



Tentative Rules for Structural Assessment of Steel Ships

September 2019

**Rule Note
NR 646 DT R00 E**

Marine & Offshore
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GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. INDEPENDENCE OF THE SOCIETY AND APPLICABLE TERMS

- 1.1 The Society shall remain at all times an independent contractor and neither the Society nor any of its officers, employees, servants, agents or subcontractors shall be or act as an employee, servant or agent of any other party hereto in the performance of the Services.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The Society acts as a services provider. This cannot be construed as an obligation bearing on the Society to obtain a result or as a warranty. The Society is not and may not be considered as an underwriter, broker in Unit's sale or chartering, expert in Unit's valuation, consulting engineer, controller, naval architect, designer, manufacturer, shipbuilder, repair or conversion yard, charterer or shipowner; none of them above listed being relieved of any of their expressed or implied obligations as a result of the interventions of the Society.
- 1.4 The Society only is qualified to apply and interpret its Rules.
- 1.5 The Client acknowledges the latest versions of the Conditions and of the applicable Rules applying to the Services' performance.
- 1.6 Unless an express written agreement is made between the Parties on the applicable Rules, the applicable Rules shall be the Rules applicable at the time of entering into the relevant contract for the performance of the Services.
- 1.7 The Services' performance is solely based on the Conditions. No other terms shall apply whether express or implied.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "Certificate(s)" means classification or statutory certificates, attestations and reports following the Society's intervention.
- 2.2 "Certification" means the activity of certification in application of national and international regulations or standards, in particular by delegation from different governments that can result in the issuance of a Certificate.
- 2.3 "Classification" means the classification of a Unit that can result or not in the issuance of a classification Certificate with reference to the Rules. Classification is an appraisalment given by the Society to the Client, at a certain date, following surveys by its surveyors on the level of compliance of the Unit to the Society's Rules or to the documents of reference for the Services provided. They 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.
- 2.4 "Client" means the Party and/or its representative requesting the Services.
- 2.5 "Conditions" means the terms and conditions set out in the present document.
- 2.6 "Industry Practice" means international maritime and/or offshore industry practices.
- 2.7 "Intellectual Property" means all patents, rights to inventions, utility models, copyright and related rights, trade marks, logos, service marks, trade dress, business and domain names, rights in trade dress or get-up, rights in goodwill or to sue for passing off, unfair competition rights, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database rights, topography rights, moral rights, rights in confidential information (including know-how and trade secrets), methods and protocols for Services, and any other intellectual property rights, in each case whether capable of registration, registered or unregistered and including all applications for and renewals, reversions or extensions of such rights, and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection in any part of the world.
- 2.8 "Parties" means the Society and Client together.
- 2.9 "Party" means the Society or the Client.
- 2.10 "Register" means the public electronic register of ships updated regularly by the Society.
- 2.11 "Rules" means the Society's classification rules and other documents. The Society's Rules take into account at the date of their preparation the state of currently available and proven technical minimum requirements but 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.
- 2.12 "Services" means the services set out in clauses 2.2 and 2.3 but also other services related to Classification and Certification such as, but not limited to: ship and company safety management certification, ship and port security certification, maritime labour certification, training activities, all activities and duties incidental thereto such as documentation on any supporting means, software, instrumentation, measurements, tests and trials on board. The Services are carried out by the Society according to the applicable referential and to the Bureau Veritas' Code of Ethics. The Society shall perform the Services according to the applicable national and international standards and Industry Practice and always on the assumption that the Client is aware of such standards and Industry Practice.
- 2.13 "Society" means the classification society 'Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore SAS', a company organized and existing under the laws of France, registered in Nanterre under number 821 131 844, or any other legal entity of Bureau Veritas Group as may be specified in the relevant contract, and whose main activities are Classification and Certification of ships or offshore units.
- 2.14 "Unit" means any ship or vessel or offshore unit or structure of any type or part of it or system 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.

3. SCOPE AND PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 Subject to the Services requested and always by reference to the Rules, the Society shall:
- review the construction arrangements of the Unit as shown on the documents provided by the Client;
 - conduct the Unit surveys at the place of the Unit construction;
 - class the Unit and enter the Unit's class in the Society's Register;
 - survey the Unit periodically in service to note whether the requirements for the maintenance of class are met.
- The Client shall inform the Society without delay of any circumstances which may cause any changes on the conducted surveys or Services.
- 3.2 The Society will not:
- declare the acceptance or commissioning of a Unit, nor its construction in conformity with its design, such activities remaining under the exclusive responsibility of the Unit's owner or builder;
 - engage in any work relating to the design, construction, production or repair checks, neither in the operation of the Unit or the Unit's trade, neither in any advisory services, and cannot be held liable on those accounts.

4. RESERVATION CLAUSE

- 4.1 The Client shall always: (i) maintain the Unit in good condition after surveys; (ii) present the Unit for surveys; and (iii) inform the Society in due time of any circumstances that may affect the given appraisalment of the Unit or cause to modify the scope of the Services.
- 4.2 Certificates are only valid if issued by the Society.
- 4.3 The Society has entire control over the Certificates issued and may at any time withdraw a Certificate at its entire discretion including, but not limited to, in the following situations: where the Client fails to comply in due time with instructions of the Society or where the Client fails to pay in accordance with clause 6.2 hereunder.
- 4.4 The Society may at times and at its sole discretion give an opinion on a design or any technical element that would 'in principle' be acceptable to the Society. This opinion shall not presume on the final issuance of any Certificate or on its content in the event of the actual issuance of a Certificate. This opinion shall only be an appraisal made by the Society which shall not be held liable for it.

5. ACCESS AND SAFETY

- 5.1 The Client shall give to the Society all access and information necessary for the efficient performance of the requested Services. The Client shall be 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. Any information, drawing, etc. required for the performance of the Services must be made available in due time.
- 5.2 The Client shall notify the Society of any relevant safety issue and shall take all necessary safety-related measures to ensure a safe work environment for the Society or any of its officers, employees, servants, agents or subcontractors and shall comply with all applicable safety regulations.

6. PAYMENT OF INVOICES

- 6.1 The provision of the Services by the Society, whether complete or not, involve, for the part carried out, the payment of fees thirty (30) days upon issuance of the invoice.

6.2 Without prejudice to any other rights hereunder, in case of Client's payment default, the Society shall be entitled to charge, in addition to the amount not properly paid, interests equal to twelve (12) months LIBOR plus two (2) per cent as of due date calculated on the number of days such payment is delinquent. The Society shall also have the right to withhold Certificates and other documents and/or to suspend or revoke the validity of Certificates.

- 6.3 In case of dispute on the invoice amount, the undisputed portion of the invoice shall be paid and an explanation on the dispute shall accompany payment so that action can be taken to solve the dispute.

7. LIABILITY

- 7.1 The Society bears no liability for consequential loss. For the purpose of this clause consequential loss shall include, without limitation:
- Indirect or consequential loss;
 - Any loss and/or deferral of production, loss of product, loss of use, loss of bargain, loss of revenue, loss of profit or anticipated profit, loss of business and business interruption, in each case whether direct or indirect.
- The Client shall defend, release, save, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Society from the Client's own consequential loss regardless of cause.
- 7.2 Except in case of wilful misconduct of the Society, death or bodily injury caused by the Society's negligence and any other liability that could not be, by law, limited, the Society's maximum liability towards the Client is limited to one hundred and fifty per-cents (150%) of the price paid by the Client to the Society for the Services having caused the damage. This limit applies to any liability of whatsoever nature and howsoever arising, including fault by the Society, breach of contract, breach of warranty, tort, strict liability, breach of statute.
- 7.3 All claims shall be presented to the Society in writing within three (3) months of the completion of Services' performance or (if later) the date when the events which are relied on were first discovered by the Client. Any claim not so presented as defined above shall be deemed waived and absolutely time barred.

