboard arrangements/systems, etc., except for those in offshore service, as specified in the Foreword to Part 1. The supplemental requirements previously contained in individual Rules and Guides have been consolidated into Chapters of Part 1.
  - b) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Materials and Welding* of PART 2 is to emphasize the common applicability of the requirements to ABS-classed vessels, other marine structures and their associated machinery, and thereby make PART 2 more readily a common "PART" of various ABS Rules and Guides, as appropriate. The Rules for steel, aluminum, and FRP materials have been consolidated into a single Part 2.
  - c) The purpose of the generic title *ABS Rules for Survey After Construction (Part 7)* is to reflect the expanded contents of PART 7, as a result of including consolidated requirements for "Surveys After Construction" applicable to all types and sizes of vessels, barges and specific shipboard arrangements/systems, etc., as specified in Part 7, Chapter 1, Section 1.
3. The numbering system applied in the Rules is shown in Table 2.
4. Until the next edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels* is published, Rule Change Notices and/or Corrigenda, as necessary, will be published on the ABS website – [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org) – only, and will be available free for downloading. It is not intended to publish hard copies of future Rule Change Notices and/or Corrigenda to existing Rules or Guides. The consolidated edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels*, which includes Rule Change Notices and/or Corrigenda using different colors for easy recognition, will be published on the ABS website only when Rule Change Notices and/or Corrigenda are issued.
5. The listing of CLASSIFICATION SYMBOLS AND NOTATIONS is available from the ABS website <http://www.eagle.org/absdownloads/index.cfm> for download.

6. In association with the harmonization of the Common Structural Rules (CSR) for Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, on 1 July 2015, the three Sub-parts, 5A, 5B, and 5C, of Part 5 of the *Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels* are as follows:

*Contents*

Part 5A: General Hull Requirements (IACS CSR Part 1)

Part 5B: Ship Types (IACS CSR Part 2)

Part 5C: This Part is divided into two separate booklets as follows:

Chapters 1 to 6: Tankers and Bulk Carriers not covered by Part 5A and Part 5B and Container Carriers

Chapters 7 to 18: Passenger Vessels, Liquefied Gas Carriers, Chemical Carriers, Vessels Intended to Carry Vehicles, Water Carriers, Membrane Tank LNG Carriers, Vessels Using Gases or other Low-Flashpoint Fuels, Fire Fighting Vessels, Oil Recovery Vessels, Escort Vessels, Vessels Under 90 m (295 ft) Intended for Towing, and Fishing Vessels.

Part 5D: Offshore Support Vessels for Specialized Services

*Application – Oil Tankers*

The structural requirements in Part 5A, Pt 1 and Part 5B, Pt 2, Ch 2 of the Rules are applicable for double hull oil tankers of 150 m in length and upward, with structural arrangements as specified in Part 5A, Pt 1, Ch 1, Sec 1, [1.3].

For oil tankers with structural arrangements not covered by Part 5A, Pt 1 and Part 5B, Pt 2, Ch 2, the requirements in Part 5C, Chapters 1 or 2, are to be complied with.

*Application – Bulk Carriers*

The structural requirements in Part 5A, Pt 1 and Part 5B, Pt 2, Ch 1 of the Rules are applicable for single side skin and double side skin bulk carriers of 90m in length and upward, with structural arrangements as specified in Part 5A, Pt 1, Ch 1, Sec 1, [1.2].

For vessels intended to carry ore or bulk cargoes, other than the single side skin or double side skin bulk carriers of 90 m in length and upward with structural arrangements as specified in Part 5A, Pt 1 and Part 5B, Pt 2, Ch 1, the requirements in Part 5C, Chapters 3 or 4 are to be complied with.

*Application – ABS Construction Monitoring Program*

These compulsory requirements for **CSR** notation are specified in Part 5C, Appendix 2.

