



RUSSIAN MARITIME REGISTER OF SHIPPING

CIRCULAR LETTER

No. 311-05-1983c

dated 26.12.2023

Entry-into-force date:
01.01.2024

~~Cancels / amends / adds Circular Letter No.~~

~~dated~~

Number of pages: 1+5

Re:

Rules for The Classification Surveys of Ships in Service, 2024, ND No. 2-020101-012-E, Parts II "Survey Schedule and Scope" and III "Additional Surveys of Ships Depending on Their Purpose and Hull Material"

1. The number of occasional survey of ships under the fleet monitoring system has been amended.
2. Requirements for survey of ships designated for carrying liquefied gases in bulk during the first loading/unloading have been amended.

Instructions of application:

1. Bring the content of the Circular Letter to the notice of the RS surveyors, interested organizations and persons in the area of the RS Branch Offices' activity.
 2. Apply the provisions of the Circular Letter during survey of ships and offshore installations in service starting from 01.01.2024.
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Appendices:

Appendix 1: information on amendments introduced by the Circular Letter

Appendix 2: text of amendments

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Information on amendments introduced by the Circular Letter

Amended paras/chapters/sections	Item(s)/Type(s) of supervision and their particulars	Information on amendments	Remarks
Part II, para 4.8.2.1.2	Ships under the fleet monitoring system Survey	The number of occasional surveys has been amended	
Part III, Chapter 8.7	Ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk Survey before and after the first loaded voyage	Requirements for survey during the first loading/unloading have been amended	

PART II. SURVEY SCHEDULE AND SCOPE

4 OTHER SURVEYS

4.8 ADDITIONAL MEASURES AIMED AT MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL CONDITION OF SHIPS

Para 4.8.2.1.2 is replaced by the following text:

"4.8.2.1.2 Effective period of fleet monitoring system shall be not less than ~~12~~24 months. While the ship is under the fleet monitoring system, at least ~~one occasional survey~~two occasional surveys shall be carried out in accordance with 4.8.3."

PART III. ADDITIONAL SURVEYS OF SHIPS DEPENDING ON THEIR PURPOSE AND HULL MATERIAL

8 SURVEYS OF GAS CARRIERS

8.7 SURVEYS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRST LOADED VOYAGE

Chapter 8.7 is replaced by the following text:

"8.7 SURVEYS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRST LOADED VOYAGE

8.7.1 Application.

~~This paragraph applies to all the ships carrying liquefied natural gases (LNG) in bulk, which have satisfactorily completed gas trials. The requirements of this Chapter apply to all ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk.~~

8.7.2 Certification.

The following initial certificateds shall be "conditionally" issued at delivery subject to satisfactory completion of ~~the first cargo loading and unloading survey requirements below in the presence of a surveyor~~ all required testing and examinations according to 8.7.3 (as applicable):

- .1 Classification Certificate;
- .2 International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk.

Note. The Classification Certificate shall be issued for a period of 60 months. In the List of Survey's Status (form 6.3.51-1), Section "Conditions", the following entry shall be made: "Not later than DD.MM.YYYY, the overall performance of the cargo containment system shall be verified for compliance with the design parameters during the first full loading and discharging of the cargo, in accordance with the survey procedure, the IGC Code requirements concerning the conduct of survey and the MA requirements. Records of the performance of the components and equipment essential to verify the design parameters, shall be maintained and be available to the attending surveyor".

The period of time for fulfilling the requirements shall be sufficient to make the first loaded voyage, but shall not exceed 5 months.

The International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk (hereinafter referred to as "the International Certificate") shall be issued for a period of time sufficient to make the first loaded voyage, but shall not exceed 5 months. Under the title of the International Certificate, the following entry shall be made: "CONDITIONAL"/"SHORT-TERM", the conditions shall be stated in the International Certificate or the reference to the Ship's Survey Statement (form 6.1.03, supplemented by the Survey checklist as per form 6.1.01) shall be made therein specifying the following conditions:

the overall performance of the cargo containment system shall be verified for compliance with the design parameters during the first full loading and discharging of the cargo in accordance with the survey procedure, the IGC Code requirements concerning the conduct of survey, and the MA requirements. Records of the performance of the components and equipment essential to verify the design parameters shall be maintained and be available to the attending surveyor;

the cargo containment system shall be inspected for cold spots during, or immediately following, the first loaded voyage. Inspection of the integrity of thermal insulation surfaces that cannot be visually checked shall be carried out in accordance with recognized standards. The written statement shall be obtained from the master that the cold spot examination of the hull and external insulation of the cargo containment system was carried out by the crew during the first loaded voyage and found satisfactory. Report of findings shall be available to the attending surveyor.

8.7.3 Survey requirements.

8.7.3.1—~~First loading (considered to be full loading):~~

- ~~.1—priority to be given to latter stages of loading (approximately last 6 h);~~
- ~~.2—review cargo logs and alarm reports;~~
- ~~.3—witness satisfactory operation of the following:
gas detection system;
cargo control and monitoring systems such as level gauging equipment, temperature sensors, pressure gauges, cargo pumps and compressors, proper control of cargo heat exchangers, if operating, etc;
nitrogen generating plant or inert gas generator, if operating;
nitrogen pressure control system for insulation, interbarrier, and annular spaces, if operating;
cofferdam heating system, if operating;
reliquefaction plant, if fitted;
equipment fitted for the burning of cargo vapors such as boilers, engines, gas combustion units, etc., if operating;~~
- ~~.4—examination of on-deck cargo piping systems including expansion and supporting arrangements;~~
- ~~.5—witness topping off process for cargo tanks including high level alarms activated during normal loading;~~
- ~~.6—advise master to carry out cold spot examination of the hull and external insulation during transit voyage to unloading port;~~
- ~~.7—witness emergency shutdown system testing prior to commencement of unloading.~~

