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Rules for the Classification of Floating Establishments

- PART A - Classification and Surveys**
- PART B - Hull and Stability**
- PART C - Machinery, Systems and Electricity**
- PART D - Additional Requirements for Notations**

September 2012

**Rule Note
NR 580 DNI R00 E**



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MARINE DIVISION

GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 1

1.1. - BUREAU VERITAS is a Society the purpose of whose Marine Division (the "Society") is the classification ("Classification") of any ship or vessel or structure of any type or part of it or system therein collectively hereinafter referred to as a "Unit" whether linked to shore, river bed or sea bed or not, whether operated or located at sea or in inland waters or partly on land, including submarines, hovercrafts, drilling rigs, offshore installations of any type and of any purpose, their related and ancillary equipment, subsea or not, such as well head and pipelines, mooring legs and mooring points or otherwise as decided by the Society.

The Society:

- prepares and publishes Rules for classification, Guidance Notes and other documents ("Rules");
- issues Certificates, Attestations and Reports following its interventions ("Certificates");
- publishes Registers.

1.2. - The Society also participates in the application of National and International Regulations or Standards, in particular by delegation from different Governments. Those activities are hereafter collectively referred to as "Certification".

1.3. - The Society can also provide services related to Classification and Certification such as ship and company safety management certification; ship and port security certification, training activities; all activities and duties incidental thereto such as documentation on any supporting means, software, instrumentation, measurements, tests and trials on board.

1.4. - The interventions mentioned in 1.1., 1.2. and 1.3. are referred to as "Services". The party and/or its representative requesting the services is hereinafter referred to as the "Client". **The Services are prepared and carried out on the assumption that the Clients are aware of the International Maritime and/or Offshore Industry (the "Industry") practices.**

1.5. - The Society is neither and may not be considered as an Underwriter, Broker in ship's sale or chartering, Expert in Unit's valuation, Consulting Engineer, Controller, Naval Architect, Manufacturer, Shipbuilder, Repair yard, Charterer or Shipowner who are not relieved of any of their expressed or implied obligations by the interventions of the Society.

ARTICLE 2

2.1. - Classification is the appraisal given by the Society for its Client, at a certain date, following surveys by its Surveyors along the lines specified in Articles 3 and 4 hereafter on the level of compliance of a Unit to its Rules or part of them. This appraisal is represented by a class entered on the Certificates and periodically transcribed in the Society's Register.

2.2. - Certification is carried out by the Society along the same lines as set out in Articles 3 and 4 hereafter and with reference to the applicable National and International Regulations or Standards.

2.3. - It is incumbent upon the Client to maintain the condition of the Unit after surveys, to present the Unit for surveys and to inform the Society without delay of circumstances which may affect the given appraisal or cause to modify its scope.

2.4. - The Client is to give to the Society all access and information necessary for the safe and efficient performance of the requested Services. The Client is the sole responsible for the conditions of presentation of the Unit for tests, trials and surveys and the conditions under which tests and trials are carried out.

ARTICLE 3

3.1. - The Rules, procedures and instructions of the Society take into account at the date of their preparation the state of currently available and proven technical knowledge of the Industry. They are not a standard or a code of construction neither a guide for maintenance, a safety handbook or a guide of professional practices, all of which are assumed to be known in detail and carefully followed at all times by the Client.

Committees consisting of personalities from the Industry contribute to the development of those documents.

3.2. - The Society only is qualified to apply its Rules and to interpret them. Any reference to them has no effect unless it involves the Society's intervention.

3.3. - The Services of the Society are carried out by professional Surveyors according to the applicable Rules and to the Code of Ethics of the Society. Surveyors have authority to decide locally on matters related to classification and certification of the Units, unless the Rules provide otherwise.

3.4. - The operations of the Society in providing its Services are exclusively conducted by way of random inspections and do not in any circumstances involve monitoring or exhaustive verification.

ARTICLE 4

4.1. - The Society, acting by reference to its Rules:

- reviews the construction arrangements of the Units as shown on the documents presented by the Client;
- conducts surveys at the place of their construction;
- classes Units and enters their class in its Register;
- surveys periodically the Units in service to note that the requirements for the maintenance of class are met.

