



RUSSIAN MARITIME REGISTER OF SHIPPING

URGENT RULE CHANGE NOTICE No. 431-03-2035 dated 18.12.2024

Entry-into-force date:

From the date of publication

Re: amendments to the Collection of the Rules for Containers (General Regulations for the Technical Supervision of Containers, Rules for Technical Supervision of Containers in Service), 2023, ND No. 2-090201-014-E

Requirements for audit and recognition of firms on containers in service have been amended.

Instructions on application:

1. Bring the content of the Rule Change Notice to the notice of the RS surveyors, interested organizations and persons in the area of the RS Branch Offices' activity.
2. Provisions of para 2.4.3, code 40000004MK, shall apply only for firms that at the entry-into-force date of amendments have valid RS recognition up to the expiration of the RS Certificate. Recognition of new firms under code 40000004MK in accordance with the requirements of para 2.4.3 is not performed, instead these firms shall be certified in accordance with the requirements of para 2.4.5.
3. Apply the provisions of the Notice in the RS practical activity from the entry-into-force date of the amendments*.

* Provisions of this Notice do not apply for works performed according to the already concluded contracts (Contract-requests) on the date of publication of these amendments.

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**AMENDMENTS
TO THE COLLECTION OF THE RULES FOR CONTAINERS, 2023**

REVISION HISTORY

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF CONTAINERS

Item	Applied to	Description	Remarks
Para 1.1.2	Containers Service	New abbreviation has been introduced	
Para 1.4.2.14	Containers Service	New document form has been introduced	
Paras 1.4.8 — 1.4.10	Containers Service	New document form has been introduced	
Para 2.1.5	Containers Service	New nomenclature codes have been introduced	

RULES FOR TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF CONTAINERS IN SERVICE

Item	Applied to	Description	Remarks
Chapters 2.1 — 2.4	Containers Service	Requirements for audit of firms regarding containers in service have been specified	

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF CONTAINERS

1 GENERAL

1.1 DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Para 1.1.2. After the abbreviation «СПЛ» a new abbreviation is introduced reading as follows:

"СПП – Recognition Certificate for Firm Performing Conformity Assessment of Containers (form 7.1.4.9) (for the purpose of this Collection of the Rules).".

1.4 DOCUMENTS

New **para 1.4.2.14** is introduced reading as follows:

"**1.4.2.14** СПП is a document confirming RS recognition of firm performing conformity assessment of containers in accordance with the requirements of CSC, IMDG Code and Section 3 of the Rules for Technical Supervision of Containers in Service.".

Paras 1.4.8 — 1.4.10 are replaced by the following text:

"**1.4.8** СПИ, СПЛ, СПО and ССП listed in 1.4.2.5, 1.4.2.7 – 1.4.2.9 shall be issued for 5 years and is subject to endorsement not less than once a year. СПП listed in 1.4.2.12 shall be issued for a period not more than 3 years and is subject to endorsement not less than once a year. Endorsement shall be done within the period limited by 30 days before and 30 days after the date of the established endorsement date of the certificates.

The validity period of СП listed in 1.4.2.6 is 3 years and is not subject to endorsement. Upon expiration of СП validity period, it is renewed upon the request of the firm.

RS reserves the right to carry out occasional surveys of a firm (organization) having a valid RS certificate in cases when:

.1 an item of technical supervision has been found non-complying with the RS requirements, in particular, based on information from a third party;

.2 the firm has not notified the Register either about the changes of the technical documentation for the item of technical supervision approved by the Register, or of changes of the item of technical supervision stated in the certificate.

1.4.9 Certificate ceases to be valid (loses its validity) in case of its suspension or cancellation.

Validity of СПИ, СП, СПЛ, СПО, ССП and СПП may be suspended for a certain period but not more than ninety (90) days from the specified date of endorsement, provided:

.1 major nonconformities of the firm activity have been found;

.2 the firm has not applied with the request to endorse the certificate within the established period;

.3 the firm has not informed the Register of the changes in the activity specified in the certificate.

1.4.10 СПИ, СП, СПЛ, СПО, ССП shall become invalid:

.1 upon expiry of the certificate period of validity;

.2 in case the certificate suspension reasons have not been eliminated within the agreed period;

.3 in case the certificate has not been endorsed within the specified period;

.4 in case the contract or agreement on technical supervision become void in cases stipulated under 4.5, Part I "General Regulations on Technical Supervision" of the Rules for Technical Supervision during Construction of Ships and Manufacture of Materials and Products for Ships";

.5 in case of the firm's bankruptcy or liquidation;

.6 where the firm failed to inform the Register of any alternations to its quality system related to the RS area of recognition;

- .7 where the firm submits information known to be false;
- .8 where the firm fails to comply with the requirements of the RS rules."

2 TECHNICAL SUPERVISION

2.1 GENERAL

Para 2.1.5 is replaced by the following text:

"2.1.5 RS carried out technical supervision for the activity indicated in Table 2.1.5.

