PR1C
(Rev.0 July 2009) (Corr.1 Oct 2009) (Rev.1 Apr 2010) (Rev.2 June 2012)

Procedure for Suspension and Reinstatement or Withdrawal of Class in Case of Surveys, Conditions of Class or Recommendations Going Overdue

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Notes:

1. ~~PR1C is to be implemented for requests for transfer of class, or requests for adding class, or requests from an Owner pertaining to his intention to withdraw from class from another Society, or advice by the withdrawing Society that class has been withdrawn, received on or after 1 July 2009~~.This Procedural Requirement applies to the suspension and reinstatement or withdrawal of class in case of surveys, conditions of class or recommendations going overdue on or after 1 July 2009.

2. Rev.1 of this Procedural Requirement applies from 1 July 2010.

3. Revision 2 of this Procedural Requirement applies to the suspension and reinstatement or withdrawal of class in case of surveys, conditions of class or recommendations going overdue on or after 1 July 2013.

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Procedure for Suspension and Reinstatement or Withdrawal of Class in Case of Surveys, Conditions of Class or Recommendations Going Overdue

Application

This Procedure contains procedures and requirements pertaining to suspension and reinstatement or withdrawal of class and is applicable, unless stated otherwise, to vessels of over 100 GT of whatever type, self propelled or not, restricted or unrestricted service, except for "inland waterway" vessels.

The obligations of this Procedure apply to Classification Societies which are subject to verification of compliance with QSCS.

Definitions

‘Disclassed’ means class has been suspended or withdrawn.

‘Dual class vessel’ means a vessel which is classed by two Societies between which there is a written agreement regarding sharing of work.

‘Recommendations’ and ‘Conditions of Class’ are to be read throughout this Procedural Requirement as being different terms used by Societies for the same thing, i.e. requirements to the effect that specific measures, repairs, surveys etc. are to be carried out within a specific time limit in order to retain class.

‘Exceptional circumstances’ means unavailability of dry-docking facilities; unavailability of repair facilities; unavailability of essential materials, equipment or spare parts; or delays incurred by action taken to avoid severe weather conditions.

‘Force Majeure’ means damage to the ship; unforeseen inability of the Society to attend the vessel due to the governmental restrictions on right of access or movement of personnel; unforeseeable delays in port or inability to discharge cargo due to unusually lengthy periods of severe weather, strikes or civil strife; acts of war; or other force majeure.

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Section A - Procedure for Suspension and Reinstatement or Withdrawal of Class

A.1 Suspension and reinstatement of class in the case of overdue surveys

A.1.1 Owners are to be notified that the 5-year Class Certificate expires, and classification is automatically suspended, from the certificate expiry date in the event that the Special (Renewal) Survey has not been completed or is not under attendance for completion prior to resuming trading, by the due date.

Classification will be reinstated upon satisfactory completion of the surveys due. Such surveys are to be credited from the date originally due. However, the vessel is disclassed from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

A.1.1.1 Under “exceptional circumstances”, the Society may grant an extension not exceeding three (3) months to allow for completion of the Special Survey provided that the vessel is attended and the attending Surveyor(s)[1] so recommend(s) after the following has been carried out:

a) annual survey;

b) re-examination of Recommendations / Conditions of Class;

c) progression of the Special Survey as far as practicable;

d) in the case where dry docking is due prior to the end of the class extension, an underwater examination is to be carried out by an approved diving company. An underwater examination by an approved company may be dispensed with in the case of extension of dry-docking survey not exceeding 36 months interval provided the ship is without outstanding Recommendation / Condition of Class regarding underwater parts.

A.1.1.2 In the case that the Class Certificate will expire when the vessel is expected to be at sea, an extension to allow for completion of the Special Survey may be granted provided there is documented agreement to such an extension prior to the expiry date of the certificate, and provided that positive arrangements have been made for attendance of the Surveyor at the first port of call, and provided that the Society is satisfied that there is technical justification for such an extension. Such an extension is to be granted only until arrival at the first port of call after the expiry date of the certificate. However, if owing to “exceptional circumstances” the special survey cannot be completed at the first port of call, A1.1.1 may be followed, but the total period of extension shall in no case be longer than three months after the original due date of the special survey.

A.1.2 Annual Surveys: Owners are to be notified that the Class Certificate becomes invalid, and classification is automatically suspended, if the Annual Survey has not been completed within three (3) months of the due date of the annual survey, unless the vessel is under attendance for completion of the Annual Survey.

Classification will be reinstated upon satisfactory completion of the surveys due. Such surveys are to be credited from the date originally due. However, the vessel is to be disclassed from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

[1] See Procedural Requirement 20 ‘Procedural Requirement for certain ESP surveys’

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A.1.3 Intermediate Surveys: Owners are to be notified that the Class Certificate becomes invalid, and classification is automatically suspended, if the Intermediate Survey has not been completed within three (3) months of the due date of the third annual survey in each periodic survey cycle, unless the vessel is under attendance for completion of the Intermediate Survey.

Classification will be reinstated upon satisfactory completion of the surveys due. Such surveys are to be credited from the date originally due. However, the vessel is to be disclassed from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

A.1.4 Continuous Survey Item(s): Continuous survey item(s) due or overdue at time of annual survey is to be dealt with. The vessel's class will be subject to a suspension procedure if the item(s) is not surveyed, or postponed by agreement.

