

Rules for Building and Classing

Offshore Units

Notices and General Information



January 2026



RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING

OFFSHORE UNITS JANUARY 2026

NOTICES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

**American Bureau of Shipping
Incorporated by Act of Legislature of
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ABS Plaza
1701 City Plaza Drive
Spring, TX 77389 USA**

Notices and General Information

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
TABLE 1 Applicable Editions of Parts Comprising January 2026 Offshore Rules.....	2
TABLE 2 Division and Numbering of Rules	3
Rule Change Notice (2026).....	4
TABLE 3 Summary of Changes from the July 2025 Rules.....	4

Notices and General Information

Introduction

1. The 2026 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Units* 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 – Offshore Units (Part 1B)* includes consolidated requirements for “Classification” applicable to all types of offshore units, pipelines, risers, and other offshore structures, as specified in the Foreword to Part 1B.
 - 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.
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 2025, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

TABLE 1
Applicable Editions of Parts Comprising January 2026 Offshore Rules

Notices and General Information		January 2026
Part 1B:	Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units	July 2025
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2026
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	January 2026
Part 3A:	Hull Structure – Mobile Offshore Units	January 2026
Part 3B:	Hull Structure – Site-Specific Ship-Type Floating Installations	January 2026
Part 3C:	Hull Structure – Other Site-Specific Floating Installations	January 2025
Part 3D:	Hull Structure – Fixed Offshore Installations	January 2025
Part 4:	Machinery and Systems	January 2026
Part 5:	Fire and Safety – Measures and Features	January 2026
Part 6:	Equipment and Machinery Certification	January 2025
Part 7A:	Surveys – Mobile Offshore Units	January 2026
Part 7B:	Surveys – Site-Specific Floating Installations	January 2026
Part 7C:	Surveys – Fixed Offshore Installations	January 2026
Part 8:	Unit Functions Chapter 1 Introduction Chapter 2 Drilling Units Chapter 3 Accommodation Units Chapter 4 Crane Units Chapter 5 Construction and Maintenance Units Chapter 6 Drilling Tenders Chapter 7 Pipe and Cable Laying Units Chapter 8 Wind Turbine Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Units Chapter 9 Well Intervention Chapter 10 Well Stimulation Units Chapter 11 Units Fitted with Well Test Facilities Chapter 12 Hydrocarbon Production, Storage, and Offloading Units Chapter 13 Offshore Substations and Electrical Service Chapter 14 Liquefied Gas Terminals Chapter 15 Mining Chapter 16 Power Services Chapter 17 Spaceports Appendix 1 Stability Criteria for Counter-Ballasted Crane Units	January 2026

Part 9:	Requirements for Optional Notations	January 2025
	Chapter 1 Introduction	
	Chapter 2 Drilling Systems	
	Chapter 3 Hydrocarbon Production and Process Systems	
	Chapter 4 Import and Export Systems	
	Chapter 5 Gas Processing, Gas Liquefaction, Transfer, and Regasification Systems	
	Chapter 6 Power Plant	
	Chapter 7 Offshore Substations	
	Chapter 8 Subsea Mining	
	Chapter 9 Brazilian Regulatory Compliance	
	Chapter 10 Modules on Deck	
	Chapter 11 Service Life Enhancement	

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:

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.

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 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 3A	Hull Structure – Mobile Offshore Units	
3A-5-3/Table 2, Note 1b)	Loads	To fix an inconsistency in the definition of "klo" and align with the Eagle software which has been in use for many years.
PART 3B	Hull Structure – Site-Specific Ship-Type Floating Installations	
3B-1-3/19iv)a)iii)	General Requirements	To update the requirements for when underdeck coatings are not provided to require Internal Exams every 2.5 years or enrollment in an ABS RBI Program in response to industry feedback.
3B-4-2/Table 3, Note i)b)	Loads	To fix an inconsistency in the definition of "klo" and align with the Eagle software which has been in use for many years.
3B-4-6/Table 1, Note 1b)	Application to Single Hull Ship-Type Installations	To fix an inconsistency in the definition of "klo" and align with the Eagle software which has been in use for many years.
3B-5-1/3.5, 3.7	Introduction	To provide additional clarity based on detailed requirements in the Marine Vessel Rules.
PART 4	Vessel Systems and Machinery	
4-2-1/11.31	General	To keep consistency with the requirements in 4-6-2/9.15 of MVR.
PART 5	Fire and Safety - Measures and Features	
5-2-3/9.3.5	Additional Fixed Fire Fighting Systems	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.
5-3-A2/Table 1	Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Guard Railings	To clarify that FRP guard rails may be used for protection of any escape routes in line with current practice.
PART 8	Unit Functions	
8-12-6/5.15	Marine Support Systems	Based on client feedback, detailed requirements for step loading of non-emergency generators have been added. These requirements apply when the largest starting load does not exceed 25% of the generator's full capacity.

Part 7 “Rules for Survey After Construction”

The reference date which is indicated in the parentheses following the title of the requirement in this Part is the date that the requirement becomes effective [e.g., 7A-2-6/2.5 “Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent” (2026) is to apply for units undergoing survey on or after 1 January 2026].

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 January 2026 – shown as (2026)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
PART 7A	Surveys – Mobile Offshore Units	
7A-2-6/2.5	Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent	To clarify the requirements for self-elevating units less than 10 years.
PART 7B	Surveys – Site-Specific Floating Installations	
7B-5-1 (New)	Execution of RBI Surveys	To relocate survey requirements for risk-based inspection of floating and fixed installations from the RBI Guide to Offshore Rules Part 7B.
7B-5-2 (New)	Annual RBI Health Check	To relocate survey requirements for risk-based inspection of floating and fixed installations from the RBI Guide to Offshore Rules Part 7B.
7B-5-3 (New)	5-Year RBI Health Check	To relocate survey requirements for risk-based inspection of floating and fixed installations from the RBI Guide to Offshore Rules Part 7B.
PART 7C	Surveys – Fixed Offshore Installations	
7C-4-1 (New)	Surveys and Health Checks	To add a new Chapter on Risk-based Inspections with reference to the detailed requirements in Part 7B, Chapter 5.