

GUIDE FOR

VESSELS WITH OIL RECOVERY CAPABILITIES DECEMBER 2013

Guide to Color Coding Used in Online Version of the Guide

The following summarizes the colors corresponding to Rule Changes, Corrigenda items and editorial changes in the Guide files which are available for download.

Rule Changes:

Changes effective 1 December 2013

Corrigenda:

CORRIGENDA/EDITORIALS – 10 September 2014

Editorials:

Editorial Changes



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DECEMBER 2013 (Updated September 2014 – see next page)

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Incorporated by Act of Legislature of
the State of New York 1862**

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American Bureau of Shipping
ABS Plaza
16855 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060 USA**

Updates

September 2014 consolidation includes:

- December 2013 version plus Corrigenda/Editorials

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Full document details: ABS 146 2014

Foreword (1 December 2013)

ABS has developed this *Guide for Vessels with Oil Recovery Capabilities*, with the aim of promoting the safety of vessels and personnel by providing specific requirements for tugboats, barges, and other vessels which are intended for service in the event of oil spills and are equipped for the storage of recovered oil floating on the sea. Such units may not be equipped with permanent means for recovering spilled oil floating on the sea and typically do not have fixed piping systems for the transfer of recovered oil overboard. Oil is recovered from the sea by portable or fixed equipment such as oil skimmers and is transferred to these vessels by floating suction pumps operating on the sea surface. Recovered oil is subsequently transferred to shore reception facilities or other vessels by portable pumps.

Since 1 January 2013, requirements for offshore support vessels with oil recovery capabilities are being separately addressed in Part 5, Chapter 6 of the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Support Vessels*. Consequently, this Guide relates to vessels classified under the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels Under 90 Meters* and the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Steel Barges*, as applicable.

The December 2013 revisions of this Guide are adopted directly from, and are congruent with, the requirements of the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Support Vessels*.

This Guide becomes effective on the first day of the month of publication.

Users are advised to check periodically on the ABS website www.eagle.org to verify that this version of this Guide is the most current.

We welcome your feedback. Comments or suggestions can be sent electronically by email to rsd@eagle.org.

GUIDE FOR VESSELS WITH OIL RECOVERY CAPABILITIES

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SECTION 1 Introduction (1 December 2013)

1 Application

The requirements contained in this Guide are intended to promote the safety of tugboats, barges, and other similar vessels, which are intended for service in the event of oil spills and are equipped for the storage of recovered oil floating on the sea. Application of these requirements is optional and its compliance is at the request of the vessel's Owner. Unless otherwise noted in this Guide, relevant requirements contained in the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels Under 90 Meters (295 Feet) in Length (Under 90m Rules)* and the *ABS Rules for Building and Classing Steel Barges (Barge Rules)*, as applicable, are to be complied with.

3 Classification

Where requested by the Owner, vessels or barges which are found to be in compliance with the requirements specified in this Guide and which have been constructed under survey by the Surveyors, will be assigned and distinguished in the *Record* with the following class notations:

3.1 Oil Spill Recovery – Capability Class 1

The notation may be assigned to vessels or barges built in compliance with this Guide for recovery of oil of unknown flash points but not outfitted for the same in accordance with Section 4, and other relevant sections of the *Under 90m Rules* or *Barge Rules*, as applicable, and approved for oil recovery service at the assigned freeboard.

Example: **A1 Towing Vessel (OSR-C1)**

3.3 Oil Spill Recovery – Capability Class 2

The notation may be assigned to vessels or barges built in compliance with this Guide for recovery of oil having a flash point exceeding 60°C (140°F) but not outfitted for the same in accordance with Section 5, and other relevant sections of the *Under 90m Rules* or *Barge Rules*, as applicable, and approved for oil recovery service at the assigned freeboard.

Example: **A1 Towing Vessel (OSR-C2)**

5 Plans and Data

In addition to the plans required by Section 1-1-7 of the *ABS Rules for Conditions of Classification (Part 1)*, Section 1-1-4 and 4-1-1/7 of the *Under 90m Rules*, and Section 1-1-4 and 4-1-2/1 of the *Barge Rules*, as applicable, the relevant plans and data in accordance with Subsection 3/5 of this Guide are to be submitted for approval electronically or in triplicate.

SECTION 2 Definitions (1 December 2013)

The following definitions of terms are to be understood (in the absence of other specifications) where they appear in this Guide.

1 Accommodation Space

Accommodation Spaces are those spaces used for public spaces, corridors, laboratories, cabins, offices, hospitals, game and hobby rooms, pantries containing no cooking appliances, and similar spaces.

3 Recovered Oil

Spilled oil that has been removed from the marine environment and includes mixtures of oil and water.

5 Cargo Area

The *Cargo Area* is that part of the vessel that contains recovered oil tanks, slop tanks and recovered oil pump rooms including cofferdams, ballast and void spaces adjacent to recovered oil tanks and also deck areas throughout the entire length and breadth of the part of the vessel above the aforementioned spaces.

7 Control Station

Control Stations are those spaces in which the vessel's radio or main navigation equipment or the emergency source of power is located or where the fire recording or fire control equipment is located.

9 Hazardous Areas

Hazardous Areas are areas where flammable or explosive gases or vapors are normally present or likely to be present. The flammable or explosive atmosphere may be expected to exist continuously or intermittently. See Subsection 7/9.

Safe areas are areas that are not hazardous areas.

11 Machinery Space

Machinery Spaces are those spaces and trunks to such spaces which contain propelling machinery, boilers, oil fuel units, steam and internal combustion engines, generators and major electrical machinery, oil filling stations, thermal oil heaters, refrigerating, stabilizing, ventilation and air conditioning machinery.

13 Machinery Spaces of Category A

Machinery Spaces of Category A are those spaces and trunks to such spaces which contain either:

- i) Internal combustion machinery used for main propulsion
- ii) Internal combustion machinery used for purposes other than main propulsion where such machinery has in the aggregate a total power output of not less than 375 kW (500 hp)
- iii) Any oil-fired boiler or oil fuel unit, or any oil-fired equipment other than boiler, such as inert gas generator, incinerator, waste disposal units, etc.

15 Pump Room

Pump Rooms are those spaces that contain recovered oil transfer pumps, manifolds, separators or any other recovered oil handling equipment.

17 Oil

The term *Oil* refers to petroleum or petroleum products having flash points at or below 60°C (140°F), closed cup test, and specific gravity of not over 1.05, except where specifically indicated as oil having a flash point above 60°C (140°F).

19 Oil Recovery Operations

The term *Oil Recovery Operations* refers to the process used to contain and remove spilled oil from the sea to storage onboard the offshore support vessel. The process also includes the removal of the recovered oil from onboard storage to a disposal facility.

21 Service Space

Service Spaces are those spaces used for galleys, pantries containing cooking appliances, lockers, store rooms, workshops other than those forming part of the machinery spaces, and similar spaces and trunks to such spaces.