RUSSIAN MARITIME REGISTER OF SHIPPING

RULE CHANGE NOTICE	**No. 323-05-2071**	dated 29.12.2025

Entry-into-force date:
From the date of publication

Re: amendments to the Rules for the Classification and Construction of Subsea Pipelines, ND No. 2-020301-007-E, version 01.01.2025

Instructions on application:

1. Bring the content of the Rule Change Notice to the attention of the RS surveyors, interested organizations and persons in the area of the RS Branch Offices' activity.
2. Apply the provisions of the Notice in the RS practical activity from the entry-into-force date of the amendments.

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AMENDMENTS
TO THE RULES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SUBSEA PIPELINES

REVISION HISTORY

PART I. SUBSEA PIPELINES (01.01.2025)

Item	Applied to	Description	Remarks
Chapter 1.2	Subsea pipelines Processing equipment of a pipe laying vessel	Definitions have been amended	
Para 1.3.6	Subsea pipelines Classification of subsea pipelines	Meaning of valid class availability has been supplemented for a subsea pipeline	
Para 1.3.9.2	Subsea pipelines Classification of subsea pipelines	Class suspension period has been specified for a subsea pipeline in conservation	
Table 1.4.5.3	Subsea pipelines Survey of subsea pipelines	Reports issued upon results of subsea pipeline technical supervision have been specified	
Para 1.5.4.1	Subsea pipelines As-built documentation	Requirements have been specified for the scope of as-built documentation subject to the RS review	
Table 2.1.1	Subsea pipelines Design loads acting on subsea pipelines	Significance factors of load components γ have been specified for subsea pipelines transferring liquid media	
Table 4.2.3.6.1	Subsea pipelines Pipe steel and pipes	Requirements have been specified for testing during manufacture of pipe steel and pipes	

Para 4.3.3.4	Subsea pipelines Rolled steel and pipes	Requirements have been specified for selection of welded pipe samples subject to the impact test	
Para 4.3.3.5	Subsea pipelines Rolled steel and pipes	Requirements have been specified for selection of samples of seamless pipes subject to the impact test	
Para 7.3.1.3	Subsea pipelines External corrosion protection	Requirements have been specified for selection of the subsea pipeline external coating depending on the operating temperature	
Para 8.2.1.14	Subsea pipelines Subsea pipeline route	Reference to Table 2.4.12 to Appendix 1 to these Rules has been amended	
Chapter 8.4.7	Subsea pipelines Marine operations for pipeline laying	Requirement has been specified for ships using a dynamic positioning system	
Chapter 9.3 (new)	Subsea pipelines Conservation of subsea pipelines	Procedure for technical supervision has been specified for subsea pipelines placing in conservation, subsea pipelines in conservation, and subsea pipelines reactivation after conservation	

PART I. SUBSEA PIPELINES

1 GENERAL

1.2 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Chapter 1.2. Definition "Tensioner" is introduced after definition "Minimum yield stress" reading as follows:

"T e n s i o n e r is a device installed on a pipelaying vessel or barge designed to secure a pipeline string between a stinger and a seabed, as well as to fix the position of the pipelaying vessel or barge every 12 m or 24 m when laying the pipeline on the seabed.".

1.3 CLASSIFICATION

Para 1.3.6 is amended as follows:

"**1.3.6** Assignment of the RS class to the subsea pipeline means confirmation of the pipeline compliance with the applicable requirements of the SP rules, and acceptance of the pipeline under technical supervision for the specified period of time with performance of all surveys required by the Register to confirm the appropriate class. The availability of a valid Register class of a subsea pipeline means that the technical condition of the subsea pipeline satisfies completely, or to the extent recognized by the Register as sufficient, the requirements of these rules as per the purpose, operating conditions and class notation of the subsea pipeline. The availability of valid class of the subsea pipeline is confirmed by the valid SP Classification Certificate (refer to 1.4.5 of Part I of these Rules).".