The Client is to inform the Society without delay of circumstances which may cause the date or the extent of the surveys to be changed.

ARTICLE 5

5.1. - The Society acts as a provider of services. This cannot be construed as an obligation bearing on the Society to obtain a result or as a warranty.

5.2. - The certificates issued by the Society pursuant to 5.1. here above are a statement on the level of compliance of the Unit to its Rules or to the documents of reference for the Services provided for.

In particular, the Society does not engage in any work relating to the design, building, production or repair checks, neither in the operation of the Units or in their trade, neither in any advisory services, and cannot be held liable on those accounts. Its certificates cannot be construed as an implied or express warranty of safety, fitness for the purpose, seaworthiness of the Unit or of its value for sale, insurance or chartering.

5.3. - The Society does not declare the acceptance or commissioning of a Unit, nor of its construction in conformity with its design, that being the exclusive responsibility of its owner or builder, respectively.

5.4. - The Services of the Society cannot create any obligation bearing on the Society or constitute any warranty of proper operation, beyond any representation set forth in the Rules, of any Unit, equipment or machinery, computer software of any sort or other comparable concepts that has been subject to any survey by the Society.

ARTICLE 6

6.1. - The Society accepts no responsibility for the use of information related to its Services which was not provided for the purpose by the Society or with its assistance.

6.2. - If the Services of the Society cause to the Client a damage which is proved to be the direct and reasonably foreseeable consequence of an error or omission of the Society, its liability towards the Client is limited to ten times the amount of fee paid for the Service having caused the damage, provided however that this limit shall be subject to a minimum of eight thousand (8,000) Euro, and to a maximum which is the greater of eight hundred thousand (800,000) Euro and one and a half times the above mentioned fee.

The Society bears no liability for indirect or consequential loss such as e.g. loss of revenue, loss of profit, loss of production, loss relative to other contracts and indemnities for termination of other agreements.

6.3. - All claims are to be presented to the Society in writing within three months of the date when the Services were supplied or (if later) the date when the events which are relied on were first known to the Client, and any claim which is not so presented shall be deemed waived and absolutely barred. Time is to be interrupted thereafter with the same periodicity.

ARTICLE 7

7.1. - Requests for Services are to be in writing.

7.2. - Either the Client or the Society can terminate as of right the requested Services after giving the other party thirty days' written notice, for convenience, and without prejudice to the provisions in Article 8 hereunder.

7.3. - The class granted to the concerned Units and the previously issued certificates remain valid until the date of effect of the notice issued according to 7.2. here above subject to compliance with 2.3. here above and Article 8 hereunder.

7.4. - The contract for classification and/or certification of a Unit cannot be transferred neither assigned.

ARTICLE 8

8.1. - The Services of the Society, whether completed or not, involve, for the part carried out, the payment of fee upon receipt of the invoice and the reimbursement of the expenses incurred.

8.2. Overdue amounts are increased as of right by interest in accordance with the applicable legislation.

8.3. - The class of a Unit may be suspended in the event of non-payment of fee after a first unfruitful notification to pay.

ARTICLE 9

9.1. - The documents and data provided to or prepared by the Society for its Services, and the information available to the Society, are treated as confidential. However:

- clients have access to the data they have provided to the Society and, during the period of classification of the Unit for them, to the **classification file** consisting of survey reports and certificates which have been prepared at any time by the Society for the classification of the Unit;
- copy of the documents made available for the classification of the Unit and of available survey reports can be handed over to another Classification Society, where appropriate, in case of the Unit's transfer of class;
- the data relative to the evolution of the Register, to the class suspension and to the survey status of the Units, as well as general technical information related to hull and equipment damages, are passed on to IACS (International Association of Classification Societies) according to the association working rules;
- the certificates, documents and information relative to the Units classed with the Society may be reviewed during certifying bodies audits and are disclosed upon order of the concerned governmental or inter-governmental authorities or of a Court having jurisdiction.

The documents and data are subject to a file management plan.

ARTICLE 10

10.1. - Any delay or shortcoming in the performance of its Services by the Society arising from an event not reasonably foreseeable by or beyond the control of the Society shall be deemed not to be a breach of contract.

