



BSI Standards Publication

Ships and marine technology — Vocabulary related to autonomous ship systems

National foreword

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee *Ships and marine technology*, ISO/TC 8.

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Introduction

Highly automated ships, including fully uncrewed and/or autonomous ships, are part of complex systems that have properties that are very different from conventional ships. This area is still under development and will remain so for many years to come. This means that there is a need for a harmonized and as consistent as possible vocabulary and related definitions for the concepts and objects that are used in the research on, design of and the eventual use of highly automated ships. It is the intention of this document to provide this. Recognizing that the area is developing, this document is published as a technical specification rather than an international standard.

[Clause 3](#) contains the definitions of the vocabulary and is divided into the following parts.

[3.1](#), General terms: the main concepts related to autonomous ship systems.

[3.2](#), Terms related to autonomous ship system components: defining the main components of the autonomous ship system, including required off-ship support. [Annex A](#) gives a more extensive and informal overview of these components as well as other entities that the autonomous ship system may have to interact with. Note that the Remote Control Centre (RCC) is also part of the autonomous ship system components, but is defined in [3.1](#).

[3.3](#), Terms related to operations: this subclause contains vocabulary that can be used to describe aspects of the ship's operational strategies, division of responsibilities between humans and automation, and corresponding system designs requirements. [Annex B](#) gives a more extensive and informative overview of some of these concepts.

[3.4](#), Terms related to operator control modes: defining specific modes for operator control mode ([3.3.2](#)).