

GUIDE FOR

MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS OPERATING ON THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, N-NOTATION NOVEMBER 2013

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GUIDE FOR

MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS OPERATING ON **THE** NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, N-NOTATION

NOVEMBER 2013 (Updated May 2017 – see next page)

**American Bureau of Shipping
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Foreword (1 November 2013)

This Guide documents the classification related technical requirements for compliance with the verification obligations associated with the operation of mobile offshore units on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). It also provides information related to an application for an Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC) which is mandatory for units intended for operation on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS).

ABS has been appointed as a Recognized Organization (RO) for Mobile Offshore Units by the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) and thereby authorized to perform on its behalf technical verification, inspection and surveys for the delegated items concerning Mobile Offshore Units which are or will be registered in a Norwegian Ship Register.

Irrespective of flag, for the purpose of this Guide, Appendix 1 (as applicable) and the relevant parts of the delegated items (see Appendix 2) will form part of the technical verification permitted by Chapter 1 Section 3 of the Framework Regulations to contribute towards the application for an AoC. It is to be noted that the NMA references in this Guide do not imply full compliance with Norwegian Flag regulatory requirements.

The Guide describes NCS-related services provided by ABS for the following types of mobile offshore units and systems:

- Drilling Units
- Floating Production Storage and Offloading Units
- Hydrocarbon Production and Process Facilities
- Drilling Systems
- Accommodation Units
- Well Intervention Units
- Helicopter Decks
- Cranes and Lifting Appliances

The Guide contains the following three Chapters:

- Conditions of Classification
- Verification Methodology
- N-Notations

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

MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS OPERATING ON THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, N-NOTATION

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CHAPTER 1 Conditions of Classification

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CHAPTER 1 Conditions of Classification

SECTION 1 Scope and Conditions of Classification

1 Classification

The term classification, as used herein, indicates that a mobile offshore unit, operating on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS), has been designed, constructed, installed and surveyed in compliance with this Guide, applicable existing ABS Rules and Guides or other acceptable standards.

General principles and procedures related to classification covered in this Guide are stated in the applicable ABS Rules. The continuance of classification is dependent on the fulfillment of requirements for surveys after construction.

According to the Norwegian Petroleum Act, the Owner is fully responsible for verification activities to ensure that operation of units and systems are in compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements. Therefore, the ultimate responsibility for shutting down operations beyond the limit specified in unit and system design basis does not rest upon the ABS Classification Committee.

3 Class Notation

3.1 ABS N-Notation (1 February 2012)

Classification requirements given in this Guide are supplementary to the latest edition of the ABS Rules and Guides referenced in 1-1/5.1.

For the unit to receive the **(N)** notation, the design is to be verified as being in accordance with the applicable ABS Rules and/or Guides and the additional requirements outlined in this Guide. Additionally, mobile offshore units awarded the N-notation are to maintain compliance with the applicable standards contained in the latest edition of the PSA Regulations, their associated guidelines and the standards referenced in the AoC Handbook.

The design verification undertaken by ABS will determine the unit's compliance with the technical requirements contained in the relevant Rules, standards and regulations as applicable.

The Class requirements contained herein are to apply to all systems covered by the N-Notation. Additionally, 2-1/Table 3 and Appendix 1 must be applied. Unless the Owner requests additional compliance, drilling or production facilities will be subject to NORSOK standards. However, in order to verify that safety of the unit is not impaired, ABS is to review the effect of these systems on the surrounding structures, equipment and hazardous area designation. It is recommended that the drilling or production system is classed to avoid any difficulties that the interfaces between plant and vessel may create.

Mobile offshore units for operation on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, that have been built to the satisfaction of the ABS Surveyors to the applicable requirements of this Guide, where approved by the ABS Classification Committee for service for the specified design environmental conditions, may be classed and distinguished in the ABS *Record* by the symbols **✕ A1**, followed by the appropriate notation and the **(N)** notation, for example, **✕ A1 Column-Stabilized Drilling Unit (N)**. The N-Notations for mobile offshore units and systems are referenced in subsequent Chapters of this Guide.