ARTICLE 11

11.1. - In case of diverging opinions during surveys between the Client and the Society's surveyor, the Society may designate another of its surveyors at the request of the Client.

11.2. - Disagreements of a technical nature between the Client and the Society can be submitted by the Society to the advice of its Marine Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE 12

12.1. - Disputes over the Services carried out by delegation of Governments are assessed within the framework of the applicable agreements with the States, international Conventions and national rules.

12.2. - Disputes arising out of the payment of the Society's invoices by the Client are submitted to the Court of Nanterre, France.

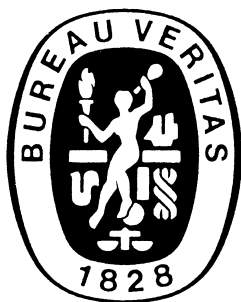
12.3. - Other disputes over the present General Conditions or over the Services of the Society are exclusively submitted to arbitration, by three arbitrators, in London according to the Arbitration Act 1996 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof. The contract between the Society and the Client shall be governed by English law.

ARTICLE 13

13.1. - These General Conditions constitute the sole contractual obligations binding together the Society and the Client, to the exclusion of all other representation, statements, terms, conditions whether express or implied. They may be varied in writing by mutual agreement.

13.2. - The invalidity of one or more stipulations of the present General Conditions does not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

13.3. - The definitions herein take precedence over any definitions serving the same purpose which may appear in other documents issued by the Society.



RULE NOTE NR 580

NR 580

Rules for the Classification of Floating Establishments

- Part A Classification and Surveys**
- Part B Hull and Stability**
- Part C Machinery, Systems and Electricity**
- Part D Additional Requirements for Notations**

September 2012

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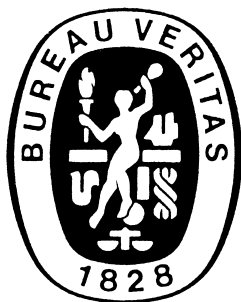
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RULES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF FLOATING ESTABLISHMENTS

Part A Classification and Surveys

Chapters 1 2 3

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Part A
Classification and Surveys

Chapter 1

PRINCIPLES OF CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 2 CLASS DESIGNATION

SECTION 1

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CLASSIFICATION

1 Principles of classification

1.1 Purpose of the Rules

1.1.1 The requirements of this Rule Note apply specifically to floating units, moored or anchored in smooth stretches of water, for the assignment and maintenance of the type and service notation **Floating establishment** as defined in Ch 1, Sec 2, [1.6.1].

A special consideration will be given to units intended to be operated on stretches of water where different conditions of water surface may be encountered.

1.1.2 The Class assigned to a unit reflects the discretionary opinion of the Society that the unit, for declared conditions of use and within the relevant time frame, complies with the Rules applicable at the time the service is rendered.

1.1.3 The General Conditions valid at the time of signing of the contract with the Owner or Prospective Owner, the Building Yard or Other Interested party apply.

1.1.4 Classification according to this Rule Note applies primarily to new buildings constructed under survey of the Society. Classification may also be applied to existing units by a survey for admission to class/classification after construction, if sufficient documentation is available, see Ch 2, Sec 4, [1.2].

1.1.5 This Rule Note will be applied for structural elements of the hull and for components of the machinery and electrical installations of floating units, subject to agreement between the Prospective Owner, the Other Interested party and the Building Yard for the classification order to the Society.

1.1.6 A Floating establishment not covered by any of the types defined in [1.2.18] will be classed on the basis of the requirements applicable to the type of unit having the most similar intended mission.

1.1.7 The division into types of floating establishments according to [1.2.18] does not preclude the existence on the same unit of several activities corresponding to various types or similar types each of which, taken alone, would not meet the requirements of this Rule Note. However, this group of activities will be permitted only if they comply together and individually with the requirements prescribed by this Rule Note.

1.2 General definitions

1.2.1 Administration / Authorities

Administration/Authorities means the Government of the registry state.

1.2.2 Building specification

The building specification is part of the building contract between the Prospective Owner, Other Interested Party and the Building Yard which specifies the technical parameters and all other details for the construction of the unit.