Para 1.3.9.2 is amended as follows:

"**1.3.9.2** ~~Irrespective of reason of suspension, the subsea pipeline class may not be suspended for more than twelve (12) months.~~ The subsea pipeline class may not be suspended for more than 12 months, except for conservation of the subsea pipeline. The period of class suspension for subsea pipelines in conservation is limited by the conservation period of the subsea pipeline.".

1.4 SCOPE OF SURVEYS

Para 1.4.5.3 is amended as follows:

"**1.4.5.3** Reports on survey of subsea pipeline (SP) after construction (Form 9.9.1), reports on annual/ intermediate/occasional/special survey of subsea pipeline (SP) (Form 9.9.3), reports on survey of subsea pipeline (Form 9.9.4) and other documents, if necessary, shall be issued by the Register during the supervision of the subsea pipelines.".

1.5 TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Para 1.5.4.1 is amended as follows:

"**1.5.4.1** When the Register provides services on classification of the subsea pipelines built without the RS technical supervision, as-built documentation shall be reviewed and approved by the Register in addition to design and detailed design documentation for construction of a subsea pipeline, as well as the results of repairs and modifications.".

2 DESIGN LOADS ACTING ON SUBSEA PIPELINES

2.1 GENERAL

Table 2.1.1 is amended as follows:

"Table 2.1.1

Significance factors of load components γ

Type of load	γ
Weight of pipeline and auxiliary structures	1,1
Internal pressure:	
for gas pipelines	1,1
for oil and petroleum product pipelines and other liquid media	1,15
External water pressure with regard to water level changes due to tides and waves	1,1
Pipeline crowning/burial soil pressure in trench	1,4
Pipeline icing in case the media with temperature below zero are transported	1,4
Seismic	1,1
Current	1,1
Wave	1,15
Wind	1,1
Temperature	1,0

".

4 MATERIALS

4.2 SURVEY AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION

Table 4.2.3.6.1. Note 2 is amended as follows:

"2 When the data of the minimum operating temperature is missing, testing shall be carried out at the temperature ~~equal to –40 °C~~ provided in 4.4.3 of this Part.".

4.3 PROCEDURES OF TESTING PIPES AND STEEL ROLLED PRODUCTS

Para 4.3.3.4 is amended as follows:

"**4.3.3.4** The specimens shall be taken at a depth of not more than 2 mm. Where wall thickness equals or exceeds 26 mm, additionally the specimens shall be taken from the ~~mid-thickness of the wall~~ middle of weld seam of the welded pipe, except for tangents or bend/fitting.

Additionally, the portion of the fibrous component in fracture of all specimens shall be measured, except for the specimens from the centre of weld. The acceptance criterion makes up 50 % of the fibrous component in fracture on average for three specimens; one specimen is allowed to have the minimum of 40 %.

The specimen from the welds made with high-frequency current shall be taken across the weld: ~~one series~~ in the centre of the ~~weld and one at a distance of 2 mm from the centre of the weld~~ welded joint subject to local heat treatment of the welded joint and/or general heat treatment of pipes.".

Para 4.3.3.5 is supplemented with the following text:

"During initial survey of the manufacturer, samples are additionally taken in the transverse direction at a distance of 2 mm from the inner surface of the pipe for seamless pipes with wall thickness equal or exceeding 26 mm.".

7 CORROSION PROTECTION

7.3 PROTECTION AGAINST EXTERNAL CORROSION

Para 7.3.1.3 is amended as follows:

"**7.3.1.3** Polyethylene (PE) coatings shall be selected for operating temperatures of – 40 °C to ~~+ 60~~ +80 °C. Polypropylene (PP) coatings shall be selected for operating temperatures of – 20 °C to +110 °C. Epoxy coatings shall be selected for operating temperatures of –20 °C to +80 °C. The temperature ranges of coatings can be specified based on the data from suppliers of coating materials. The permissible storage and shipping temperatures for the pipes with the applied coatings shall be also considered, where necessary.".

