

Rules for Building and Classing

Floating Production Installations

Notices and General Information



July 2025



RULES FOR BUILDING AND CLASSING

**FLOATING PRODUCTION INSTALLATIONS
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 ABS *Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations (FPI Rules)* are being consolidated into the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Units (Offshore Rules)*, introduced in January 2025:

For the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, designers can choose to use the Offshore Rules or continue to use the FPI Rules. On 1 January 2026, the FPI Rules will be withdrawn and only the Offshore Rules will remain for the design of floating production facilities installations.

2. The 2025 edition of the *Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations* 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. Additional specific requirements are contained in Chapter 3 of 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.

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 FPI Rules

Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations		
Notices and General Information		July 2025
Part 1:	Conditions of Classification (Supplement to the ABS Rules for Condition of Classification – Offshore Units) ⁽¹⁾	July 2025
Part 3:	Installation Types, Functions, Features and General Requirements	July 2025
Part 4:	Units Systems (Process and Import/Export)	January 2025
Part 5A:	Ship-Type Installations	July 2025
Part 5B:	Other Installation Types	January 2025
Part 6:	Mooring Systems	January 2025
Part 7:	Surveys After Construction	July 2025
Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units – not included ^(1,2)		
Part 1B:	Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units	July 2025
Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies – not included ⁽²⁾		
Part 1D:	Rules for Alternative Arrangements, Novel Concepts and New Technologies	January 2024
Rules for Materials and Welding – not included ⁽²⁾		
Part 2:	Rules for Materials and Welding	July 2025

Notes:

- 1 The requirements for conditions of classification are contained in the separate, generic ABS *Rules for Conditions of Classification – Offshore Units and Structures (Part 1B)*. Additional specific requirements are contained in Part 1 of these Rules.
- 2 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 1	Conditions of Classification	
1-1-2/5.11.5	System Classification, Symbols and Notations	To the add location in which the FPI is to continue its service to the notation, as life extension is dependent upon environmental conditions in that location.
1-1-2/5.11.6	System Classification, Symbols and Notations	To require decommissioning plans to be approved to support new Class Lifecycle States being introduced in 1B-1-2/13.
1-1-2/9.1	System Classification, Symbols and Notations	To clearly define "Remote Control" as on board the vessel.

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	Installation Types, Functions, Features and General Requirements	
3-3-1/19iii)d)	All Installations	To provide alternative acceptance criteria for coatings complying with the requirements for the CPS-COT notation for produced water tanks, slop tanks, or off-spec oil tanks.
PART 5A	Ship-Type Installations	
5A-1-4/3.1.2iii)	Design and Analysis of Other Major Hull Structural Features	To specify that actual loading conditions are to be used for internal turret mooring systems.
5A-3-1/5.19.2, 5.19.3	General	To remove the requirement for the PMA notation to be assigned for New Construction units since alternative means for access may be considered acceptable.
PART 5B	Other Installation Types	

Part 7 “Surveys”

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., 7-2-1/3.13 “Conditions for Surveys After Construction” (2025) is to apply for installations undergoing survey on or after 1 January 2025].

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 July 2025 – shown as (1 July 2025)

<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
PART 7	Surveys	
7-1-4/13	Surveys of the Import/Export System	To clarify that the entire installation (from the piping connection to the reels to the hose on the reel and onto the floating hose) should be leak tested once the final configuration is completed at the final location to ensure leak tightness during actual use and to remove outdated OCIMF reference and replace with reference to API, OCIMF, or other recognized codes of practice.
7-1-5/1	Surveys of the Disconnectable System	To clarify that the rotation test is to be carried out if applicable.
7-2-1/3.29	Conditions for Surveys After Construction	To relocate the requirements for suspect areas from the definition of the term to 7-2-4/3.5, 3.11 and 7-2-6/3.4.

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<i>Part/Para. No.</i>	<i>Title/Subject</i>	<i>Status/Remarks</i>
7-2-3/3.3	Survey Pre-Planning and In-Service Inspection Program (ISIP)	To remove "For units contracted on or after 1 January 2022" and to correct reference to include 3.3.5.
7-2-4/3.5, 3.11	Annual Surveys	To move requirements for suspect areas out of the definition of the term and clarify that Suspect Areas can be subject to re-examination in intervals less than one (1) year and to include other objects that overhang hull and make contact with the side shell.
7-2-4/9.9	Annual Surveys	To specify requirements for Crude Oil Washing and Tank Cleaning Systems since regular tank cleaning is essential to COT health and maintenance of the Tank Examination Schedule for Class and Statutory Surveys.
7-2-4/21	Annual Surveys	To add item for review of the inspection and testing records of the completed floating hose string against Maker or OCIMF requirements.
7-2-5/3.1.2	Intermediate Surveys	To combine identical requirements for Installations $5 < \text{Age} \leq 10$ years and Installations $\text{Age} > 10$ years.
7-2-6/1, 3.1.9	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To specify that the Girth Belts should be incorporated into the Structural Integrity Review performed by the Owner for the units under Life Extension and to add a reference to requirements for pitting of structures other than bottom plating.
7-2-6/3.1.12	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To align the process to be consistent across Rule sets and provide latitude to the Surveyor to waive thickness measurement in the course of inspection for more flexibility.
7-2-6/3.4	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To move requirements for suspect areas out of the definition of the term.
7-2-6/5ix), 21vi)	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To clarify that the rotating system needs to be operationally tested at every Special Survey.
7-2-6/9, 9.5.3	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To align the FPI Rules survey requirements in 7-2-6/9.5.3 with 7-6-2/3.1.3 of the ABS Rules for Survey After Construction.
7-2-6/13.1x), xii), xiv)	Special Periodical Surveys (SPS)	To align FPI Rules 7-2-6/13.1x),xii),xiv) with MVR 7-3-2/5.11.1(j), 5.11.1(l), and 5.11.1(n), respectively.
7-2-7/1vi), 3.1, 3.3ix), 5	Drydocking Surveys or Equivalent	To facilitate planning for improved hull examination during UWILD, re-organize for clarity, and align with other parts of the FPI Rules for corrosion and facilitate examination of an area that is susceptible to coating failure and corrosion.
7-A1-1/3	Guidance for the Class Notation, Storage Service	To clarify application to vessels that have reached their MARPOL phase out date that are entering this service.