

Approval of the Manufacturing Processes of Chains and Chain Accessories

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use

Reason for Amendment

The “Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use” specifies requirements related to the approval of the manufacturing processes of anchor chains, steering chains and offshore mooring chains (hereinafter referred to as “chains”) as well as their respective chain accessories. These requirements specify that hardness tests are to be one of the approval tests to be carried out for all chains and chain accessories.

In relation to these requirements, hardness tests are considered to be necessary for offshore mooring chains and offshore mooring chain accessories in order to prevent any excessive hardness enhancement because they are typically manufactured using higher strength materials compared to ordinary chains and their chain accessories. In addition, hardness tests are also considered to be necessary for chains and chain accessories which are manufactured by welding in order to ensure weld zone quality. On the other hand, the quality of other chains and their chain accessories is considered to be sufficiently ensured without the need of hardness tests due to increased product reliability achieved through recent advances in manufacturing technology and in consideration of the performance records.

Accordingly, relevant requirements related to the application of hardness tests were amended based upon the above.

In addition, relevant requirements were amended for the sake of consistency with IACS Unified Requirement W22.

Outline of Amendment

The main details of this amendment are as follows:

- (1) Amended the application of hardness tests for base metals of chains other than offshore mooring chains and for chain accessories other than offshore mooring chain accessories to specify that said tests may be omitted from manufacturing process approval when deemed appropriate by the Society.
- (2) Clarified the treatment of enlarged links and end links manufactured by welding by a chain accessories manufacturer other than the manufacturer of the chain with regard to manufacturing process approval.