1.2.3 Building Yard

The Building Yard is the contractual partner of the Prospective Owner or Other Interested Party, entrusted with managing the design, construction and equipment of the unit, generally together with a series of subcontractors and manufacturers.

1.2.4 Categories of units

Floating units are subdivided into categories depending on the number of persons admitted (public and staff), according to Tab 1.

Table 1 : Category definition

Category	Number of persons, n
1	$n > 1500$
2	$701 \leq n \leq 1500$
3	$301 \leq n < 701$
4	$n_0 < n \leq 300$
5	$12 < n \leq n_0$
n_0 : Minimum number of persons, defined in the relevant Section of Part D, Chapter 1, for the unit type considered.	

1.2.5 Essential service

Essential service is intended to mean a service necessary for a unit to undertake activities connected with its operation, and for the safety of life, as far as class is concerned.

1.2.6 Hull

The hull is the structural body of a unit including all strength components, i.e. shell plating, walls, framing, decks, bulkheads, etc. of the main hull, superstructures and deckhouses. The hull also includes:

- all portions of the unit extending beyond the main hull outline (appendages)
- river chests
- structures permanently connected by weld to the unit's hull such as guard rails, bitts, fixed parts of lifting appliances, machinery bedding, etc.
- tanks integrated to the hull structure.

1.2.7 Other Interested Party

Other Interested Party means other ordering subcontractors such as the Broker, the Designer, the Engine and components Manufacturer, or the Supplier of parts to be tested, etc.

1.2.8 Owner or Prospective Owner

Owner or Prospective Owner means the Registered Owner or the Disponent Owner or the Manager or any other party responsible for the definition, purchase and/or operation of the unit and having the responsibility to keep the unit in good condition, having particular regard to the provisions relating to the maintenance of class laid.

1.2.9 Period of class

Period of class means the period starting either from the date of the initial classification or from the credited date of the last class renewal survey, and expiring at the limit date assigned for the next class renewal survey.

1.2.10 Public

Public includes all persons admitted on board a floating establishment, in addition to the unit staff.

1.2.11 Smooth stretches of water

Smooth stretches of water cover operation of units on water stretches where the maximum wave height does not exceed 0,6 m.

1.2.12 Society

Society means the Classification Society with which the unit is classed.

1.2.13 Statutory Rules

Statutory Rules are the national and international Rules and Regulations which apply to the unit but which are not covered by the classification.

1.2.14 Survey

Survey means an intervention by the Surveyor for assignment or maintenance of class, or interventions by the Surveyor within the limits of the tasks delegated by the Administrations.

1.2.15 Surveyor

Surveyor means technical staff acting on behalf of the Society to perform tasks in relation to classification and survey duties.

1.2.16 Type approval

Type approval means an approval process for verifying compliance with the Rules of a product, a group of products or a system, and considered by the Society as representative of continuous production.

1.2.17 Unit

Unit means any floating establishment as defined in Ch 1, Sec 2, [1.6.1].

1.2.18 Type of floating establishments

Floating establishments are classified, according to their mission, into types defined in Ch 1, Sec 2, [1.7.2].

1.3 Date of “contract for construction”

1.3.1 The date of “contract for construction” of a unit is the date on which the contract to build the unit is signed between the Prospective Owner or the Other Interested Party and the Building Yard. This date is normally to be declared to the Society by the ordering client applying for the assignment of class to a new building.

The date of “contract for construction” of a series of units, including specified optional units for which the option is ultimately exercised, is the date on which the contract to build the series is signed between the Prospective Owner or Other Interested Party and the Building Yard.

For the purpose of this definition, units built under a single “contract for construction” are considered a “series of units” if they are built to the same reviewed / approved plans for classification purposes. However, units within a series may have design alterations from the original design provided:

- such alterations do not affect matters related to classification, or
- if the alterations are subject to classification requirements, these alterations are to comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are contracted between the Prospective Owner or Other Interested Party and the Building Yard or, in the absence of the alteration contract, comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are submitted to the Society for review/approval.

The optional units will be considered part of the same series of units if the option is exercised not later than 1 year after the contract to build the series was signed.

