

Surveys for Ships Using Low-Flashpoint Fuels

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and GF

Reason for Amendment

Since there has been a growing interest in ships which use gases or other low-flashpoint fuels as propulsion fuel (hereinafter referred to as “ships using low-flashpoint fuels”) due to concerns about the impact that more traditional propulsion fuels have upon the environment, the IMO adopted the IGF Code at the 95th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC95) held in June 2015 for the purpose of ensuring the safety of such ships. The Code has already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

Although requirements similar to ones for ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk, were specified for the periodical surveys of ships using low-flashpoint fuels when the IGF Code was incorporated into the ClassNK Rules, IACS adopted a new Unified Requirement (UR) Z25 and Recommendation No.148 which specify requirements related to periodical survey for ships using low-flashpoint fuels in January 2017.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon IACS UR Z25 and Recommendation No.148.

Outline of Amendment

The main contents of this amendment are as follows:

- (1) Added the following (a) to (e) as survey items of Annual Surveys.
 - (a) examination of bunkering stations
 - (b) verification that gas detection systems are calibrated in accordance with the manufacturers’ recommendations
 - (c) verification of the satisfactory operation of the control systems, etc. of fuel supply systems and bunkering systems
 - (d) operational test of the shutdown of ESD protected machinery spaces
 - (e) verification of the operation manuals and operating records, etc. maintained for gas fuel related systems
- (2) Added verification of the satisfactory operating condition of gas detectors, temperature sensors, pressure sensors, level indicators, etc. as survey items of Intermediate Surveys.
- (3) Added the following (a) to (e) as survey items of Special Surveys.
 - (a) examination and review of records of the vacuum monitoring systems for vacuum-insulated independent fuel storage tanks
 - (b) non-destructive testing for tank foundations and surrounding hull structures
 - (c) examination and verification of the operability of valves provided for fuel related system
 - (d) examination of electrical equipment to include the intrinsically safe, explosion proof, or increased safety features of the electrical equipment
 - (e) testing of systems for de-energizing electrical equipment in hazardous areas

Amended Requirements

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships

Part B: 3.6.1, Table B3.11, 4.6.1, Table B4.8, Table B5.29

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships

Part B: B3.6, B4.6, B5.6

Part GF: GF6.4.1, GF17.2