



GUIDE FOR

AIR LUBRICATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

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Foreword

ABS recognizes the increasing capability of energy saving devices adopted by the industry and supports improvements in energy efficiency in marine and offshore operations. Air lubrication is an innovative energy saving system utilizing microbubbles to reduce hull skin friction. The consistent release of microbubbles forms an air-water layer around the hull that can result in reduced skin friction for vessels. This Guide provides requirements and reference standards to facilitate effective installation of Air Lubrication Systems.

IMO has recognized air lubrication technology and its potential impact on energy savings, and has included the effects of air lubrication into the EEDI calculation in MEPC.1/Circ. 815, in which air lubrication technology is considered a method of reducing main engine power requirements.

This Guide is applicable to three air lubrication technologies: air bubble, air layer and air cavity methods, which are currently in various degrees of development by the industry. These technologies are continuously evolving. Alternative arrangements, designs and technologies may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis provided they can be demonstrated, through either satisfactory service experience or a systematic analysis based on sound engineering principles, to meet the overall requirements of this Guide.

The effective date of this Guide is 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.



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