If a “contract for construction” is later amended to include additional units or additional options, the date of “contract for construction” for such units is the date on which the amendment to the contract is signed between the Prospective Owner or Other Interested Party and the Building Yard. The amendment to the contract is to be considered as a “new contract” to which the above applies.

If a “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 new contract is signed between the Prospective Owner, or Prospective Owners, and the Building Yard.

1.4 Meaning of classification, scope and limits

1.4.1 The Rules, surveys performed, reports, certificates and other documents issued by the Society, are in no way intended to replace or alleviate the duties and responsibilities of other parties, such as Administrations, Designers, Building Yard, Manufacturers, Repairers, Suppliers, Contractors or Subcontractors, actual or Prospective Owners or Operators and Underwriters. The Society cannot therefore assume the obligations arising from these functions, even when the Society is consulted to answer inquiries concerning matters not covered by its Rules, or other documents.

1.4.2 The activities of such parties which fall outside the scope of the classification as set out in the Rules, such as design, engineering, manufacturing, operating alternatives, choice of type and power of machinery and equipment, number and qualification of operating personnel, remain therefore the responsibility of those parties, even if these matters may be given consideration for classification according to the type of the unit or additional class notation assigned.

1.4.3 The classification-related services and documents performed and issued by the Society do not relieve the parties concerned of their responsibilities or other contractual obligations expressed or implied or of any liability whatsoever, nor do they create any right or claim in relation to the Society with regard to such responsibilities, obligations and liabilities. In particular, the Society does not declare the acceptance or commissioning of a unit or any part of it, this being the exclusive responsibility of the Owner or Other Interested Party.

1.4.4 Unless otherwise specified, the Rules do not deal with structures, pressure vessels, machinery and equipment which are not permanently installed and used solely for operational activities, except for their effect on the classification-related matters, such as the unit's general strength.

1.4.5 During periods of construction, modification or repair, the unit is solely under the responsibility of the Builder or the Repair Yard. As an example, the Builder or Repair Yard is to ensure that the construction, modification or repair activities are compatible with the design strength of the unit and that no permanent deformations are sustained.

1.4.6 Structures, machinery and equipment determining the type of unit are subject to examination within the scope of classification, in accordance with the character of classification and affixed class notations.

Other systems and components may be included in the classification and/or certification procedure upon request of the Prospective Owner, the Other Interested Party and the Building Yard.

1.4.7 It is assumed that all parties involved in the planning and design, materials and components production and installation have the professional qualifications required and/or suitable facilities/equipment for fabrication. This will normally be established or confirmed by means of a certified quality assurance management system in accordance with ISO 9000, or equivalent.

1.4.8 When it is agreed to limit the classification to the unit's hull only, the parts of the unit which are to comply with the Rules are those mentioned in [1.2.6]. In such a case, the applicable stability requirements are also to be complied with and the classification notations defined in Ch 1, Sec 2, [1] will be assigned only to the hull. Machinery, systems and electrical installations which are normally matters for classification are to be in compliance with the requirements of the competent Authority.

1.5 Request for services

1.5.1 Requests for interventions by the Society, such as request for classification, surveys during construction, surveys of units in service, tests, etc., are in principle to be submitted in writing and signed by the Other Interested Party, the Owner, the Prospective Owner or the Building Yard. Such request implies that the applicant will abide by all the relevant requirements of the Rules and the General Conditions of the Society.

2 Rules

2.1 Effective date

2.1.1 The effective date of entry into force of any amendments to the Rules is indicated on the inside front page of the Rules or in the relevant Section.

2.2 Application

2.2.1 In principle, the applicable Rules for assignment of class to a new unit are those in force at the date of contract for construction. In the case of admission to class after construction, the Rules in force at the date of the request for classification apply.

2.2.2 Special consideration may be given to applying new or modified rule requirements which entered into force subsequent to the date of the contract for construction, at the discretion of the Society and in the following cases:

- when a justified written request is received from the party applying for classification
- when the keel is not yet laid and more than one year has elapsed since the contract was signed
- where it is intended to use existing previously approved plans for a new contract.

2.2.3 The above procedures for application of the Rules are, in principle, also applicable to existing units in the case of major conversions and, in the case of alterations, to the altered parts of the unit.

