

Rules for Building and Classing

Light Warships, Patrol and High-Speed Naval Vessels

Notices and General Information



July 2025



RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING

**LIGHT WARSHIPS, PATROL AND HIGH-SPEED NAVAL
VESSELS
JULY 2025**

**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 2025 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Light Warships, Patrol and High-Speed Naval Vessels* 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 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.
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 Booklets Comprising July 2025 Light and High-Speed Naval Vessel Rules

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Notices and General Information | | July 2025 |
| Part 1C: | Rules for Conditions of Classification – High-Speed Craft | July 2025* |
| Part 1D: | Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies | January 2024* |
| Part 2: | Rules for Materials and Welding Rules for Testing and Certification of Materials Rules for Welding and Fabrication | July 2025* |
| Part 2: | Rule Requirements for Materials and Welding – Supplementary Requirements for Naval Vessels | 2000* |
| Part 3: | Hull Construction and Equipment | July 2025 |
| Part 4: | Craft Systems and Machinery | July 2025 |
| Part 7: | Rules for Survey After Construction | January 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)

| <i>Part/Para. No.</i> | <i>Title/Subject</i> | <i>Status/Remarks</i> |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| PART 1C | Rules for Conditions of Classification – High-Speed Craft | |
| 1C-1-1/11 | Classification | To add a definition to clarify the term "Technical Assessment". |
| 1C-1-4/3.1 | Application | To clearly state the effective dates of each Part of the Rules and to change the effective date of Part 2 from the date materials are purchased to the date of contract for construction to align with recent IACS UR W updates. |

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 | |
| 3-2-7/13, 13.3, 13.5 | Keels Stems Shaft Struts and Propeller Nozzles | To clarify that the PID itself is not within the scope of class to address an inconsistency in the Rules that has led to inconsistent interpretation of the requirement and to move the requirements out from within the list of Plans and Documentation. |
| 3-2-8/17.1.2iii) | Rudders and Steering Equipment | To require additional validation of calculated natural frequency and additional conditions be evaluated when determining vortex shedding natural frequency. This is in response to a rudder failure where an analysis approach was done instead of meeting the prescriptive requirement. |
| PART 4 | Craft Systems and Machinery | |
| 4-3-5/5.11.2 | Thrusters | To address arrangements with multiple thrusters (more than two) as the only means of propulsion and steering as the current version only includes two (2) thrusters. This update aims to align the interpretation between LHSNV 4-3-5/5.11.2 and 4-3-4/1.9. |
| 4-8-3/5.13 | Electrical Equipment | To update the UPS definition and topologies based on IACS UR E21 Rev.2 "Requirements for uninterruptible power (UPS) units" revised in February 2024 and to change the term "essential" source of power in section 4-8-3/5.13 to "main" source of power for clarity. |
| 4-9-4/9 | Craft Classed with ABCU Notation | To avoid confusion between the 12-hour unattended duration and the 6-hour propulsion machinery testing operation duration, the 12-hour duration requirement for ABCU notation has been included instead of sea trial requirement. |