8. INDEMNITY CLAUSE

- 8.1 The Client shall defend, release, save, indemnify and hold harmless the Society from and against any and all claims, demands, lawsuits or actions for damages, including legal fees, for harm or loss to persons and/or property tangible, intangible or otherwise which may be brought against the Society, incidental to, arising out of or in connection with the performance of the Services (including for damages arising out of or in connection with opinions delivered according to clause 4.4 above) except for those claims caused solely and completely by the gross negligence of the Society, its officers, employees, servants, agents or subcontractors.

9. TERMINATION

- 9.1 The Parties shall have the right to terminate the Services (and the relevant contract) for convenience after giving the other Party thirty (30) days' written notice, and without prejudice to clause 6 above.
- 9.2 In such a case, the Classification granted to the concerned Unit and the previously issued Certificates shall remain valid until the date of effect of the termination notice issued, subject to compliance with clause 4.1 and 6 above.
- 9.3 In the event where, in the reasonable opinion of the Society, the Client is in breach, or is suspected to be in breach of clause 16 of the Conditions, the Society shall have the right to terminate the Services (and the relevant contracts associated) with immediate effect.

10. FORCE MAJEURE

- 10.1 Neither Party shall be responsible or liable for any failure to fulfil any term or provision of the Conditions if and to the extent that fulfilment has been delayed or temporarily prevented by a force majeure occurrence without the fault or negligence of the Party affected and which, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, the said Party is unable to provide against.
- 10.2 For the purpose of this clause, force majeure shall mean any circumstance not being within a Party's reasonable control including, but not limited to: acts of God, natural disasters, epidemics or pandemics, wars, terrorist attacks, riots, sabotages, impositions of sanctions, embargoes, nuclear, chemical or biological contaminations, laws or action taken by a government or public authority, quotas or prohibition, expropriations, destructions of the worksite, explosions, fires, accidents, any labour or trade disputes, strikes or lockouts.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1 The documents and data provided to or prepared by the Society in performing the Services, and the information made available to the Society, are treated as confidential except where the information:
- is properly and lawfully in the possession of the Society;
 - is already in possession of the public or has entered the public domain, otherwise than through a breach of this obligation;
 - is acquired or received independently from a third party that has the right to disseminate such information;
 - is required to be disclosed under applicable law or by a governmental order, decree, regulation or rule or by a stock exchange authority (provided that the receiving Party shall make all reasonable efforts to give prompt written notice to the disclosing Party prior to such disclosure).
- 11.2 The Parties shall use the confidential information exclusively within the framework of their activity underlying these Conditions.
- 11.3 Confidential information shall only be provided to third parties with the prior written consent of the other Party. However, such prior consent shall not be required when the Society provides the confidential information to a subsidiary.
- 11.4 Without prejudice to sub-clause 11.1, the Society shall have the right to disclose the confidential information if required to do so under regulations of the International Association of Classifications Societies (IACS) or any statutory obligations.

12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 12.1 Each Party exclusively owns all rights to its Intellectual Property created before or after the commencement date of the Conditions and whether or not associated with any contract between the Parties.
- 12.2 The Intellectual Property developed by the Society for the performance of the Services including, but not limited to drawings, calculations, and reports shall remain the exclusive property of the Society.

13. ASSIGNMENT

- 13.1 The contract resulting from to these Conditions cannot be assigned or transferred by any means by a Party to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party.
- 13.2 The Society shall however have the right to assign or transfer by any means the said contract to a subsidiary of the Bureau Veritas Group.

14. SEVERABILITY

- 14.1 Invalidity of one or more provisions does not affect the remaining provisions.
- 14.2 Definitions herein take precedence over other definitions which may appear in other documents issued by the Society.
- 14.3 In case of doubt as to the interpretation of the Conditions, the English text shall prevail.

15. GOVERNING LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 15.1 These Conditions shall be construed and governed by the laws of England and Wales.
- 15.2 The Parties shall make every effort to settle any dispute amicably and in good faith by way of negotiation within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt by either one of the Parties of a written notice of such a dispute.
- 15.3 Failing that, the dispute shall finally be settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the Maritime Arbitration Chamber of Paris ("CAMP"), which rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause. The number of arbitrators shall be three (3). The place of arbitration shall be Paris (France). The Parties agree to keep the arbitration proceedings confidential.

16. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- 16.1 Each Party shall conduct all activities in compliance with all laws, statutes, rules, economic and trade sanctions (including but not limited to UN sanctions and EU sanctions) and regulations applicable to such Party including but not limited to: child labour, forced labour, collective bargaining, discrimination, abuse, working hours and minimum wages, anti-bribery, anti-corruption, copyright and trademark protection, personal data protection (<https://personal.dataprotection.bureauveritas.com/privacypolicy>).
- Each of the Parties warrants that neither it, nor its affiliates, has made or will make, with respect to the matters provided for hereunder, any offer, payment, gift or authorization of the payment of any money, directly or indirectly, to or for the use or benefit of any official or employee of the government, political party, official or candidate.
- 16.2 In addition, the Client shall act consistently with the Bureau Veritas' Code of Ethics. <https://group.bureauveritas.com/group/corporate-social-responsibility>



TENTATIVE RULES FOR STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT OF STEEL SHIPS

Part B General Requirements applicable to All Ships

Part D Specific Requirements for Service Notations

September 2019

FOREWORD

These Rules address the tentative hull structure requirements of sea-going steel ships with length as specified in Pt B, Ch 1, Sec 1 of the Rules for the Classification of Steel Ship (NR467), i.e. cargo ships with length not less than 65 m and non-cargo ships with length not less than 90 m. Eventually, they are meant to replace the actual NR467, Part B and NR467, Part D as relevant.

This document being a Tentative Rules, it is to be applied for Classification purpose on a voluntary basis in lieu of the applicable edition of NR467, only for the covered service notations as mentioned below and after agreement with the Society.

These Tentative Rules currently cover the most typical cargo ships, i.e. ships with one of the following service notations: ore carrier, non-CSR oil tanker, FLS tanker, chemical tanker, liquefied gas carrier and general cargo.

These Rules may however be used for exploratory assessment of other kinds of ships, after agreement with the Society in order to settle the general principles and possible specificities for the concerned ship.

These Tentative Rules include two parts:

- Part B which contains common hull requirements, applicable irrespectively of the service notation. It is to be noted that Chapter 3 of the present document, dedicated to intact stability, is currently left empty and that stability requirements are covered by NR467, Pt B, Ch 3, and NR467, Pt D as relevant.
- Part D which contains specific requirements for each of the service notations covered by subject Tentative Rules. Part D chapters are generally to be read in conjunction with applicable Chapters 5, 7, 8 and 9 of NR467, Part D, for Sections and Appendices which are not currently detailed in the present Tentative Rules.