3.3 Systems Not Built Under Survey

Mobile offshore units which have not been built under survey to ABS, but which are submitted for classification, will be subjected to a special classification survey. Where found satisfactory and thereafter approved by the Committee, they will be classed and distinguished in the *Record* by the symbols and special notations as described in this Guide, but the mark **✕** signifying survey during construction will be omitted.

5 Rules for Classification

5.1 Application (1 November 2013)

This Guide is intended for use in conjunction with the ABS:

- *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules),*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations (FPI Rules),*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Facilities on Offshore Installations (Facilities Rules),*
- *Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Support Vessels (OSV Rules)*
- *Guide for the Classification of Drilling Systems (CDS Guide),*
- *Guide for Certification of Lifting Appliances,*
- *Guide for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units*
- *Guide for the Class Notation Helicopter Decks and Facilities (HELIDK and HELIDK(SRF)) or*
- Other applicable ABS Rules and Guides.

The application of this Guide is, in general, based on the contract date for construction between the builder and the prospective Owner. **For existing Units, Appendix 3 should be applied.**

5.3 Scope (1 November 2013)

This Guide covers the safety aspects of the mobile offshore unit operating on NCS, and provides assistance to the Owner for AoC application or for a “Request for Consent to Operate” for the following types of mobile offshore units:

- Accommodation Units
- Drilling Units
- Production Storage/Offloading Units (FPSO and FPDSO) Units
- Storage Offloading Units (for Consent to Operate)
- **Well Intervention Units**

and the following types of industrial systems, facilities **or equipment**:

- Drilling Systems
- Production Facilities
- **Helidecks**
- **Cranes and Lifting Appliances**

Note: The AoC scheme is mandatory for all types of mobile units except for the floating storage offloading units, which may be subject to a “Request for Consent to Operate”.

Other types of mobile offshore units not included in the above categories are to be treated on an individual basis and be assigned an appropriate classification designation similar to the above format. It is to be noted that the drilling systems and the production facilities are to go through the process of verification for the N-Notation.

5.5 Effective Date of Change of Requirement

5.5.1 Effective Date (1 May 2017)

This Guide and subsequent changes to this Guide are to become effective on the date specified by ABS.

5.5.2 Implementation of Rule Changes

In general, until the effective date, plan approval for designs will follow prior practice unless review under the latest Rules is specifically requested by the party signatory to the application for classification.

The date of “contract for construction” of a mobile offshore unit is the date on which the contract to build the unit is signed between the prospective Owner and the shipbuilder. The date and the construction numbers (i.e., hull numbers) of all the units included in the contract are required to be indicated on the form, “Application of Request for Classification”. If the signed contract for construction is amended to change the unit type, the date of “contract for construction” of this modified unit, or units, is the date on which the revised contract or a new contract is signed between the Owner, or Owners, and the shipbuilder.

7 Norwegian Regulations and Other Standards

While this Guide covers the requirements for the classification of mobile offshore units operating on NCS, the attention of Owners, designers and builders is directed to the requirements of the Norwegian regulations and other standards that are over and above the classification requirements.

9 Submission of Plans

Subsequent Chapters in this Guide identify requirements for typical mobile offshore units and industrial systems that will be part of the classification and verification process for respective N-Notation.

Upon satisfactory completion of all of the required engineering and survey processes, ABS will issue the Classification Certificate to the operating mobile offshore unit, including the N-Notation.

9.1 Hull Plans (1 November 2013)

Hull plans showing the scantlings, arrangements, and details of the principal parts of the hull structure of each mobile offshore unit to be built under survey are to be submitted and approved before construction is commenced. These plans are to clearly indicate the scantlings and details of welding, and they are to include such particulars as the design draft and design speed. Where provision is to be made for any special type of cargo or for any exceptional conditions of loading, whether in ballast or with cargo, particulars of the weights to be carried and of their distribution are also to be given.

9.3 Machinery Plans

Machinery plans showing the boilers, main engines, reduction gears, etc., also machinery general arrangement, installation and equipment plans as referenced in the applicable Rules, are to be submitted and approved before proceeding with the work.