8 PIPELINE INSTALLATION AND TESTING

8.2 PIPELINE ROUTES AND SEABED SOILS

Para 8.2.1.14 is amended as follows:

"**8.2.1.14** Pipeline sections in water areas with seasonable seabed soil erosion caused by intensive river flow and/or specific environment (e.g., fast ice, currents, etc.) shall be buried into the seabed soil for the depth h, in m, determined by formula:

$$h = h_{l,\max} + \Delta_l \times k_0, \qquad (8.2.1.14)$$

where $h_{l,\max}$— = the maximum depth of the seasonal seabed soil erosion, in m, determined from the results of engineering survey of the pipeline section continuously during 5 years;

Δ_l = 1,0 m or according to Table 2.4.12 of Appendix 1;

k_0 — strength factor in terms of the pipeline class, assigned according to Table 8.3.2.9.".

8.4 MARINE OPERATIONS FOR PIPELINE LAYING

Para 8.4.7 is amended as follows:

"**8.4.7** A vessel using a dynamic positioning system for station keeping and location purposes shall meet the requirements of IMO MSC/Circ. 645 (the Guidelines for Vessels with Dynamic Positioning Systems) for ships which keels are laid before 09.06.2017 (for ships under RF flag — before 16.06.2017 or IMO MSC.1/Circ.1580 "Guidelines for Vessels and Units with Dynamic Positioning (DP) Systems" (for ships which keels are laid before and after 09.06.2017 (for ships under RF flag — before or after 16.06.2017).".

9 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

New Chapter 9.3 is introduced reading as follows:

"9.3 CONSERVATION OF SUBSEA PIPELINES

9.3.1 Terms and definitions.

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions have been adopted.

Conservation of subsea pipeline means a set of measures to maintain serviceability of the subsea pipeline during temporary out of service period.

Subsea pipeline in conservation means a subsea pipeline for which all items of the RS technical supervision are temporary taken out of service for conservation by the subsea pipeline owner/operator.

Depreservation of subsea pipeline means a set of measures to withdraw a subsea pipeline from conservation for reactivation.

Other definitions are given in 4.3.1 of the SP Guidelines.

9.3.2 General.

9.3.2.1 The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all subsea pipelines in service with the valid or suspended RS class, whose shipowner/operator submitted a written request for the subsea pipeline conservation under the RS technical supervision.

9.3.2.2 The Register shall not review issues related to conservation of subsea pipelines not classed by RS, including subsea pipelines with the withdrawn RS class.

9.3.2.3 In case of suspension of subsea pipeline construction to the RS class for a period exceeding three (3) months, the subsea pipeline shall be conserved according to the RS approved documentation.

9.3.2.4 Subsea pipeline placing in conservation shall be carried out with the maintenance of the items of RS technical supervision which may affect the safety of subsea pipeline and environment, in operational condition.

9.3.3 Class of the subsea pipeline in conservation. Survey of the subsea pipeline in conservation.

9.3.3.1 When placing subsea pipeline in conservation under RS technical supervision, the Classification Certificate, issued by RS, shall remain valid. Herewith, a Report on Survey of Subsea Pipeline (Form 9.9.4) shall be issued, in which a record shall be made on the subsea pipeline conservation with the valid class based on the decision of the owner/operator of the subsea pipeline and the results of survey as per 9.3.4.

When placing subsea pipeline in conservation without RS technical supervision, the Classification Certificate issued by RS and valid before conservation, shall become invalid. The subsea pipeline class shall be suspended from the date of subsea pipeline conservation.

9.3.3.2 The deadline of the RS unfulfilled requirements may be postponed till the end of the subsea pipeline conservation period, except for the requirements which, at the Register discretion, pose a direct danger to the safety of the subsea pipeline, personnel and the environment during the subsea pipeline conservation.

9.3.3.3 The class of the subsea pipeline in conservation may be retained provided the conditions defined by these provisions are met.

9.3.3.4 If the terms and conditions of subsea pipelines in conservation are violated (the subsea pipeline has not been submitted to the prescribed periodical or occasional surveys by the due dates) the subsea pipeline class shall be suspended.

9.3.3.5 During subsea pipeline conservation, any repair works of items of the RS technical supervision may be carried out only under the Register technical supervision.

