

Rules for Building and Classing

Steel Barges

Notices and General Information



July 2025



RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING

STEEL BARGES JULY 2025

NOTICES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

**American Bureau of Shipping
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the State of New York 1862**

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Notices and General Information

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Notices and General Information

Introduction

1. The 2025 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Barges* has undergone a major update to improve the clarity and ease of use of the Rules:
 - a) A goal-based standards approach has been introduced as an alternative path to compliance appropriate for novel concepts, new technologies, and alternative arrangements.
 - b) Non-mandatory guidance has been added as Commentaries within the text of the Rules.
 - c) Notations have been clearly indicated as mandatory or optional.
2. The 2025 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Steel Barges* 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 (Part 1A)* includes 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 1A. Additional specific requirements are contained in Chapter 5 of Part 1A.
 - 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.
3. The numbering system applied in the Rules is shown in Table 2.
4. The primary changes from the January 2025 Rules are identified and listed in Table 3. The effective date of the indicated Rule Changes is 1 July 2025, unless specifically indicated otherwise.
5. 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 Parts Comprising July 2025 Barge Rules

Rules for Building and Classing Steel Barges		
Notices and General Information		July 2025
Part 3:	Hull Construction and Equipment	July 2025
Part 4:	Barge Systems and Machinery	January 2025
Part 5:	Specific Barge Types	July 2025
Rules for Conditions of Classification – not included		
Part 1A:	Rules for Conditions of Classification	July 2025*
Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies – not included		
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2024*
Rules for Materials and Welding – not included		
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	July 2025*
Rules for Survey After Construction – not included		
Part 7:	Rules for Survey After Construction	July 2025*

* **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:

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 (1 July 2025)

TABLE 3
Summary of Changes from the January 2025 Rules

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 July 2025 – shown as (1 July 2025)
(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	
3-2-1/15	Longitudinal Strength	To provide clarity on the transverse strength analysis related requirements and guidance on the simplified analysis procedure.
3-2-8/3.9, 3.11	Superstructures and Deckhouses	To improve consistency in the design and review of weathertight doors, especially in the application of minimum thickness requirements.
PART 5	Specific Barge Types	
5-2-4/1.2	Chemical Tank Barges	To add Barge Type I, Type II, and Type III next to the “Chemical Tank Barge” notation for consistency with the Ship Type 1, Ship Type 2, and Ship Type 3 that have been added next to the “Chemical Carrier” notation in the Marine Vessel Rules.