9.5 System Plans

In most cases, manufacturer’s component and system related drawings, calculations and documentation would be required for submittal to substantiate the design of the systems and their equipment. In these cases, upon satisfactory completion of ABS review of the manufacturer’s submittal, ABS Engineers will issue a review letter. This letter, in conjunction with the submitted package, will be used and referenced during surveys and subsequently issued reports by attending ABS Surveyors.

11 Abbreviations and Definitions

11.1 Abbreviations (1 November 2013)

Abbreviations used in this Guide are as follows:

ABS	American Bureau of Shipping
AoC	Acknowledgement of Compliance
EEA	European Economic Area
EU	European Union
HES	Health Environment and Safety
IACS	International Association of Classification Societies
MOU	Mobile Offshore Unit
MODU	Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit
MOPU	Mobile Offshore Production Unit
NBH	Norwegian Board of Health
NCS	Norwegian Continental Shelf
NMA	Norwegian Maritime Authority
NPD	Norwegian Petroleum Directorate
NSA	Norwegian Shipowners' Association
NOGA	Norwegian Oil and Gas Association
PSA	Petroleum Safety Authority
SFT	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
SoC	Statement of Compliance

11.3 Definitions (1 November 2013)

Definitions used in this Guide are as follows:

Acknowledgements of Compliance (AoC) – An *Acknowledgement of Compliance* is a decision made by the Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) that the technical condition of a Mobile Offshore Unit (MOU) and the applicant's organization and management systems are considered to be in compliance with relevant requirements in Norwegian Shelf legislation.

Applicant – The *Applicant* is the responsible body for operation of a MOU who applies for an AoC.

CE Mark – *CE* denotes “Communauté Européenne” and confirms that equipment complies with European Union Directives.

Client – The *Client* is the party having requested classification or having assumed ownership of a classed offshore unit or installation. In cases where Owners have requested another party to operate the unit or installation on their behalf, such party is regarded as the client.

Contract – The *Contract* is an agreement between ABS and the client where the extent of services requested by the client is defined.

Mobile Offshore Unit (MOU) – A *Mobile Offshore Unit (MOU)* is a buoyant structure engaged in offshore operations including drilling, production, storage or support functions, not intended for services on one particular offshore site and which can be relocated without dismantling or modification.

MOU Classification Society (NMA Construction Regulation) – An *MOU Classification Society (NMA Construction Regulation)* is a recognized classification society with which there is an additional agreement with the NMA on ABS carrying out inspection and surveys, etc., on mobile offshore units. Also referred to as “Recognized Organization”.

Notified Body – A *Notified Body* is an independent organization appointed by European Economic Area (EEA) national authorities to undertake conformity assessment before a product is CE marked according to an European Union (EU) Directive.

Owner – For the purpose of this Guide, the *Owner* is the party responsible for the offshore unit, including its operation and safety.

Recognized Classification Society [*NMA Construction Regulation (Red Book Section VI-3)*] – A *Recognized Classification Society* [*NMA Construction Regulation (Red Book Section VI-3)*] is any Classification Society with which the Ministry has entered into an agreement pursuant to §9 of the Seaworthiness Act.

Statutory Certificates – *Statutory Certificates* are IMO convention certificates issued on behalf of, or by, national authorities.

Supplier or Manufacturer – The *Supplier* or *Manufacturer* supplies materials, components, equipment and systems to new and existing offshore units or industrial systems, whose product is subject to design approval, surveys and testing in accordance with the Rules.



CHAPTER 2 Verification Methodology

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CHAPTER 2 Verification Methodology

SECTION 1 Basis and Procedures

1 General

1.1 Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC) *(1 November 2013)*

An AoC is a decision made by the Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) that the technical condition of a MOU and the applicant's organization and management systems are considered to be in compliance with relevant requirements of Norwegian Shelf Legislation.

The AoC is mandatory and is applicable to all types of mobile facilities except storage units operating on the NCS. MOUs, in this context, are units, registered by a flag Administration and which follow a maritime operational concept.