PART B - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL SHIPS

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

Section 1 Application

1	Scope of application	49
1.1	General	
1.2	Limits of application to lifting appliances	
2	Rule application	49
2.1	Ship parts	
2.2	Rules applicable to various ship parts	
2.3	Rules applicable to other ship items	

Section 2 Rules Principles

1	Design basis	51
1.1	General	
1.2	Hull form limit	
1.3	Design life	
1.4	Environmental conditions	
1.5	Operating conditions	
1.6	Operating draughts	
1.7	Maximum service speed	
1.8	Owner's extras	
2	Design principles	52
2.1	Overall principles	
2.2	Loads	
2.3	Structural capacity assessment	
3	Rule design methods	53
3.1	General	
3.2	Minimum requirements	
3.3	Load-capacity based requirements	
3.4	Acceptance criteria	
3.5	Design verification	

Section 3 Symbols and Definitions

1	Symbols and units	56
1.1		
2	Definitions	58
2.1	Ship's dimensions and main data	
2.2	Superstructure and deckhouse	
2.3	Type A and Type B ships	
2.4	Positions 1 and 2	
2.5	Reference coordinate system	
2.6	Arrangement	
2.7	Structural components	

Section 4 Documentation to be Submitted

1	Documentation to be submitted for all ships	63
1.1	Ships surveyed by the Society during the construction	
1.2	Ships for which the Society acts on behalf of the relevant Administration	
2	Further documentation to be submitted for ships with certain service notations or additional class notations	65
2.1	General	

Section 5 Loading Manual and Loading Instruments

1	Loading manual and loading instrument requirement criteria	66
1.1	Ship categories	
1.2	Requirement criteria	
2	Loading manual	66
2.1	Definitions	
2.2	Conditions of approval	
3	Loading instrument	67
3.1	Additional class notations LI	
3.2	Definitions	
3.3	Conditions of approval	
3.4	Approval procedure	
3.5	Hull girder forces and moments	
3.6	Intact stability	
3.7	Grain loading	
3.8	Damage stability	
3.9	Acceptable tolerances	

Appendix 1 Ship in Operation - Renewal Criteria

1	General	74
1.1	Application	
1.2	Definitions	
1.3	Corrosion allowance concept	
1.4	Information to be submitted	
2	Hull survey requirements	74
2.1	General	
3	Steel renewal criteria	75
3.1	Local corrosion	
3.2	Global corrosion	

Appendix 2 Correspondences between NR646 and NR467, Part B

1	General	76
1.1	Equivalences between NR646 and edition July 2018 of NR467, Part B	

CHAPTER 2 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT DESIGN

Section 1 General

1	General	79
	1.1	

CHAPTER 4 STRUCTURE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Section 1 Materials

1	General	83
1.1	Standard of material	
1.2	Testing of materials	
1.3	Manufacturing process	
2	Hull structural steel	83
2.1	General	
2.2	Material factor k	
2.3	Steel grades	
2.4	Grades of steel for structures exposed to low air temperatures	
2.5	Grades of steel within refrigerated spaces	
2.6	Through thickness properties	
2.7	Stainless steel	
3	Steels for forging and casting	89
3.1	General	
3.2	Steels for forging	
3.3	Steels for casting	
4	Aluminium alloys	90
4.1	General	
4.2	Extruded plating	
4.3	Mechanical properties of weld joints	
4.4	Material factor k	
4.5	Others	
5	Other materials and products	91
5.1	General	
5.2	Iron cast parts	

Section 2 Net Scantling Approach

1	General	92
1.1	Application	
1.2	Gross and net scantling definitions	
1.3	Rounding off of scantlings	
1.4	Scantling compliance	

Section 3 Corrosion Additions

1	General	96
1.1	Applicability	
1.2	Corrosion addition determination	

Section 4 Protection of Hull Metallic Structures

1	Protection by coating	98
	1.1 General	
	1.2 Structures to be protected	
2	Protection against galvanic corrosion in tanks	98
	2.1 General	
3	Protection of bottom by ceiling	98
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Arrangement	
	3.3 Scantlings	
4	Protection of decks by wood sheathing	98
	4.1 General	
	4.2 Arrangement	
	4.3 Scantlings	
5	Protection of cargo sides by battens	99
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Arrangement	

Section 5 Structural Detail Principles

1	Application	100
	1.1 General	
2	General principles	100
	2.1 Structural continuity	
	2.2 Local reinforcements	
	2.3 Extent of higher strength steel	
	2.4 Connection between steel and aluminium	
3	Stiffeners	102
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Bracketed end connections of non-continuous stiffeners	
	3.3 Bracketless connections	
	3.4 Sniped ends	
4	Primary supporting members (PSM)	104
	4.1 General	
	4.2 Web stiffening arrangement	
	4.3 Tripping bracket arrangement	
	4.4 Bracketed end connections	
	4.5 Bracketless end connections	
5	Intersection of stiffeners and primary supporting members	107
	5.1 Cut-outs	
	5.2 Connection of stiffeners to PSM	
6	Openings	112
	6.1 Openings and scallops in stiffeners	
	6.2 Openings in primary supporting members	
	6.3 Openings in strength deck	
	6.4 Openings in shell plating	

7	Bottom structure	116
	7.1 General	
	7.2 Keel plate	
	7.3 Girders	
	7.4 Floors	
	7.5 Open floors	
	7.6 Bilge keel	
	7.7 Docking	
8	Side structure	119
	8.1 Structural arrangement	
9	Deck structure	120
	9.1 Structural arrangement	
10	Bulkhead structure	120
	10.1 Application	
	10.2 Plane bulkheads	
	10.3 Corrugated bulkheads	
	10.4 Non-tight bulkheads	
	10.5 Watertight bulkheads of trunks and tunnels	
	10.6 Bulkheads acting as pillars	
11	Pillars	123
	11.1 General	
	11.2 Connections	

Section 6 Structural Idealisation

1	Structural idealisation of stiffeners and primary supporting members	124
	1.1 Effective spans	
	1.2 Spacing and load supporting breadth	
	1.3 Effective breadth	
	1.4 Geometrical properties of stiffeners and primary supporting members	
2	Plates	133
	2.1 Idealisation of EPP	
	2.2 Load Calculation Point	
3	Stiffeners	136
	3.1 Reference point	
	3.2 Load calculation point	
4	Primary supporting members	137
	4.1 Load calculation point	

CHAPTER 5 DESIGN LOADS

Section 1 Introduction

1	General	141
1.1	Definition	
1.2	Sign convention	

Section 2 Dynamic Load Cases

1	General	143
1.1	Definition of EDW and dynamic load cases	
1.2	Application	
1.3	Description of dynamic load cases	
2	Dynamic load cases for strength assessment	151
2.1	Selection of EDW	
2.2	Load combination factors	
3	Dynamic load cases for fatigue assessment	154
3.1	Selection of EDW	
3.2	Load combination factors	

Section 3 Ship Motions and Accelerations

1	General	157
1.1	Definitions	
2	Ship motions and accelerations	157
2.1	Ship motions	
2.2	Accelerations at the centre of gravity	
3	Accelerations at any position	159
3.1	General	
3.2	Accelerations for dynamic load cases	
3.3	Envelope accelerations for equipment	

Section 4 Hull Girder Loads

1	Application	161
1.1	General	
2	Still water loads	161
2.1	General	
2.2	Vertical still water bending moments	
2.3	Vertical still water shear forces	
2.4	Torsional still water moment	

3	Wave loads	163
3.1	Vertical wave bending moments	
3.2	Vertical wave shear force	
3.3	Horizontal wave bending moment	
3.4	Horizontal wave shear force	
3.5	Wave torsional moment	
3.6	Hull girder loads for dynamic load cases	

Section 5 Environmental Loads

1	Sea pressure	169
1.1	Total pressure	
1.2	Hydrostatic pressure	
1.3	External dynamic pressure for strength assessment	
1.4	External dynamic pressure for fatigue assessment	
2	Sea chests	182
2.1	Design pressure	
3	External pressure on exposed decks	182
3.1	Application	
3.2	Green sea loads	
3.3	Load carried on exposed deck	
4	External impact pressure	184
4.1	Application	
4.2	Bottom and stern slamming impact pressures	
4.3	Bow flare impact pressure	
5	External pressure on front, side and aft bulkheads of superstructures and deckhouses	185
5.1	Application	
5.2	Definitions	
5.3	Superstructures side bulkheads	
5.4	Deckhouses side and end bulkheads and superstructures end bulkheads	
6	External pressures on hatch covers and coamings	187
6.1	Application	
6.2	Green sea loads	
7	External pressure on shell doors	188
7.1	Bow doors	
7.2	Side and stern doors	
8	External loads on containers	190
8.1	Wind forces	