Table 2.1.5

Code	Name of activity	Documents issued by RS
40000000	Types of activities of the firms (service provides) on containers	
40000001	Repair and modernization of tank containers	ССП or СП
40000002	Repair and modernization of containers except for tank containers	ССП or СП
40000003MK	Test of containers	СПЛ
40000004MK	Freight containers examination/inspection (except for tank containers) in service in compliance with the CSC requirements	СПО
40000005MK	Confirmation of gross mass of containers	СП
40000006	Preparation and tests of tank containers for periodical survey	ССП or СП
40000007	Design engineering services for containers and associated products ¹	ССП
40000008	Offshore containers examination/inspection (except for offshore tank containers) and their lifting set in service	СПО
40000009MK	Conformity assessment of containers	СПП
¹ Carried out on a voluntary basis. Note. Requirements for firms, excluding testing laboratories, are specified in Section 2 of the Rules for Technical Supervision of Containers in Service.		

RULES FOR TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF CONTAINERS IN SERVICE

2 RECOGNITION AND AUDIT OF FIRMS

Chapters 2.1 — 2.4 are replaced by the following text:

"2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 The requirements of this section apply to firms performing the activity related to containers, the types of which are given in Table 2.1.5 of the General Regulations for the Technical Supervision of Containers.

2.1.2 Check of conformity or recognition of firm is confirmed by issuing RS СП, ССП, СПО or СПП and includes:

- .1 review of documents confirming the firm's compliance with the Register requirements;
- .2 survey of the firm, including practical demonstration of completion of the works indicated in the request, verification of the records to ascertain that the firm organization and management are in compliance with the submitted documents and that the firm is able to perform works and render services. During periodical or renewal survey, to comply with this requirement the results of works or services previously endorsed by the Register, may be submitted instead of the practical demonstration. The works performed or services rendered after the preceding survey may be accepted for review.

If the firm is unable to practically demonstrate the performance of works and specific services during the initial survey, the Register may issue a short-term certificate for a period not exceeding 90 days. All stages of work shall be performed in attendance of the RS surveyor. Satisfactory results of works will be considered as a demonstration of the practical ability of the firm to perform the types of works, after that a certificate can be issued for the full term.

2.1.3 When a firm has several work sites, each site shall be surveyed.

2.1.4 When a firm performs residual thickness measurement (RTM), in addition, the requirement of 2.3.3 shall be checked during the survey of firm.

2.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRMS

2.2.1 Legal status.

2.2.1.1 Legal status of the firm shall comply with the current legislation.

2.2.1.2 The firm shall have organizational structure and the Head Officer.

2.2.2 Personnel.

2.2.2.1 Personnel of the firm shall have the appropriate vocational and special training, as well as qualification required to perform the activity in the area indicated.

2.2.2.2 The firm shall have the regular staff of specialists. Where specialists of other firms are involved in work performance, the firm which personnel is involved in work performance shall have ССП or СП.

2.2.2.3 The firm is responsible for provision of qualification and training of its personnel in compliance with the particular national, international or industrial standard. At the absence of such standards, a firm on its own shall establish the standards for training and qualification of its personnel in compliance with functions to be performed by each employee.

2.2.2.4 The personnel shall have pertinent experience established in the firm documents and shall be trained on the working place with operation of any equipment that may be required.

2.2.3 Technique.

2.2.3.1 The firm shall have the following:

- .1 technique required for performing the activity in the declared area complying with the declared work based on its characteristics;
- .2 place for performing the declared work. Where the work is performed throughout the year, the conditions for performing the declared work shall be provided;
- .3 valid contracts for rented measuring and testing equipment, facilities and territory.

2.2.3.2 The firm shall provide the maintenance of the equipment and facilities in compliance with their operating and maintenance documentation.

2.2.4 Measurement assurance.

2.2.4.1 The firm shall have and apply the necessary measurement assurance, namely:

.1 measuring instruments checked (calibrated) in accordance with the law-established procedure (valid check-out documents);

.2 testing equipment certified in accordance with the established procedure;

2.2.4.2 The firm shall provide the maintenance of measuring and testing equipment in compliance with their operating and maintenance documentation.

2.2.5 Document files of the firm.

2.2.5.1 The firm shall have:

.1 list of normative and technical documents;

.2 valid copies of normative and technical documents necessary to perform activity in the area indicated in the request;

.3 operating and maintenance documentation of technological equipment (if required);

.4 duty regulations;

.5 documents on records keeping and archives maintenance.

2.2.6 Subcontractors.

2.2.6.1 The firm shall give information of agreements and arrangements if any parts of the services provided are subcontracted. Subcontractors providing anything other than equipment shall also meet the general requirements of this Chapter.

2.2.6.2 The firm shall provide the audit of subcontractors' activity in the area indicated in the request.

2.2.6.3 When any alteration to the certified service operating system of the supplier is made, such alteration shall be immediately informed to the Register. Re-audit may be required when deemed necessary by the Register.

2.3 AUDIT OF FIRMS

2.3.1 General.

2.3.1.1 Audit of a firm consists in confirming the ability of the firm to perform work in the declared area in compliance with the requirements of the RS rules.

2.3.1.2 The firm shall meet the requirements of 2.2 and the requirements of this Chapter.

2.3.1.3 Recognition of the firm by the Register is confirmed by issuing CCP (Certificate of Firm Conformity) in accordance with 1.4 of the General Regulations for the Technical Supervision of Containers.