Note: In some cases (production storage/offloading) it may be a matter of judgment if the unit can be categorized as a maritime practice "offshore unit" according to PSA regulations. It is recommended that the PSA be contacted at an early stage of such projects for their clarification.

ABS services described in this document may be used by Owners to document partial compliance with the PSA requirements for an AoC. To assist with the application for an AoC, a MOU is to meet the requirements for the N-Notation as described in the appropriate sections of Chapter 3. The N-Notation is obtained by the unit holding class certificates, being flagged and meeting supplementary requirements of PSA and **NMA**.

Details of the AoC scheme are given in "Handbook for Application for Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC)" issued by **the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association**. For further information and references, see 2-1/Tables 1 and 2 of this Guide.

1.3 Technical Norms and Standards *(1 March 2009)*

This Guide includes reference to other ABS documents, regulations, codes and standards which shall be used in conjunction with the requirements of this Guide for assignment of the N-Notation. Unless otherwise agreed, latest issues of the references shall be used.

2-1/Table 1 provides ABS Rules/Guides to be used in performing the required design verification.

2-1/Table 2 provides additional regulations/standards, other than class, to be used in performing the required design verification for N-Notations.

TABLE 1
ABS Applicable Rules/Guides (1 November 2013)

ABS Rules/Guides
Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
Rules for Building and Classing Floating Production Installations
Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)
Guide for the Classification of Drilling Systems
Rules for Building and Classing Facilities on Offshore Installations
Guide for Certification of Lifting Appliances
Rules for Building and Classing Offshore Support Vessels
Guide for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units
Guide for the Class Notation Helicopter Decks and Facilities (HELIDK and HELIDK(SRF))

TABLE 2
Regulations/Standards other than Class (1 November 2013)

Reference	Title
PSA	Regulations relating to health, environment and safety in the petroleum activities (Framework Regulations)
PSA	Regulations relating to design and outfitting of facilities etc., in the petroleum activities
PSA	Regulations relating to conduct of activities in the petroleum activities
IMO MODU Code	Code for the construction and equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
NMA	Norwegian Maritime Authority's Regulations for Mobile Offshore Units (NMA Red Book)
NMA No. 123	Regulations for Mobile Offshore Units with production plants and equipment
NMA No. 227	Regulations concerning precautionary measures against fire and explosion on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 853	Regulations concerning evacuation and lifesaving appliances on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 865	Regulations concerning the construction of Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 09	Regulations concerning anchoring/positioning systems on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 878	Regulations concerning stability, watertight subdivision and watertight/weathertight closing means on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 879	Regulations concerning ballast systems on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 1200	Regulations concerning the installations and use of radio equipment on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 1239	Regulations concerning risk analyses for Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 72	Regulations concerning helicopter decks on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 2318	Regulations concerning the construction and equipment of living quarters on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA Operation 858	Regulations concerning operation of Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 859	Regulations concerning protective, environmental and safety measures on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 854	Regulations concerning deck cranes, etc., on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 860	Regulations concerning potable water systems potable water supply on Mobile Offshore Units
NMA No. 1331	Regulations concerning the prevention of pollution from the maritime operations of Mobile Offshore Units
Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Labour	Regulations relating to asbestos
API RP 14C	Analysis, design, installation and testing of basic surface safety systems for Offshore Production Platforms
ISO-13628	Design and operation of subsea production systems
ISO-10418	Analysis, design, installation and testing of basic surface safety systems
ISO 13702 Chapter 9 and Appendix C.1	Electrical Systems General Parts

TABLE 2 (continued)
Regulations/Standards other than Class (1 February 2012)

Reference	Title
IEC61892	Mobile and Fixed Offshore Units – Electrical Installations
IEC60092	Electrical Installations on Ships
EN 13852-1	Cranes – Offshore Cranes – Part 1: General-purpose offshore cranes
NORSOK D-001	Drilling Facilities
NORSOK L-001	Piping and valves
NORSOK L-002	Piping design, layout and stress analysis
NORSOK P-001	Process design
NORSOK P-100	Process systems
NORSOK S-001	Technical safety
NORSOK U-001	Subsea production systems
AoC Handbook	Handbook for Application for Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC) http://www.norskoljeoggass.no/en/Publica/Guidelines/Drilling/065-Handbook-for-application-for-Acknowledgement-of-Compliance-AoC/
IMO MSC Circular 645	Guidelines for vessels with dynamic positioning systems

