D2
(1979)
(Rev. 1
1990)
Rev. 2
1996)

Definitions

D2.1 General

D2.1.1 The term 'unit' as used herein is intended to mean any mobile offshore structure or vessel, whether designed for operation afloat or supported by the sea bed, built in accordance with the Requirements and classed by a member Society, and includes the entire structure and components covered by the Requirements. The term 'drilling unit' as used herein means any unit intended for use in offshore drilling operations for the exploration or exploitation of the subsea resources. The term 'self-propelled unit' as used herein refers to a unit which is designed for unassisted passage. All other units are considered as non-self-propelled.

D2.1.2 The term 'Requirements' as used herein refers to the 'International Association of Classification Societies' requirements concerning mobile offshore drilling units and other similar units (D1 – D11).

D2.1.3 The term 'Society' as used herein refers to the individual member Classification Society.

D2.1.4 The term 'Rules' as used herein refers to the currently applicable Rules of the Society.

D2.2 Types of drilling units

D2.2.1 Self-elevating drilling units

Self-elevating drilling units have hulls with sufficient buoyancy to safely transport the unit to the desired location, after which the hull is raised to a predetermined elevation above the sea surface on its legs, which are supported on the sea bed. Drilling equipment and supplies may be transported on the unit, or may be added to the unit in its elevated position. The legs of such units may penetrate the sea bed, may be fitted with enlarged sections or footings to reduce penetration, or may be attached to a bottom pad or mat.

D2.2.2 Column stabilized drilling units

Column stabilized drilling units depend upon the buoyancy of widely spaced columns for flotation and stability for all afloat modes of operation or in the raising or lowering of the unit, as may be applicable. The columns are connected at their top to an upper structure supporting the drilling equipment. Lower hulls or footings may be provided at the bottom of the columns for additional buoyancy or to provide sufficient area to support the unit on the sea bed. Bracing members of tubular or structural sections may be used to connect the columns, lower hulls or footings and to support the upper structure. Drilling operations may be carried out in the floating condition, in which condition the unit is described as a semisubmersible, or when the unit is supported by the sea bed, in which condition the unit is described as a submersible. A semisubmersible unit may be designed of operate either floating or supported by the sea bed, provided each type of operation has been found to be satisfactory.

D2.2.3 Surface type drilling units

(a) Ship type drilling units are seagoing ship-shaped units having a displacement-type hull or hulls, of the single, catamaran or trimaran types, which have been designed or converted for drilling operations in the floating condition. Such types have propulsion machinery.

(b) Barge type drilling units are seagoing units having a displacement type hull or hulls, which have been designed or converted for drilling operations in the floating condition. These units have no propulsion machinery.

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D2.2.4 Other types of drilling units

Units which are designed as mobile offshore drilling units and which do not fall into the above mentioned categories will be treated on an individual basis and be assigned an appropriate classification designation.

D2.3 Dimensions

D2.3.1 General

Extreme dimension, such as length, breadth, depth, etc., are used to define the overall size of the unit, and these together with other relevant dimensions, will be published by the Society.

D2.3.2 Draught
The moulded draught is the vertical distance measured from the moulded base line to the assigned load line. Certain components of a unit's structure, machinery or equipment may extend below the moulded base line.

D2.4 Water depth

D2.4.1 The water depth as used herein is the vertical distance from the sea bed to the mean low water level plus the height of astronomical and storm tides.

D2.5 Moulded base line

D2.5.1 The moulded base line is a horizontal line extending through the upper surface of the bottom plating.

D2.6 Lightweight
D2.6.1 Lightweight is defined as the weight of the complete unit with all its permanently installed machinery, equipment and outfit, including permanent ballast, spare parts normally retained on board and liquids in machinery and piping to their normal working levels, but does not include liquids in storage or reserve supply tanks, items of consumable or variable loads, stores or crew and their effects.

D2.7 Weathertight means that in any sea conditions water will not penetrate into the unit.

D2.8 Watertight means that capability of preventing the passage of water through structure in any direction under the head of water for which the surrounding structure is designed.

D2.9 Downflooding means any flooding of the interior or any part of the buoyant structure of a unit through openings which cannot be closed weathertight, watertight or which are required for operations reasons to be left open in all weather conditions, as appropriate for the intact and damage stability criteria.

D2.10 Modes of Operation

D2.10.1 A mode of operation is a condition or manner in which a unit may operate or function while on location or in transit. Insofar as the Requirements are concerned, the approved modes of operation of a unit should include the following:

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(i) Operating conditions: Conditions wherein a unit is on location for purposes of drilling or other similar operations, and combined environmental and operational loadings are within the appropriate design limits established for such operations. Unit may be either afloat or supported on the sea bed, as applicable.

(ii) Severe storm conditions: A condition during which a unit may be subjected to the most severe environmental loadings for which the unit is designed. Drilling or similar operations may have been discontinued due to the severity of the environmental loadings. Unit may be either afloat or supported on the sea bed, as applicable.

(iii) Transit conditions: All unit movements from one geographical location to another.