Section 6 Internal Loads and cargo loads

1	Pressures due to liquids	193
1.1	Application	
1.2	Static liquid pressure in intact conditions	
1.3	Dynamic liquid pressure in intact conditions	
1.4	Static pressure in flooded conditions	

2	Partly filled tanks intended for the carriage of liquid or ballast	194
2.1	Application	
2.2	Pressure definition	
2.3	Static pressure	
2.4	Dynamic sloshing pressure	
2.5	Dynamic impact pressure	
2.6	Alternative methods	
3	Pressures and forces due to dry bulk cargo	196
3.1	Application	
3.2	Hold definitions	
3.3	Dry cargo characteristics	
3.4	Dry bulk cargo pressures	
3.5	Shear load	
4	Pressures and forces due to dry cargoes in flooded conditions	199
4.1	Local loads on vertically corrugated transverse bulkheads in flooded conditions	
4.2	Local loads on double bottom in flooded conditions	
5	Steel Coil Loads	202
5.1	General	
5.2	Total loads	
5.3	Static loads	
5.4	Dynamic loads	
6	Loads on decks and platforms	205
6.1	Pressure due to distributed load	
6.2	Concentrated force due to unit cargo	
7	Wheeled cargo	206
7.1	Application	
7.2	Forces due to wheeled cargo	
8	Loads due to containers	207
8.1	Forces applied to containers	
8.2	Stacks of containers	
9	Loads on hatch covers	209
9.1	Application	
9.2	Cargo loads	
10	Design pressure for tank testing	210
10.1	Definition	

Section 7 Design Load Scenarios

1	General	213
1.1	Application	
2	Design load scenarios for strength assessment	213
2.1	Principal design load scenarios	
2.2	Design load scenarios for impact and sloshing	
3	Design load scenario for fatigue assessment	214
3.1	Design load scenario	

Section 8 Loading Conditions

1	Application	215
	1.1 Loading conditions for strength assessment	
	1.2 Loading conditions for fatigue assessment	
	1.3 Specific loading conditions	
2	General	215
	2.1 Definitions	
3	Standard loading conditions for strength assessment	215
	3.1 Seagoing conditions	
	3.2 Harbour and sheltered water conditions	
4	Standard loading condition for fatigue assessment	216
	4.1 General	

CHAPTER 6 HULL GIRDER STRENGTH

Section 1 Hull Girder Yield and Buckling Strength

1	Strength characteristics of hull girder transverse sections	219
1.1	General	
1.2	Hull girder transverse sections	
1.3	Structures contributing to the longitudinal strength	
1.4	Section modulus	
1.5	Moments of inertia	
1.6	Ships having large openings in the strength deck	
2	Hull girder stresses	223
2.1	Normal stress	
2.2	Shear stress	
3	Hull girder strength assessment	224
3.1	Longitudinal extent	
3.2	Hull girder stiffness	
3.3	Hull girder section modulus	
3.4	Yield strength assessment	
3.5	Buckling strength assessment	
4	Structural models for the calculation of normal warping stress and shear stress	225
4.1	Calculation methods	

Section 2 Hull Girder Ultimate Strength

1	Application	226
1.1	General	
2	Checking criteria	226
2.1	General	
2.2	Hull girder ultimate bending loads	
2.3	Hull girder ultimate bending moment capacity	

Appendix 1 Direct Calculation of Shear Flow

1	Calculation formula	227
1.1	General	
1.2	Determinate shear flow q_D	
1.3	Indeterminate shear flow q_I	
1.4	Computation of sectional properties	

Appendix 2 Hull Girder Ultimate Bending Capacity

1	General	229
1.1	Application	
1.2	Methods	
1.3	General assumptions	
2	Incremental-iterative method	229
2.1	Assumptions	
2.2	Procedure	
2.3	Load-end shortening curves	
3	Alternative methods	235
3.1	General	
3.2	Non-linear finite element analysis	

CHAPTER 7 HULL SCANTLINGS

Section 1 General

1	Application	239
1.1	Application	
1.2	Acceptance criteria	

Section 2 Load Application

1	Load combination	240
1.1	Hull girder	
1.2	Pressure combination	
2	Design load sets	240
2.1	Application of load components	

Section 3 Minimum Thickness

1	General	244
1.1	Minimum thickness requirements	

Section 4 Plating

1	Plating subjected to lateral pressure	245
1.1	Yielding check	
1.2	Plating of corrugated bulkheads	
1.3	Buckling check	
2	Transverse vertically corrugated bulkheads separating dry bulk cargo holds in flooded condition	246
2.1	Application	
2.2	Net thickness of corrugation	
3	Strength check of plating supporting wheeled cargo	247
3.1	General	
3.2	Load model	
3.3	Plating	
4	Plating subjected to impact loads	249
4.1	General	
5	Strength check of plating supporting steel coils on wooden dunnage	249
5.1	General	
5.2	Yielding check	
6	Special requirements	249
6.1	Minimum thickness of keel plating	
6.2	Bilge plating	
6.3	Inner bottom of cargo holds intended to carry dry cargo	

- 6.4 Side shell plating
- 6.5 Sheer strake
- 6.6 Deck stringer plating
- 6.7 Deck plating protected by wood sheathing or deck composition
- 6.8 Supporting structure in way of corrugated bulkheads
- 6.9 Aft peak bulkhead

Section 5 Stiffeners

1	General	252
1.1	Yielding check of stiffeners subjected to lateral pressure	
1.2	Yielding check of stiffeners supporting wheeled cargo	
1.3	Net section modulus and net shear sectional area of ordinary stiffeners subject to impact loads	
1.4	Yielding check of stiffeners supporting steel coils on wooden dunnage	
1.5	Deck stiffeners in way of launching appliances used for survival craft or rescue boat	
1.6	Plate and stiffener of different materials	
1.7	Beam analysis	
1.8	Buckling check	

Section 6 Primary Supporting Members and Pillars

1	Application	256
1.1	Application	
2	General	256
2.1	Scantling requirements	
2.2	Grillage structure	
2.3	Wheeled loads	
2.4	Primary members subject to impact loads	
2.5	Deck primary members in way of launching appliances used for survival craft or rescue boat	
2.6	Buckling check	
2.7	Pillars subjected to compressive axial load	
2.8	Pillars subjected to tensile axial load	
3	Primary supporting members in holds intended to carry liquid cargo	260
3.1	Floors in double bottom	
3.2	Girders in double bottom	
3.3	Deck transverses	
3.4	Side transverses	
3.5	Vertical web frames on longitudinal bulkhead	
3.6	Horizontal stringers on transverse bulkheads	
3.7	Cross ties	
3.8	Vertically corrugated bulkheads separating liquid cargo holds	
4	Primary supporting members in holds intended to carry dry bulk cargo	272
4.1	Centre girders and side girders	
4.2	Floors	
4.3	Stringer of double side structure	
4.4	Transverse web in double side structure	

- 4.5 Primary supporting member in bilge hopper tanks and topside tanks
- 4.6 Transverse vertically corrugated bulkheads separating holds assigned as ballast holds
- 4.7 Transverse vertically corrugated bulkheads in flooded conditions
- 4.8 Double bottom capacity in flooded conditions

Appendix 1 Analyses of Primary Supporting Members Subjected to Wheeled Loads

1	General	282
	1.1 Scope	
	1.2 Application	
	1.3 Information required	
	1.4 Lashing of vehicles	
2	Analysis criteria	282
	2.1 Finite element model analyses	
	2.2 Beam model analyses	
3	Primary supporting members structural modelling	283
	3.1 Model construction	
	3.2 Model extension	
	3.3 Boundary conditions of the three dimensional model	
4	Load model	284
	4.1 General	
	4.2 Local loads	
5	Stress calculation	284
	5.1 Normal stress induced by hull girder loads	
	5.2 Analyses based on beam models	
6	Grillage analysis of primary supporting members of decks	285
	6.1 Application	
	6.2 Structural model	
	6.3 Boundary conditions	
	6.4 Load model	
	6.5 Stress calculation	