3 Regulatory Basis (1 November 2013)

Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) may issue the Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC) when the unit is complete and when the technical conditions and the applicant's organization and management systems are considered to be in compliance with the legal requirements of the Norwegian Continental Shelf. Applicable regulations are given in 2-1/Table 3 and are available at: <http://www.ptil.no/regulations/category216.html>

TABLE 3
Regulations and Guidelines (1 February 2012)

Formal Regulations Title	General Title
Regulations Relating to Health, Safety and the Environment in the Petroleum Activities and at Certain Onshore Facilities	The Framework Regulations
Guidelines Regarding the Framework Regulations	The Framework guidelines
Regulations Relating to Management and the Duty to Provide Information in the Petroleum Activities and at Certain Onshore Facilities	The Management Regulations
Guidelines Regarding the Management Regulations	The Management guidelines
Regulations Relating to Technical and Operational Matters at Onshore Facilities in the Petroleum Activities, etc.	The Technical and Operational Regulations
Guidelines Regarding the Technical and Operational Regulations	The Technical and Operational guidelines
Regulations Relating to Design and Outfitting of Facilities etc., in the Petroleum Activities	The Facilities Regulations
Guidelines Regarding the Facilities Regulations	The Facilities guidelines
Regulations Relating to Conducting Petroleum Activities	The Activities Regulations
Guidelines Regarding the Activities Regulations	The Activities guidelines

5 Regulatory Considerations (1 November 2013)

According to Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Framework Regulations, relevant technical requirements contained in the Rules and Regulations, etc., which have been issued by the Norwegian Maritime Authority together with supplementary classification Rules and State Flag regulations, may be used as a basis for documentation of compliance. Refer to Enclosure C of the “Handbook for Application for Acknowledgement of Compliance (AoC)”. This handbook is available at:

<http://www.norskoljeoggass.no/en/Publica/Guidelines/Drilling/065-Handbook-for-application-for-Acknowledgement-of-Compliance-AoC/>

7 Verification Basis (1 November 2013)

MOUs are to comply with the latest edition of the PSA Regulations, the referred to standards therein and associated guidelines.

MOUs may be accepted for operation on the NCS by applying Chapter 1 Section 3 of the Framework Regulations for marine aspects as an alternative to direct compliance with the PSA Facility Regulations. The unit must be registered and comply with classification procedures with five yearly renewal surveys.

The maritime regulations and applicable classification Rules are to have a safety level at least equivalent to that corresponding to the latest edition of the NMA Regulations for Mobile Offshore Units (NMA Red Book) and Supplementary Offshore Classification Rules.

Drilling and production systems shall comply directly with the provisions of the PSA Facilities Regulations, as shall working environmental issues. It is recommended that the PSA be contacted at an early stage of the project to clarify the verification process.

NMA Regulations are available at: <http://www.sjofartsdir.no/en/vessels/vessel-types/mobile-offshore-units/>

9 Verification Procedures (1 November 2013)

In accordance with the Norwegian Petroleum Act, it is the responsibility of the Owner to ensure that ongoing operations onboard the MOU comply with the applicable Rules and regulations.

The Applicant may choose to use internal as well as external verification activities work to demonstrate partial or full compliance with their verification obligations. Documents issued for this purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Classification Certificates
- Maritime certificates issued by flag state administration and associated Rules and regulations to which certificates are issued.
- Evidence of compliance with Norwegian Maritime Authority Regulations
- Verification reports or Statement of Compliance (SoC) issued by consultants/technical specialists for the Owner/Operator.

11 Classification Principles and Procedures

Classification principles and procedures addressed in this Guide are stated in the applicable ABS Rules/Guides.

The N-Notation will be issued and maintained based on satisfactory completion of the following activities:

- Design verification
- Certification of supplier-provided materials and equipment
- Surveys during construction
- Surveys after construction



CHAPTER 3 N-Notations

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