9.3.3.6 Subsea pipelines in conservation are subject to the following surveys:

.1 survey for placing subsea pipeline in conservation shall be carried out prior to conservation as per 9.3.4;

.2 periodical survey shall be carried out at intervals not exceeding 12 months starting from the date of subsea pipeline conservation as per 9.3.5;

.3 occasional survey shall be carried out, if deemed necessary, in case of changes in the established SP conservation conditions, after an emergency occurrence with the subsea pipeline in conservation, after a change of the subsea pipeline recorded data, or in other justified cases upon the RS decision (refer to 9.3.6);

.4 survey for the subsea pipeline reactivation after conservation shall be carried out prior to subsea pipeline reactivation according to 9.3.8.

9.3.4 Survey of the subsea pipeline for placing in conservation.

9.3.4.1 Survey of the subsea pipeline for placing in conservation shall be carried out on request of the owner/operator and is intended for determining the possibility of class retainment during conservation period taking into account the implemented measures.

9.3.4.2 Survey of the subsea pipeline placing in conservation shall be carried out in the scope specified in the SP Guidelines.

9.3.4.3 Upon satisfactory results of a valid class subsea pipeline survey for placing in conservation**,** the Report on Survey of Subsea Pipeline (Form 9.9.4) shall be issued for the subsea pipeline. The validity of the Classification Certificate shall not exceed 12 months starting from the survey completion date.

9.3.5 Periodical survey.

9.3.5.1 Periodical survey shall be carried out based on 9.3.6.2 on request of the shipowner/operator and is intended for establishing the subsea pipeline's compliance to a sufficient degree with the conditions of class retainment taking into account the measures implemented.

9.3.5.2 Periodical survey of subsea pipelines in conservation is carried out in the scope specified in 4.3.4 of the SP Guidelines.

9.3.5.3 Upon satisfactory results of periodical survey, the class of subsea pipeline in conservation shall be retained, the validity of the Classification Certificate for the subsea pipeline shall be extended for the period not exceeding 12 months starting from the survey completion date.

9.3.5.4 Under special/exceptional circumstances, an extension not exceeding three (3) months to allow completion of the periodical survey of the subsea pipeline in conservation may be granted. Possibility and conditions of such extension shall be reviewed by RHO.

9.3.6 Occasional survey.

9.3.6.1 The owner/operator shall notify the RS Branch Office in which area of activity the subsea pipeline in conservation is located of all the changes in the established conservation conditions, emergency occurrences with the subsea pipeline in conservation, changes in the subsea pipeline recorded data or of any other similar cases.

9.3.6.2 The RS Branch Office in which area of activity the subsea pipeline in conservation is located shall, at the owner's/operator's request, carry out an occasional survey to determine conditions of class retainment of the subsea pipeline in conservation.

9.3.7 Drawing up of documents.

9.3.7.1 The results of the initial, periodical, occasional surveys of the subsea pipeline in conservation shall be recorded in the Report on Survey of the Subsea Pipeline (Form 9.9.4).

9.3.7.2 The Report (Form 9.9.4) shall contain the detailed results of survey and the conclusion on possible class retainment.

9.3.8 Subsea pipeline survey at depreservation and reactivation.

9.3.8.1 At depreservation and reactivation the subsea pipelines shall be subject to the initial survey. The scope of initial survey for subsea pipeline at depreservation and reactivation, as well as the dates of the next periodical surveys, shall be determined by the RS Branch Office in which area of activity the subsea pipeline survey after conservation is scheduled.

9.3.8.2 When assigning the scope of initial survey, the length of conservation period, subsea pipeline's age (construction date) and dates of periodical surveys prescribed for the subsea pipeline in conservation and the class status of the subsea pipeline before conservation shall be considered.

9.3.8.3 Upon satisfactory results of the initial survey for subsea pipeline placing in service, a new Classification Certificate shall be issued based on the Report (Form 9.9.1).

9.3.8.4 At subsea pipeline reactivation after conservation, new dates of the periodical surveys shall be assigned depending on the scope of the performed initial survey.".