CHAPTER 8 DIRECT STRENGTH ANALYSIS

Section 1 Direct Strength Assessment

1	General	289
1.1	Application	
2	Net scantling	289
2.1	Net scantling application	
3	Finite element types	289
3.1	Finite element types to be used	
4	Acceptance criteria	289
4.1	Definition	
5	Submission of results	289
5.1	Detailed report	
6	Computer programs	290
6.1	Use of computer programs	

Appendix 1 Cargo Hold Structural Strength Analysis

1	Objective and scope	291
1.1	General	
1.2	Cargo hold structural strength analysis procedure	
2	Structural model	292
2.1	Members to be modeled	
2.2	Extent of model	
2.3	Finite element types	
2.4	Structural modeling	
2.5	Boundary conditions	
3	FE load combinations	301
3.1	Design load combinations	
4	Load application	302
4.1	General	
4.2	External and internal loads	
4.3	Hull girder loads	
4.4	Procedure to adjust hull girder shear forces and bending moments	
4.5	Procedure to adjust hull girder torsional moments	
4.6	Summary of hull girder load adjustments	
5	Analysis criteria	312
5.1	General	
5.2	Yield strength assessment	
5.3	Buckling strength assessment	

Appendix 2 Local Structural Strength Analysis

1	Objective and scope	314
1.1	General	
1.2	Structural details to be assessed by fine mesh analysis	
2	Structural modeling	314
2.1	General	
2.2	Extent of model	
2.3	Mesh size	
2.4	Elements	
2.5	Transverse web frames	
2.6	Transverse bulkhead stringers, buttress and adjacent web frame	
2.7	Deck, double bottom longitudinal and adjoining transverse bulkhead vertical stiffeners	
2.8	Corrugated bulkheads	
3	FE load combinations	317
3.1	General	
3.2	Application of loads and boundary conditions	
4	Analysis criteria	318
4.1	Yield strength assessment	

Appendix 3 Full Length Structural Strength Analysis

1	Objective and scope	319
1.1	General	
1.2	Full length structural strength analysis procedure	
2	Structural model	319
2.1	Model construction	
2.2	Extent of model	
2.3	Finite element types	
2.4	Structural modeling	
2.5	Boundary conditions of the model	
3	Loading conditions and load cases	320
3.1	General	
4	Load application	320
4.1	General	
4.2	Procedure for the selection of design waves	
5	Analysis criteria	321
5.1	Yield strength assessment	
5.2	Buckling strength assessment	
6	Refined analysis	322
6.1	Application	
6.2	Structural modeling	
6.3	Loading conditions and load cases	
6.4	Load application	
6.5	Analysis criteria	

CHAPTER 9 BUCKLING

Section 1 Buckling

1	General	325
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Allowable buckling utilisation factor	
2	Slenderness requirements	325
	2.1 Application	
3	Prescriptive buckling requirements	325
	3.1 Application	
	3.2 Design load sets	
	3.3 Hull girder stress	
4	Buckling capacity	326
	4.1 Application	
	4.2 Stiffeners	

CHAPTER 10 FATIGUE

Section 1 Fatigue

1	General	329
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Reference	
2	List and characteristics of special structural details	329
	2.1 General	
	2.2 All types of longitudinally framed ships	
	2.3 Ro-ro and passenger ships	
	2.4 Oil tankers and chemical tankers	
	2.5 Liquefied gas carriers	
	2.6 Bulk carriers, ore carriers and combination carriers	
3	Loading conditions	329
	3.1 Design loading conditions for fatigue assessment	
4	Corrosion model	331
	4.1 General	
5	Fatigue assessment based on a deterministic approach	331
	5.1 Longitudinal stiffener connections	
	5.2 Other structural details	
6	Fatigue assessment based on spectral fatigue analysis	331
	6.1 General	
7	Acceptance criteria	332
	7.1 Fatigue life and acceptance criteria	

CHAPTER 11 OTHER STRUCTURES

Section 1 Fore Part

1	General	335
1.1	Application	
2	Structural arrangement	335
2.1	Bottom Structure	
2.2	Centreline wash bulkheads	
2.3	Side shell structure	
2.4	Tripping brackets	
2.5	Decks	
2.6	Platforms	
2.7	Bulbous bow	
2.8	Stems	
2.9	Thruster tunnel	
3	Structures subjected to impact loads	339
3.1	General	
3.2	Bottom slamming	
3.3	Bow impact	

Section 2 Machinery Space

1	General	341
1.1	Application	
2	Machinery space arrangement	341
2.1	Structural arrangement	
2.2	Double bottom	
2.3	Single bottom	
3	Machinery foundations	343
3.1	General	
3.2	Scantlings	
3.3	Foundations for internal combustion engines and thrust bearings	
3.4	Auxiliary machinery foundations	

Section 3 Aft Part

1	General	345
1.1	Application	
2	Aft peak	345
2.1	Structural arrangement	
2.2	Stiffening of floors and girders	
3	Connection of hull structures with the rudder horn	346
3.1	Connection of after peak structures with the rudder horn	
3.2	Structural arrangement above the after peak	

4	Stern frames	346
4.1	General	
4.2	Propeller posts	
4.3	Connections	
4.4	Rudder gudgeons	
4.5	Sterntubes	
5	Shell structure	348
5.1	Shell plating	
5.2	Ordinary stiffeners	
6	Structure subjected to stern impact loads	348
6.1	General	
7	Propeller shaft brackets	349
7.1	General	
7.2	Double arm propeller shaft brackets	
7.3	Single arm propeller shaft brackets	
7.4	Bossed propeller shaft brackets	

Section 4 Tanks Subject to Sloshing

1	Application	351
1.1	General	
1.2	Sloshing loads	
1.3	Impact loads	
1.4	Evaluation of the risk of resonance	
2	Scantling of elements subjected to sloshing loads	353
2.1	Plating	
2.2	Stiffeners	
2.3	Primary supporting members	
3	Scantling of elements subjected to impact loads	355
3.1	Plating	
3.2	Ordinary stiffeners	
3.3	Primary supporting members	

Section 5 Superstructures and Deckhouses

1	General	356
1.1	Application	
1.2	Net scantlings	
1.3	Definitions	
1.4	Connections of superstructures and deckhouses with the hull structure	
1.5	Structural arrangement of superstructures and deckhouses	
2	Superstructures side bulkheads	357
2.1	Plating	
2.2	Stiffeners	
2.3	Primary supporting members	

3	Fore and aft bulkheads of superstructures and deckhouses, side bulkheads of deckhouses	357
	3.1 Application	
	3.2 Plating	
	3.3 Stiffeners	
	3.4 Primary supporting members	
4	Decks	358
	4.1 Plating	
	4.2 Stiffeners	
	4.3 Primary supporting members	
5	Additional requirements applicable to movable wheelhouses	358
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Supports and guides, connections with the deck, under deck reinforcements, locking devices	

Section 6 Bow Doors and Inner Doors

1	General	359
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Gross scantlings	
	1.3 Arrangement	
	1.4 Definitions	
2	Design loads	359
	2.1 Bow doors	
	2.2 Inner doors	
3	Scantlings of bow doors	360
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Plating and ordinary stiffeners	
	3.3 Primary supporting members	
4	Scantlings of inner doors	360
	4.1 General	
5	Securing and supporting of bow doors	360
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Scantlings	
6	Strength criteria	362
	6.1 Primary supporting members and securing and supporting devices	
7	Securing and locking arrangement	362
	7.1 Systems for operation	
	7.2 Systems for indication/monitoring	
8	Operating and Maintenance Manual	364
	8.1 General	

