

Rules for Building and Classing

Light Warships, Patrol and High-Speed Naval Vessels

Notices and General Information



January 2026



RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING

**LIGHT WARSHIPS, PATROL AND HIGH-SPEED NAVAL
VESSELS
JANUARY 2026**

**NOTICES AND
GENERAL INFORMATION**

**American Bureau of Shipping
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Notices and General Information

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Notices and General Information

Introduction

1. The 2026 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Light Warships, Patrol and High-Speed Naval Vessels* consists of the Parts as shown in Table 1. Reference is made in these Rules to the following generic Rules:
 - a) *Rules for Conditions of Classification – High-Speed Craft (Part 1C)* includes consolidated requirements for “Classification” applicable to all types of and sizes of high-speed craft as specified in the Foreword to Part 1C. Additional specific requirements are contained in Chapter 2 of Part 1C.
 - b) *Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies (Part 1D)* introduces a procedure for acceptance of alternative arrangements, novel concepts, and new technologies based on Goals and Functional Requirements, including a consolidated list of Tier 1 Goals.
 - c) *Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)* contains materials requirements common to ABS-classed vessels, other marine structures and their associated machinery, including steel, aluminum, and FRP materials.
 - d) *Rules for Survey After Construction (Part 7)* contains 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.
2. The numbering system applied in the Rules is shown in Table 2.
3. The primary changes from the July 2025 Rules are identified and listed in Table 3. The effective date of the indicated Rule Changes is 1 January 2026, unless specifically indicated otherwise.
4. The effective date of each technical change since 1993 is shown in parenthesis at the end of the subsection/paragraph titles within the text of each Part. Unless a particular date and month are shown, the years in parentheses refer to the following effective dates:

(2000) and after	1 January 2000 (and subsequent years)	(1996)	9 May 1996
(1999)	12 May 1999	(1995)	15 May 1995
(1998)	13 May 1998	(1994)	9 May 1994
(1997)	19 May 1997	(1993)	11 May 1993

For certain changes that have a major impact on shipyards, designers and vendors, ABS has instituted a two-year Rule cycle to give the industry more time to prepare for these changes. The text of these changes will appear in a box along with the effective date just under the existing Rule requirement.

TABLE 1
Applicable Editions of Booklets Comprising January 2026 Light and High-Speed Naval Vessel Rules

Notices and General Information		January 2026
Part 1C:	Rules for Conditions of Classification – High-Speed Craft	January 2026*
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2026*
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding Rules for Testing and Certification of Materials Rules for Welding and Fabrication	January 2026*
Part 2:	Rule Requirements for Materials and Welding – Supplementary Requirements for Naval Vessels	2000*
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	January 2026
Part 4:	Craft Systems and Machinery	January 2026
Part 7:	Rules for Survey After Construction	January 2026*

* **Note:** The latest edition of these Rules is to be referred to. These Rules may be accessed in Rule Manager.

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(a)i)
Appendix	Appendix 1-1-A1 or Appendix 1-A1-1

Note:

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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.

Rule Change Notice (2026)

TABLE 3
Summary of Changes from the July 2025 Rules

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2026 – shown as (2026)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
PART 1C	Rules for Conditions of Classification – High-Speed Craft	
LHSC 1C-2-2/1, 3	Classification Symbols and Notations	To include the "Wind-SC(A)" and "Wind-SC(B)" notations for wind farm support craft.
PART 1D	Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	
1D-3-1/SEC 6	Tier I Goals	To add new Goal SEC 6 on security to support the new ABS "Requirements for Nuclear Power Systems for Marine and Offshore Applications".

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2026 – shown as (2026)

(based on the contract date for new construction between builder and Owner)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
PART 3	Hull Construction and Equipment	
3-1-1/11.7	Definitions	To improve clarity regarding decks vs. bulkheads.
3-1-2/Table 2	General Requirements	To clarify the items for which the application of non-Class grades without the need to be from an ABS steel mill is permitted and the material requirements.
3-2-5/1.3.1	Hull Structural Arrangement	To relocate the Commentary under 2-4-5/1.2 to LHSNV 3-2-5/1.3.1 for design of bulkheads, since it does not match the intent of 2-4-5/1.2.
3-2-7/5	Keels Stems Shaft Struts and Propeller Nozzles	To add a reference to 2-4-1/3.13 for welding of highly formed structures in response to fracture on a vessel that transferred into ABS class.
3-2-9/9, 15	Protection of Deck Openings	To improve clarity and propose a reduced design pressure for hatches on semi-enclosed decks.
PART 4	Craft Systems and Machinery	
4-1-1/7.5.1	Classification of Machinery	To relate the requirement for the astern propulsion power to the maximum astern speed of the vessel, in line with IACS UR M25.
4-3-2/5.1	Propulsion Shafting	To add a K factor that does not account for keyed propellers involving a shrink-fit.
4-3-2/17.9.5	Propulsion Shafting	To remove the requirement for 70% astern RPM since there is no reason to expose the plant to unnecessary risk, and 70% is not a SOLAS requirement.
4-3-3/5.7	Propellers	To remove the requirement for 70% astern RPM since there is no reason to expose the plant to unnecessary risk, and 70% is not a SOLAS requirement.
4-3-5/3.1, 3.3 and 13.1	Thrusters	To develop tables for the subcomponents of a thruster to indicate survey requirements.
4-3-7/9.1	Propulsion Redundancy	To align with industry standards and clarify the intent for R2 notation.
4-7-1/13.3.4(m)	Fire Extinguishing Systems and Equipment	To specify that the use of DIFF system for Helideck and Helicopter landing areas is acceptable and does not require acceptance from the flag Administration and to add a commentary to accept the minimum application rate of foam solution outlined in CAP 437.
4-8-3/3.11.1(a)	Electrical Equipment	To add keyless fitting requirements for rotors of non-integrated auxiliary machinery.