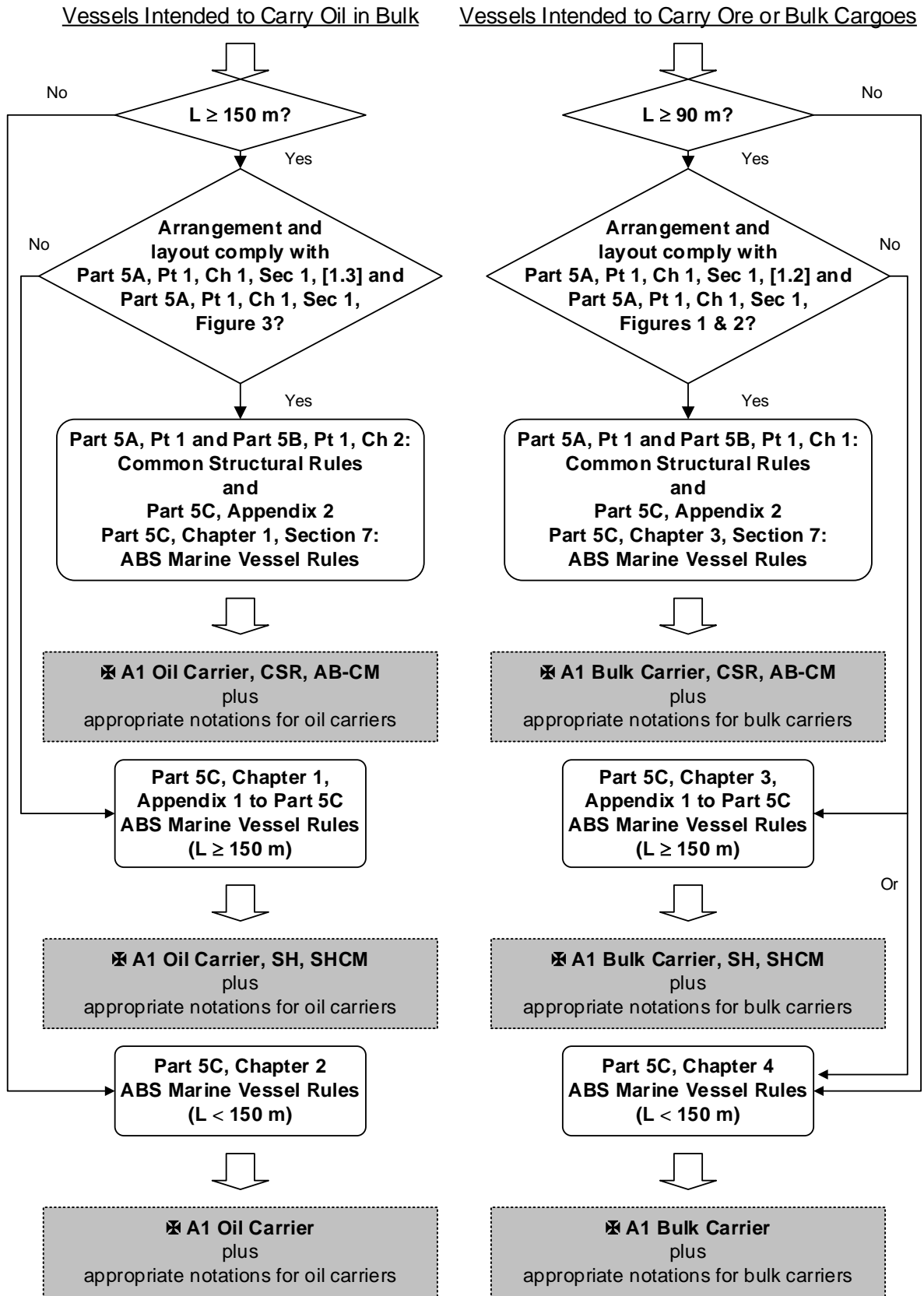
*Application – Onboard Systems for Oil Tankers and Bulk Carriers*

The onboard systems for all tankers are to comply with the requirements of Part 5C, Chapter 1, Section 7, and for all bulk carriers are to comply with the requirements of Part 5C, Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Rules.

*Application – References*

Other Parts of the ABS Rules that are referenced within Part 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D are also to be applied.

The following flow chart indicates the application of the Rules and typical Class Notations for tanker and bulk carrier vessels, of which arrangements and scantlings are in full compliance with the Rules:



**TABLE 1**  
**Applicable Editions of Booklets Comprising 2018 Rules**

Notices and General Information		2018
Part 1:	Rules for Conditions of Classification	2018
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding Rules for Testing and Certification of Materials Rules for Welding and Fabrication	2018
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	2018
Part 4:	Vessel Systems and Machinery	2018
Part 5A: (Booklet 1)	Specific Vessel Types General Hull Requirements (IACS CSR Part 1)	2018 (on and after 1 July 2017)
Part 5B: (Booklet 1)	Specific Vessel Types Ship Types (IACS CSR Part 2)	2018 (on and after 1 July 2017)
Part 5C: (Booklet 2)	Specific Vessel Types Chapter 1 & 2 Oil Carrier Chapter 3 & 4 Bulk Carrier Chapter 5 & 6 Container Carrier	2018
Part 5C: (Booklet 3)	Specific Vessel Types Chapter 7 Passenger Carrier Chapter 8 Liquefied Gas Carrier Chapter 9 Chemical Carrier Chapter 10 Vehicle Carrier Chapter 11 Water Carrier Chapter 12 Liquefied Gas Carrier with Membrane Tanks Chapter 13 Vessels Using Gases or other Low- Flashpoint Fuels Chapter 14 Fire Fighting Vessels Chapter 15 Oil Recovery Vessels Chapter 16 Escort Vessels Chapter 17 Vessels Under 90m (295 ft) Intended for Towing Chapter 18 Fishing Vessels	2018

Part 5D: (Booklet 4)	Offshore Support Vessels for Specialized Services Chapter 1 Vessels Intended for Offshore Support Services Chapter 2 Offshore Supply Chapter 3 Anchor Handling and Towing Chapter 4 Fire Fighting Chapter 5 Diving and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) Support Chapter 6 Oil Spill Recovery Chapter 7 Safety Standby Rescue Chapter 8 Pipe Laying Chapter 9 Heavy Lift Chapter 10 Well Intervention Chapter 11 Well Stimulation Chapter 12 Well Test Chapter 13 Escort Chapter 14 Wind Turbine Installation, Maintenance and Repair (Wind IMR) Chapter 15 Cable Laying	2018
Part 6:	Specialized Items and Systems Chapter 1 Strengthening for Navigation in Ice Chapter 2 Refrigerated Cargo Vessels	2018
Part 7:	Rules for Survey After Construction	2018

**TABLE 2**  
**Division and Numbering of Rules**

<i>Division</i>	<i>Number</i>
Part	Part 1
Chapter	Part 1, Chapter 1
Section	Section 1-1-1
Subsection (see Note 1)	1-1-1/1
Paragraph (see Note 1)	1-1-1/1.1
Subparagraph	1-1-1/1.1.1
Item	1-1-1/1.1.1(a)
Subitem	1-1-1/1.1.1(ai)
Appendix	Appendix 1-1-A1 or Appendix 1-A1-1

Note:

- 1 An odd number (1, 3, 5, etc.) numbering system is used for the Rules. The purpose is to permit future insertions of even-numbered paragraphs (2, 4, 6, etc.) of text and to avoid the necessity of having to renumber the existing text and associated cross-references, as applicable, within the Rules and associated process instructions, check sheets, etc.