Section 7 Side Doors and Stern Doors

1	General	365
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Gross scantlings	
	1.3 Arrangement	
	1.4 Definitions	
2	Design loads	365
	2.1 Side and stern doors	
3	Scantlings of side doors and stern doors	365
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Plating and ordinary stiffeners	
	3.3 Primary supporting members	
4	Securing and supporting of doors	366
	4.1 General	
	4.2 Scantlings	
5	Strength criteria	366
	5.1 Primary supporting members and securing and supporting devices	
6	Securing and locking arrangement	367
	6.1 Systems for operation	
	6.2 Systems for indication / monitoring	
7	Operating and Maintenance Manual	368
	7.1 General	

Section 8 Watertight and Weathertight Doors

1	General	369
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Definitions	
2	Design loads	369
	2.1 General	
	2.2 Side shell doors	
	2.3 Internal bulkheads doors	
	2.4 Superstructure doors	
3	Door leaf scantling	369
	3.1 Plating	
	3.2 Stiffeners	
	3.3 Glass	
4	Securing and supporting	369
	4.1 General	
	4.2 Scantlings	
5	Inspection and testing	370
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Hydrostatic pressure testing	
	5.3 Hose testing	

6	Type approval procedure	371
6.1	General	
6.2	Documents and information to be submitted	
6.3	Prototype test	

Section 9 Large Hatch Covers

1	General	372
1.1	Application	
1.2	Definitions	
1.3	Materials	
1.4	Net scantlings	
1.5	Corrosion additions	
1.6	Allowable stresses	
2	Arrangements	373
2.1	Height of hatch coamings	
2.2	Hatch covers	
2.3	Hatch coamings	
3	Width of Attached Plating	374
3.1	Stiffeners	
3.2	Primary supporting members	
4	Load Model	374
4.1	Lateral pressures and forces	
4.2	Load point	
5	Strength Check	375
5.1	General	
5.2	Plating	
5.3	Stiffeners	
5.4	Primary supporting members	
5.5	Stiffeners and primary supporting members of variable cross section	
6	Hatch Coamings	378
6.1	Stiffening	
6.2	Load model	
6.3	Scantlings	
7	Container foundations on hatch covers	380
7.1	Strength requirements	
8	Weathertightness, closing arrangement, securing devices, stoppers and supports	380
8.1	Weathertightness	
8.2	Gaskets	
8.3	Closing arrangement, securing devices and stoppers	
8.4	Cleats	
8.5	Tarpaulins	
8.6	Wedges, battens and locking bars	
8.7	Hatch covers supports	
9	Drainage	383
9.1	Arrangement	

Section 10 Small Hatches

1	General	384
	1.1 Definition	
	1.2 Application	
	1.3 Materials	
2	Small hatches fitted on exposed decks	384
	2.1 General	
	2.2 Gaskets	
3	Small hatches fitted on the exposed fore deck	384
	3.1 Application	
	3.2 Strength	
	3.3 Weathertightness	
	3.4 Primary securing devices	
	3.5 Secondary securing devices	
4	Small hatch covers fitted on non-exposed decks	385
	4.1 General	

Section 11 Movable Decks and Inner Ramps - External Ramps

1	General	388
	1.1	

Section 12 Arrangement of Hull and Superstructure Openings

1	General	389
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Definitions	
2	External openings	389
	2.1 General	
3	Sidescuttles, windows and skylights	389
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Opening arrangement	
	3.3 Glasses	
	3.4 Deadlight arrangement	
4	Discharges	394
	4.1 Arrangement of discharges	
	4.2 Arrangement of garbage chutes	
	4.3 Scantlings of garbage chutes	
5	Transducers	395
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Protection of transducers in ballast and main compartment	
	5.3 Fitting of hull boss and transducer receiver	
	5.4 Fitting of transducer in heavily stressed areas	

6	Freeing ports	395
6.1	General provisions	
6.2	Freeing port area in a well not adjacent to a trunk or hatchways	
6.3	Freeing port area in a well contiguous to a trunk or hatchways	
6.4	Freeing port area in an open space within superstructures	
6.5	Freeing port area in bulwarks of the freeboard deck for ships of types A, B-100 and B-60	
7	Machinery space openings	397
7.1	Engine room skylights	
7.2	Closing devices	
7.3	Coamings	
8	Companionway	398
8.1	General	
8.2	Scantlings	
8.3	Closing devices	
9	Ventilators	399
9.1	Closing appliances	
9.2	Coamings	
10	Tank cleaning openings	399
10.1	General	

Section 13 Helicopter Decks and Platforms

1	General	400
1.1		

CHAPTER 12 HULL OUTFITTING

Section 1 Rudders

1	General	403
1.1	Application	
1.2	Gross scantlings	
1.3	Arrangements	
1.4	Materials	
2	Force and torque acting on the rudder	404
2.1	Rudder blade without cut-outs	
2.2	Rudder blade with cut-outs (semi-spade rudders)	
3	Rudder types and relevant loads acting on the rudder structure	406
3.1	General	
4	Rudder stock scantlings	406
4.1	Rudder stock diameter	
4.2	Deformation criterion	
4.3	Service notations - Navigation in ice	
5	Rudder stock couplings	409
5.1	Horizontal flange couplings	
5.2	Couplings between rudder stocks and tillers	
5.3	Cone couplings between rudder stocks and rudder blades	
5.4	Vertical flange couplings	
5.5	Couplings by continuous rudder stock welded to the rudder blade	
5.6	Rudder trunks	
6	Rudder stock and pintle bearings	414
6.1	Forces on rudder stock and pintle bearings	
6.2	Rudder stock bearing	
6.3	Pintle bearings	
6.4	Pintles	
7	Rudder blade scantlings	416
7.1	General	
7.2	Strength checks	
7.3	Rudder blade plating	
7.4	Connections of rudder blade structure with solid parts in forged or cast steel	
7.5	Connection of the rudder blade with the rudder stock by means of horizontal flanges	
7.6	Single plate rudders	
8	Rudder horn and solepiece scantlings	420
8.1	General	
8.2	Rudder horn	
8.3	Connection of after peak structures with the rudder horn	
8.4	Solepieces	
9	Simplex rudder shaft	421
9.1	Scantlings	
9.2	Connections	

10	Steering nozzles	422
	10.1 General	
	10.2 Nozzle plating and internal diaphragms	
	10.3 Nozzle stock	
	10.4 Pintles	
	10.5 Nozzle coupling	
11	Azimuth propulsion system	424
	11.1 General	
	11.2 Arrangement	
	11.3 Design loads	
	11.4 Plating	
	11.5 Ordinary stiffeners	
	11.6 Primary supporting members	
	11.7 Hull supports of the azimuth propulsion system	

Section 2 Bulwarks and Guard Rails

1	General	426
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 General requirements	
2	Bulwarks	426
	2.1 Construction of bulwarks	
	2.2 Scantlings	
3	Guard rails	427
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Construction of guard rails	

Section 3 Equipment

1	General	429
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Equipment number	
2	Anchoring equipment	430
	2.1 Anchors	
	2.2 Chain cables for bower anchors	
	2.3 Attachment pieces	
	2.4 Hawse pipes	
	2.5 Windlass	
	2.6 Chain stopper	
	2.7 Chain locker	
3	Emergency towing arrangement	435
	3.1 Definitions	
	3.2 Application	
	3.3 Documentation	
	3.4 General	
	3.5 Emergency towing arrangement approval	
	3.6 Safe working load (SWL) of towing pennants, chafing gears, fairleads and strongpoints	