A.1.5 Vessels laid-up in accordance with the Society's Rules prior to surveys becoming overdue need not be suspended when surveys addressed above become overdue.

However, vessels which are laid-up after being suspended as a result of surveys going overdue, remain suspended until the overdue surveys are completed.

A.1.6 When a vessel is intended for a demolition voyage with any periodical survey overdue, the vessel's class suspension may be held in abeyance and consideration may be given to allow the vessel to proceed on a single direct ballast voyage from the lay up or final discharge port to the demolition yard. In such cases a short term Class Certificate with conditions for the voyage noted may be issued provided the attending surveyor finds the vessel in satisfactory condition to proceed for the intended voyage.

A.1.7 Force Majeure: If, due to circumstances reasonably beyond the owner's or the Society's control as defined above, the vessel is not in a port where the overdue surveys can be completed at the expiry of the periods allowed above, the Society may allow the vessel to sail, in class, directly to an agreed discharge port, and if necessary, hence, in ballast, to an agreed port at which the survey will be completed, provided the Society:

a) exams the ship's records;

b) carries out the due and/or overdue surveys and examination of Recommendations / Conditions of Class at the first port of call when there is an unforeseen inability of the Society to attend the vessel in the present port, and

c) has satisfied itself that the vessel is in condition to sail for one trip to a discharge port and subsequent ballast voyage to a repair facility if necessary. (Where there is unforeseen inability of the Society to attend the vessel in the present port, the master is to confirm that his ship is in condition to sail to the nearest port of call.)

If class has already been automatically suspended in such cases, it may be reinstated subject to the conditions prescribed in this paragraph.

<u>A.1.8 When a vessel is intended for a single voyage from laid-up position to repair yard with any periodical survey overdue, the vessel's class suspension may be held in abeyance and consideration may be given to allow the vessel to proceed on a single direct ballast voyage from the site of lay up to the repair yard, upon agreement with the Flag Administration, provided the Society finds the vessel in satisfactory condition after surveys, the extent of which are to be based on surveys overdue and duration of lay-up. A short term Class Certificate with conditions for the intended voyage may be issued. This is not applicable to vessels whose class was already suspended prior to being laid-up.</u>

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A.2 Suspension and reinstatement of class in the case of overdue recommendations / conditions of class

A.2.1 Each recommendation / condition of class will be assigned a due date for completion. Owners will be notified of these dates and that the vessel's class will be subject to a suspension procedure if the item is not dealt with, or postponed by agreement, by the due date.

A.2.2 Classification will be reinstated upon verification that the overdue recommendation / condition of class has been satisfactorily dealt with. However, the vessel is to be disclassed from the date of suspension until the date class is reinstated.

A.3 Suspension and reinstatement of class of dual classed vessels

A.3.1 When a vessel is dual classed and in the event that one of the Societies involved takes action to suspend the class of the vessel for technical reasons, the Society concerned will advise the other Society of the reasons for such action and the full circumstances within five (5) working days.

A.3.2 The other Society will, upon receipt of this advice, also suspend the class of the vessel, unless it can otherwise document that such suspension is incorrect.

A.3.3 When either Society decides to reinstate class, it is to inform the other Society.

A.4 Withdrawal of class

A.4.1 When class of a vessel has been suspended for a period of six (6) months due to overdue surveys and/or recommendations / conditions of class, the class is to be withdrawn. A longer suspension period may be granted when the vessel is not trading as in cases of lay-up, awaiting disposition in case of a casualty or attendance for reinstatement.

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Section B - Notification and Reporting

B.1 Notification to Owners and Flag States

B.1.1 The Society is to confirm in writing the suspension of class and reinstating of the vessel's class to the Owner and to the Flag State.

B.1.2 The Society is to confirm in writing the withdrawal of class to the Owner and to the Flag State.

B.1.3 For new vessels constructed on or after 1 July 1998 under SOLAS Reg. II-1/3.1, the letters according to B.1.1 and B.1.2 are to state that certain statutory certificates are implicitly invalidated by the suspension / withdrawal of class.

Notes:

(1) The Class Certificate is to include as a minimum:
- an expiry date based on the five year Special Survey (Renewal Survey);
- an endorsement section to record the completion of Annual [and Intermediate] Surveys;
- a statement to indicate that the Class Certificate becomes invalid and classification is automatically suspended, if:

  i) the Annual Survey has not been completed within three (3) months of the due date of the annual survey; or

  ii) the Intermediate Survey has not been completed within three (3) months of the due date of the third annual survey in each periodic survey cycle,

  unless the vessel is under attendance for completion of the relevant survey; or alternatively, a reference to the class suspension requirement contained in the Classification Society's Rules.

(2) At the discretion of each Society, the following types of vessels may be exempted from compliance with this Procedural Requirement provided the Society has procedures for the suspension and withdrawal of their class:
- Mobile Offshore Drilling Units;
- Mobile Offshore Units;
- Floating Production and/or Storage Vessels;
- Military vessels or commercial vessels owned or chartered by Governments, which are utilised in support of military operations or service; or
- Vessels in lay-up;
- Fishing vessels.

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