8.7.3.2—~~First unloading:~~

- ~~.1—priority to be given to the commencement of unloading (approximately first 4—6 h);~~
- ~~.2—witness emergency shutdown system testing prior to commencement of unloading;~~
- ~~.3—review cargo logs and alarm reports;~~
- ~~.4—witness satisfactory operation of the following:
gas detection system;
cargo control and monitoring systems such as level gauging equipment, temperature sensors, pressure gauges, cargo pumps and compressors, proper control of cargo heat exchangers, if operating, etc;
nitrogen generating plant or inert gas generator, if operating;
nitrogen pressure control system for insulation, interbarrier, and annular spaces, as applicable;
on membrane vessels, verify that the readings of the cofferdam and inner hull temperature sensors are not below the allowable temperature for the selected grade of steel. Review previous readings;
cofferdam heating system, if operating;
reliquefaction plant and review of records from previous voyage;
equipment fitted for the burning of cargo vapors such as boilers, engines, gas combustion units, etc., if operating;~~
- ~~.5—examination of on-deck cargo piping systems including expansion and supporting arrangements;~~
- ~~.6—obtain written statement from the master that the cold spot examination was carried out during the transit voyage and found satisfactory. Where possible, the surveyor shall examine selected spaces.~~

RS surveyor attendance is required at the first cargo loading and first cargo unloading.

8.7.3.1 At gas trials or the first full cargo loading, as applicable to the cargo containment system, the survey shall be carried out in order to verify the satisfactory functionality of the following items of technical supervision:

emergency shutdown system during testing;

gas detection system;
cargo tank pressure monitoring system;
interbarrier spaces and insulation spaces pressure monitoring system, as applicable;
cargo tank temperature monitoring system;
cargo tank level indicating system;
interbarrier spaces and inner hull temperature monitoring system, as applicable;
inert gas generator, if operating;
nitrogen generating plant, if operating;
nitrogen pressure control system for insulation, interbarrier, and annular spaces, as applicable;
reliquefaction plant, if fitted;
equipment fitted for the burning of cargo vapours such as boilers, engines, gas combustion units, etc., if operating;
on-deck cargo piping systems including expansion and supporting arrangements, piping securing.

In addition, it is necessary to examine all piping systems, including valves, fittings and associated equipment for handling cargo or vapours.

Herewith, the master shall be advised the following recommendations:

regarding cold spot examination of the hull and external insulation during transit voyage to unloading port and record in ship's logbook;

regarding testing of high-level alarm(s) with liquid cargo during voyage and record in ship's logbook, when loading condition permits.

Note . At first full cargo loading, priority shall be given to latter stages of loading.

8.7.3.2 At gas trials or the first full cargo unloading, as applicable, survey shall be carried out in the following scope (the symbol (**) indicates survey requirements only feasible to be carried out at the time of first full cargo loading/unloading):

survey of on-deck cargo piping systems including expansion and supporting arrangements, piping securing;

review of logbook entry of emergency shutdown system testing prior to commencement of unloading;

(**) review of cargo logs and alarm reports for cargo tank pressure, temperature, and level indicating systems;

confirmation of satisfactory operation of cargo compressors;

confirmation of satisfactory operation of cargo pumps;

confirmation of satisfactory operation of inert gas generator, if operating;

confirmation of satisfactory operation of nitrogen generating plant, if operating;

confirmation of satisfactory operation of nitrogen pressure control system for insulation, interbarrier, and annular spaces, as applicable;

review of records for satisfactory operation of the reliquefaction plant, if fitted;

(**) review of records for satisfactory operation of the equipment fitted for the burning of cargo vapours such as boilers, engines, gas combustion units, etc., if operating;

(**) on ships fitted with membrane tanks, review of the records of the cofferdam and inner hull temperature sensors to verify the readings are not below the allowable temperature for the selected grade of steel;

(**) confirmation of satisfactory operation of cofferdam heating system, if in operation;

(**) review of logbook entries for cold spot examination;

(**) review of logbook entry confirming performance of verification of high-level alarm(s) with liquid cargo. If cargo conditions did not permit verification, the RS surveyor shall require verification at the first occasion where cargo conditions allow for verification. The master shall be advised to record verification in ship's logbook which shall be verified by the RS surveyor no later than the first annual survey.

Note . At first full cargo unloading, priority shall be given to the commencement of unloading.

8.7.3.3 Documentation submitted to the RS surveyor.

To confirm satisfactory functionality of the verifications, ship's master shall be required to arrange and provide to the RS surveyor print outs or screen shots showing:

.1 trends of cargo tanks pressure and temperature:

report on trends of pressure and temperature distribution of interbarrier space(s) and insulation space(s), and temperature distribution of inner hull, as applicable;

report on trends of performance of cofferdam heating system, when fitted;

report on trends of consumption of nitrogen gas, and whether any abnormality has been observed;

.2 list of any gas alarms, if occurred:

Cargo Tanks Containment System Cold Spot Inspection Statement;

report on activation of cargo tanks high-level alarm and overfill protection tests.

8.7.3.4 During testing and examinations at the first loading and unloading, gas trials performed under the RS supervision during construction of ship and meeting the requirements of 8.7.3.1 and 8.7.3.2 except those marked (**) in these paras, may be credited."