2.2.4 The rule requirements related to assignment, maintenance and withdrawal of the class of units already in operation are applicable from the date of their entry into force.

2.3 Equivalence

2.3.1 The Society may consider the acceptance of alternatives to this Rule Note, provided that they are deemed to be equivalent, to the satisfaction to the Society.

2.3.2 As a rule, materials and equipment type approved in compliance with NR467 Rules for Steel Ships are considered acceptable within the scope of this Rule Note for the classification of floating establishments.

2.4 Novel features

2.4.1 The Society may consider the classification of units based on or applying novel design principles or features, to which the Rule Note is not directly applicable, on the basis of experiments, calculations or other supporting information provided to the Society. The specific limitations will then be indicated on a memoranda.

2.5 Other construction Rules and Regulations

2.5.1 The appraisal of design and construction particulars by the Society will be exclusively based on Rules and Guidelines agreed upon in the specification of the classification contract between the Prospective Owner, the Other Interested Party or the Building Yard and the Society.

2.5.2 In addition, statutory construction Rules for floating establishments, may be applied upon agreement with the relevant Authority and if defined in the specification of the classification contract between the Prospective Owner, the Other Interested Party or the Building Yard and the Society.

2.5.3 The compliance to statutory Rules of the respective registry country is the responsibility of the Prospective Owner.

2.6 Industry Codes, Standards, etc.

2.6.1 Internationally recognized Standards and Codes published by relevant organisations, national industry organisations or standardisation institutions may be used upon agreement in particular cases as a design and construction basis.

Examples: ISO, IEC, EN, DIN, NF.

2.7 Application of statutory Rules by the Society

2.7.1 When authorised by the Administration concerned, the Society will act on its behalf within the limits of such authorisation. In this respect, the Society will take into account the relevant requirements, survey the unit, report and issue or contribute to the issue of the corresponding certificates.

2.7.2 The above surveys do not fall within the scope of the classification of units, even though their scope may overlap in part and may be carried out concurrently with surveys for assignment or maintenance of class.

In the case of a discrepancy between the provisions of the applicable international and national Regulations and those of the Rules, normally, the former take precedence. However, the Society reserves the right to call for the necessary adaptation to preserve the intention of the Rules.

3 Duties of the Interested Parties

3.1 International and National Regulations

3.1.1 The classification of a unit does not dispense the Owner, Other Interested Party and Building Yard from compliance with any requirements issued by Administrations.

3.2 Surveyor's intervention

3.2.1 Surveyors are to be given free access at all times to units which are classed or being classed, Building Yard and manufacturer works, to carry out their interventions within the scope of assignment or maintenance of class, or within the scope of interventions carried out on behalf of Administrations, when so delegated.

Free access is also to be given to experts or/and auditors accompanying the Surveyors of the Society within the scope of the audits as required in pursuance of the Society's internal Quality System or as required by external organizations.

3.2.2 Owners, Other Interested Parties and Building Yard are to take the necessary measures for the Surveyor's inspections and testing to be carried out safely and efficiently under their full responsibility. Owners, Other Interested Parties and Building Yard - irrespective of the nature of the service provided by the Surveyors of the Society or others acting on its behalf - assume with respect to such Surveyors all the responsibility of an employer for his workforce such as to meet the provisions of applicable legislation. As a rule, the Surveyor is to be constantly accompanied during surveys by personnel of the Owner, Other Interested Party or Building Yards.

3.2.3 The certificate of classification and/or other documents issued by the Society remain the property of the Society. All certificates and documents necessary to the Surveyor's interventions are to be made available by the Owner, Other Interested Party or Building Yard to the Surveyor on request.

3.2.4 During the phases of design and construction of the unit, due consideration should be given to Rule requirements in respect of all necessary arrangements for access to spaces and structures with a view to carrying out class surveys. Arrangements of a special nature are to be brought to the attention of the Society.

3.3 Operation and maintenance of units

3.3.1 The classification of a unit is based on the understanding that the unit is operated in a proper manner by competent and qualified operating personnel according to the environmental, loading, operating and other criteria on which classification is based.