

Stability Instruments for Tankers

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B, N, and S

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B, N, and S

Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Reason for Amendment

Oil tankers, chemical tankers and gas carriers are required to comply with the respective damage stability requirements specified in MARPOL Annex I, the IBC Code and the IGC Code for all loading conditions. Such ships, however, typically operate under a variety of loading conditions and it is difficult to cover all of these in the stability information booklet, which contains the list of approved loading conditions for the ship. In response, the IMO discussed making the fitting of stability instruments designed to verify compliance with relevant damage stability requirements for any loading condition mandatory for such ships.

As a result of this discussion, relevant amendments to MARPOL Annex I, the IBC Code and IGC Code were adopted at the 66th Session of the IMO Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC66) held in April 2014 and the 93rd Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC93) held in May 2014 as IMO resolutions MEPC.248(66), MEPC.250(66), MSC.369(93) and MSC.370(93) respectively. These amendments make the fitting of stability instruments mandatory for oil tankers, chemical tankers and gas carriers.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with IMO resolutions MEPC.248(66), MEPC.250(66), MSC.369(93) and MSC.370(93).

Outline of Amendment

The main contents of this amendment are as follows:

- (1) Specified that oil tankers, chemical tankers and gas carriers are required to be fitted with a stability instrument as well as relevant exemptions and waivers related to this requirement.
- (2) Specified that functional tests for the stability instruments required by (1) above are to be carried out during periodical surveys.
- (3) Specified that a survey is to be carried out by the first special survey on or after 1 January 2016 in order to verify compliance with (1) above for oil tankers and chemical tankers at the beginning stage of construction prior to 1 January 2016. Furthermore, specifies that a survey is to be carried out by the first special survey on or after 1 July 2016 in order to verify compliance with (1) above for gas carriers at the beginning stage of construction prior to 1 July 2016.