3.7	Towing pennant	
3.8	Chafing gear	
3.9	Fairleads	
3.10	Strongpoint	
3.11	Hull structures in way of fairleads or strongpoints	
3.12	Rapid deployment of towing arrangement	
3.13	Type approval	
4	Towing and mooring arrangement	441
4.1	General	

Section 4 Supporting Structure for Deck Equipment and Fittings

1	General	442
1.1	Application	
1.2	Documents to be submitted	
2	Anchor windlass and chain stopper	442
2.1	General	
3	Mooring winches	442
3.1	General	
3.2	Design loads	
3.3	Strength criteria	
4	Bollards and bitts, fairleads, stand rollers, chocks and capstans	443
4.1	General	
5	Cranes, derricks, lifting masts and life saving appliances	446
5.1	General	
5.2	Design loads	
5.3	Strength criteria	
6	Breakwater	447
6.1	General	
6.2	Design loads	
6.3	Strength criteria	
7	Fixed cell guides	447
7.1	General	
7.2	Arrangement of fixed cell guides	
7.3	Strength criteria	
8	Lashing bridge	448
8.1	General	
8.2	Design loads	
8.3	Strength criteria	
9	Lashing items	448
9.1	Fixed cargo securing devices	
9.2	Lashing software	
10	Miscellaneous deck fittings	449
10.1	Support and attachment	

Appendix 1 Criteria for Direct Calculation of Rudder Loads

1	Criteria for direct calculation of the loads acting on the rudder structure	450
1.1	General	
1.2	Required data	
1.3	Calculation of support stiffness properties	
1.4	Calculation of the main structure of the rudder system	
1.5	Calculation of the solepiece	
1.6	Rudder horn calculation (case of 1-elastic support)	
1.7	Rudder horn calculation (case of 2-conjugate elastic supports)	
1.8	Calculation of the rudder trunk	

Appendix 2 Towing and Mooring Arrangement

1	General	462
1.1	Application	
1.2	Mooring arrangement	
1.3	Towing arrangement	
2	Tow lines and mooring lines	462
2.1	General	
2.2	Materials	
2.3	Steel wires	
2.4	Length of mooring lines	
2.5	Synthetic fibre ropes	
2.6	Additional mooring lines	
2.7	Mooring lines for ships with EN > 2000	

CHAPTER 13 CONSTRUCTION AND TESTING

Section 1 Construction and Fabrication

1	General	469
	1.1 Workmanship	
	1.2 Fabrication standard	
2	Cut-outs, plate edges	469
	2.1 General	
3	Cold forming	469
	3.1 Special structural members	
	3.2 Corrugated bulkheads and hopper knuckles	
	3.3 Low bending radius	
4	Hot forming	470
	4.1 Temperature requirements	
	4.2 Line or spot heating	
5	Modifications and repairs during construction	470
	5.1 General	
	5.2 Gap and weld deformations	
	5.3 Defects	
	5.4 Repairs on structures already welded	

Section 2 Fabrication by Welding

1	General	471
	1.1 Application	
	1.2 Base material	
	1.3 Documentation to be submitted	
	1.4 Design	
	1.5 Personnel and equipment	
2	Workmanship	472
	2.1 General	
	2.2 Welding consumables and procedures	
	2.3 Welding operations	
	2.4 Crossing of structural elements	
	2.5 Hatch coaming	
3	Inspections and checks	475
	3.1 General	
	3.2 Non-destructive examination	
	3.3 Radiographic testing	
	3.4 Hatch coaming	

Section 3 Design of Weld Joints

1	General	477
	1.1 Application	

2	Butt joint	477
2.1	General	
3	Tee or cross joint	478
3.1	Application	
3.2	Fillet welding	
3.3	Partial or full penetration welds	
4	Other types of joints	487
4.1	Lapped joints	
4.2	Slot welds	
4.3	Stud and lifting lug welds	
4.4	Plug welding	
5	Specific weld connections	488
5.1	Bilge keels	
5.2	End connections of pillars	
5.3	Abutting plates with small angles	
5.4	Struts connecting ordinary stiffeners	
5.5	Connection between propeller post and propeller shaft bossing	
5.6	Bar stem connections	
5.7	Deck subjected to wheeled loads	

Section 4 Special Structural Details

1	General	490
1.1	Application	
1.2	Design requirements	
1.3	Constructional requirements	
1.4	Material requirements	
1.5	Welding requirements	
1.6	Survey requirements	
2	List and characteristics of special structural details	491
2.1	General	
2.2	All types of ships with longitudinally framed sides	
2.3	Oil tankers and chemical tankers	
2.4	Liquefied gas carriers	
2.5	Bulk carriers	
2.6	Ore carriers and combination carriers	

Section 5 Testing

1	Testing procedures of watertight compartments	494
1.1	Application	
1.2	General	
1.3	Definitions	
1.4	Structural test procedures	
1.5	Leak test procedures	
1.6	Test methods	
1.7	Application of coating	
1.8	Safe access to joints	
1.9	Hydrostatic or hydropneumatic tightness test	
1.10	Non-SOLAS ships and SOLAS Exemption / Equivalent Ships	

2	Miscellaneous	496
2.1	Watertight decks, trunks, etc.	
2.2	Steering nozzles	

Appendix 1 Welding Details

1	Contents	500
1.1	General	
1.2	Butt welding edge preparation	
1.3	Partial of full penetration edge preparation	
1.4	Lap-joint, slot and plug welding	

Appendix 2 Reference Sheets for Special Structural Details

1	Contents	503
1.1	General	

PART D - SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE NOTATIONS

CHAPTER 5 ORE CARRIERS

Section 3 Ore Carriers - Hull and Stability

1	General	575
1.1	Loading manual and loading instruments	
2	Stability	575
2.1		
3	Structure design principles	575
3.1	Double bottom structure	
3.2	Side structure	
3.3	Deck structure	
3.4	Longitudinal bulkhead structure	
3.5	Transverse bulkhead structure	
4	Design loads	575
4.1	Hull girder loads	
4.2	Loading conditions for direct strength analysis	
5	Hull scantlings	576
5.1	Corrosion addition	
5.2	Additional requirements	
6	Other structures	576
6.1		
7	Construction and testing	576
7.1	Welding and weld connections	
7.2	Special structural details	

CHAPTER 7 OIL TANKERS AND FLS TANKERS

Section 2 Oil tanker and FLS Tankers - Ship Arrangement

1	General	579
	1.1	
2	General arrangement of the ship with regard to fire prevention and crew safety	579
	2.1 Location and separation of spaces	
	2.2 Access and openings	
	2.3 Ventilation	
3	General arrangement of the ship with regard to pollution prevention	579
	3.1 Application	
	3.2 Protection of the cargo tank length in the event of grounding or collision	
	3.3 Segregation of oil and water ballast	
	3.4 Accidental oil outflow performance	
	3.5 Cleaning of cargo tanks	
	3.6 Retention of oil on board - Slop tanks	
	3.7 Deck spills	
	3.8 Pump-room bottom protection	

Section 3 Oil tanker and FLS Tankers - Hull and Stability

1	General	581
	1.1	
2	Stability	581
	2.1	
3	Structure design principles	581
	3.1	
4	Design loads	581
	4.1 Loading conditions for longitudinal strength assessment	
	4.2 Local loads	
	4.3 Loading conditions for direct strength analysis	
5	Hull scantlings	582
	5.1 Strength check with respect to stresses due to the temperature gradient	
6	Other structures	582
	6.1	
7	Hull outfitting	582
	7.1 Equipment	
8	Protection of hull metallic structures	583
	8.1	
9	Cathodic protection of tanks	583
	9.1	
10	Construction and testing	583
	10.1 Welding and weld connections	
	10.2 Special structural details	

CHAPTER 8 CHEMICAL TANKERS

Section 2 Chemical Tankers - Ship Survival Capability and Location of Cargo Tanks

1	Freeboard and intact stability	587
1.1	Intact stability	
2	Conditions of loading	587
2.1	Additional loading conditions for ships where additional class notation SDS is requested	
3	Location of cargo tanks	587
3.1		
4	Flooding assumptions for ships where additional class notation SDS is requested	587
4.1		
5	Standard of damage for ships where additional class notation SDS is requested	587
5.1		
6	Survival requirements for ships where additional class notation SDS is requested	587
6.1		

Section 4 Chemical Tankers - Cargo Containment

1	General	588
1.1	Application	
2	Structure design principles	588
2.1	Materials	
2.2	Hull structure	
2.3	Bulkhead structure	
3	Hull girder loads	588
3.1	Still water loads	
4	Hull scantlings	589
4.1	Plating	
5	Scantlings of independent tank structures	589
5.1	Plating	
5.2	Ordinary stiffeners	
5.3	Primary supporting members	
6	Supports of independent tanks	589
6.1	Structural arrangement	
6.2	Calculation of reaction forces in way of tank supports	
6.3	Scantlings of independent tank supports and hull structures in way of tank supports	

7	Other structures	589
	7.1	
8	Protection of hull metallic structures	589
	8.1	
9	Construction and testing	590
	9.1 Welding and weld connections	
	9.2 Structural details	

CHAPTER 9 LIQUEFIED GAS CARRIERS

Section 1 Liquefied Gas Carriers - General

1	General	593
1.1		
2	Application and implementation	593
2.1		
3	Additional requirements	593
3.1	Emergency towing arrangement	
3.2	Steering gear	
4	Definitions	593
4.1		
5	Documentation to be submitted	593
5.1		
6	Cargo equipment trials	593
6.1		
7	Additional service feature STL-SPM	593
7.1	General	
7.2	Documentation to be submitted	
7.3	Structural design	
7.4	Mechanical installation	
7.5	Electrical and automation installation	

Section 2 Liquefied Gas Carriers - Ship Survival Capability and Location of Cargo Tanks

1	General	595
1.1		
2	Freeboard and stability	595
2.1	General	
3	Damage assumptions	596
3.1		
4	Location of cargo tanks	596
4.1		
5	Flood assumptions	596
5.1		
6	Standard of damage	596
6.1		
7	Survival requirements	596
7.1		

Section 4 Liquefied Gas Carriers - Cargo Containment

1	General	597
1.1	Scope	
1.2	Definitions	
1.3	Application	
2	Cargo containment	598
2.1	Functional requirement	
2.2	Cargo containment safety principles	
2.3	Secondary barriers in relation to tank types	
2.4	Design of secondary barriers	
2.5	Partial secondary barriers and primary barrier small leak protection system	
2.6	Supporting arrangements	
2.7	Associated structure and equipment	
2.8	Thermal insulation	
2.9	Use of cargo heater to raise the cargo temperature	
3	Design loads	600
3.1	General	
3.2	Permanent loads	
3.3	Functional loads	
3.4	Environmental loads	
3.5	Accidental loads	
4	Structural integrity	602
4.1	General	
4.2	Structural analyses	
4.3	Stress categories	
4.4	Design conditions	
4.5	Ultimate design condition	
4.6	Fatigue design condition	
4.7	Accident design condition	
5	Materials	605
5.1	General	
5.2	Materials forming ship structure	
5.3	Materials of primary and secondary barrier	
5.4	Thermal insulation and other materials used in cargo containment systems	
6	Construction processes	607
6.1	General	
6.2	Weld joint design	
6.3	Design for gluing and other joining processes	
6.4	Testing	
7	Supports	609
7.1	Supporting arrangement	
7.2	Calculation of reaction forces in way of tank supports	
7.3	Checking criteria	
7.4	Supports of type A and type B independent tanks	
7.5	Supports of type C independent tanks	

8	Type A independent tanks	610
8.1	Design basis	
8.2	Structural analyses	
8.3	Ultimate design condition	
8.4	Accident design conditions	
8.5	Testing	
9	Type B independent tanks	612
9.1	Design basis	
9.2	Structural analyses	
9.3	Ultimate design condition	
9.4	Fatigue design condition	
9.5	Accident design condition	
9.6	Testing	
9.7	Marking	
10	Type C independent tanks	616
10.1	Design basis	
10.2	Shell thickness	
10.3	Ultimate design condition	
10.4	Fatigue design condition	
10.5	Accident design condition	
10.6	Testing	
10.7	Marking	
11	Membrane tanks	619
11.1	Design basis	
11.2	Design consideration	
11.3	Loads and loads combinations	
11.4	Structural analysis	
11.5	Ultimate design condition	
11.6	Fatigue design condition	
11.7	Accident design condition	
11.8	Design development testing	
11.9	Testing	
12	Integral tanks	620
12.1	Design basis	
12.2	Structural analysis	
12.3	Ultimate design condition	
12.4	Accident design condition	
12.5	Testing	
13	Semi-membrane tanks	621
13.1	Design basis	
14	Cargo containment systems of novel configuration	621
14.1	Limit state design for novel concepts	

Section 20 Liquefied Gas Carriers - Hull Scantling

1	General	622
1.1	Application	
2	Flooding for ships with independent tanks	622
2.1	General	

3	Finite element model	622
3.1	General	
3.2	Number of models	
3.3	Structural modeling	
3.4	Load Model	
3.5	Yielding strength criteria	
3.6	Buckling check	
4	Membrane tanks	623
4.1	General	
4.2	Sloshing loads	
4.3	Collision loads	
5	Structural details	624
5.1	General	
5.2	Knuckles	
5.3	Connections of inner bottom with transverse cofferdam bulkheads	
5.4	Cut-outs and connections in membrane tanks	
6	Fatigue assessment	625
6.1	General	
6.2	Type A ships	
6.3	Type B ships with spherical tanks	
6.4	Membrane ships	

Appendix 1 Guidance for Calculation of Pressures and Accelerations

1	Guidance to detailed calculation of internal pressure for static design purpose	626
1.1	Calculation of dynamic liquid pressure	
1.2	Calculation of acceleration components	
2	Internal pressure for integral tanks and membrane tanks	629
2.1	General	
2.2	Sloshing pressure for membrane tanks	
3	Guidance to detailed calculation of pressure for a static heel angle of 30°C	629
3.1	Internal pressure calculation	
3.2	Sea pressure calculation	
4	Calculation of dynamic pressure for collision loads	630
4.1	General	



TENTATIVE RULES FOR STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT OF STEEL SHIPS

Part B General Requirements applicable to All Ships

Chapters 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Chapter 1	GENERAL
Chapter 2	GENERAL ARRANGEMENT DESIGN
Chapter 4	STRUCTURE DESIGN PRINCIPLES
Chapter 5	DESIGN LOADS
Chapter 6	HULL GIRDER STRENGTH
Chapter 7	HULL SCANTLINGS
Chapter 8	DIRECT STRENGTH ANALYSIS
Chapter 9	BUCKLING
Chapter 10	FATIGUE
Chapter 11	OTHER STRUCTURES
Chapter 12	HULL OUTFITTING
Chapter 13	CONSTRUCTION AND TESTING

Part B Hull Structure

Chapter 1 GENERAL

SECTION 1	APPLICATION
SECTION 2	RULES PRINCIPLES
SECTION 3	SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS
SECTION 4	DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED
SECTION 5	LOADING MANUAL AND LOADING INSTRUMENTS
APPENDIX 1	SHIP IN OPERATION - RENEWAL CRITERIA
APPENDIX 2	CORRESPONDENCES BETWEEN NR646 AND NR467, PART B