2.3.2 Special requirements for firms performing repair and modernization of containers (codes 40000001, 40000002).

2.3.2.1 Document files.

2.3.2.1.1 The firm shall have:

.1 container repair organizational chart implemented at the repair firm with indication of the location of test areas, production process monitoring, storage of materials, accessories, etc.;

.2 documents for welders considering requirements of 3.7, Part I "Basic Requirements" of the Rules for the Manufacture of Containers;

.3 welding processes considering requirements of 3.7, Part I "Basic Requirements" of the Rules for the Manufacture of Containers;

.4 documents for applicable welding consumables considering requirements of 3.7, Part I "Basic Requirements" of the Rules for the Manufacture of Containers;

.5 documents in accordance with 4.2.

2.3.2.2 The firm shall confirm that it undertakes to:

.1 submit to the Register for inspection the containers under repair at various stages of repairing;

.2 agree with the Register any alterations in the technical documentation on repairs and in repairing procedures;

.3 fulfil the requirements of the RS rules;

.4 submit certificates and relevant documents for accessories and materials used in repairing containers.

2.3.3 Special requirements for firms performing residual thickness measurements of tank container shells (codes 40000001, 40000002, 40000006).

2.3.3.1 Personnel.

2.3.3.1.1 Personnel performing RTM shall be certified in accordance with recognized national and/or international standard (for example, level 1 according to the latest version of ISO 9712) and shall be aware of structure of tank container to choose the required area for each measurement.

2.3.3.1.2 Personnel shall have appropriate qualification documents in ultrasonic testing (ultrasonic thickness measurements).

2.3.3.2 Document files of the firm.

2.3.3.2.1 The firm shall have:

.1 RS-agreed programs and RTM procedures.

2.3.3.3 Technique.

2.3.3.3.1 The firm shall have certified testing equipment.

2.3.3.4 Reporting.

2.3.3.4.1 RTM record shall contain:

.1 name and address of the firm;

.2 identification of the report, e.g. report number;

.3 reference to the documents, in compliance with which the activity has been performed;

.4 description (name) of the item, in relation to which the activity has been performed;

.5 place where the activity has been performed;

.6 date when the activity has been performed;

.7 full name, position and signature of the person who approved the report;

.8 number of every page and the total number of pages in the report;

.9 designation: "Test Report" or "Conclusion";

.10 test results with indication of units of measurements in accordance with the testing procedures;

.11 indication that the test results are valid only for the products tested.

2.3.3.4.2 Reports shall be stored in the firm for not less than 5 years under conditions of confidentiality. This requirement shall be specified in the firm documents.

2.4 RECOGNITION OF FIRMS

2.4.1 General.

2.4.1.1 Recognition of a firm with issuing CП (Recognition Certificate) consists of confirming the possibility and capability of the firm to perform work in the declared area under consistent quality and of adequate level in compliance with the requirements of the Rules.

On receipt of CП the scope of technical supervision where the attendance of the RS surveyor is mandatory shall be agreed between the firm and RS.

Note. The RS surveyor shall be in attendance during the tightness and strength tests of tank containers.

2.4.1.2 The firm shall meet the requirements stated in 2.3 and the requirements of this chapter.

2.4.1.3 Recognition of the firm by the Register is confirmed by issuing Recognition Certificate (CП), Recognition Certificate for the Firm Performing Freight Container Inspection (CΠO) or Recognition Certificate for Firm Performing Conformity Assessment of Containers (CΠΠ) that is issued in accordance with 1.4 of the General Regulations for the Technical Supervision of Containers.

Note. For CП obtaining, the firm shall submit to the RS surveyor at least 10 tank containers or 30 containers of other types with the satisfactory results. For CΠO obtaining, the firm submit to the RS surveyor at least 30 containers with satisfactory results.

2.4.2 General requirements.

2.4.2.1 Checking and control.

2.4.2.1.1 The firm shall ensure control of all services rendered. An authorized supervisor shall have at least two years of work experience as a performer in the work area in respect of which the recognition is requested by the firm.

2.4.2.1.2 The firm shall take measures on elimination and prevention of non-conformities and complaints against the firm activity in the area indicated in the request.

2.4.2.2 Data control.

2.4.2.2.1 Only licensed software shall be used for collection, processing, recording (registration), provision of results (records), storage or search of data with application of personal computers, equipment with imbedded software, servers and relevant software. Commercial licensed software and software supplied with the equipment are deemed validated. Changes made by the software developer shall be deemed validated as well.

2.4.2.3 Document files.

2.4.2.3.1 The firm shall have:

- .1 a list (log) of the employees containing an information on the age, education received in educational institutions, occupational training and experience in respect of which the recognition is requested by the firm;
- .2 documents confirming approval/recognition from other organizations (where available);
- .3 a log of the customer claims and corrective actions;
- .4 the documents for recording the detected damage and defects ~~shall be available~~;
- .5 record of the equipment used. The record shall contain information on maintenance and results of calibration and verifications.

2.4.2.4 Quality Management System.

2.4.2.4.1 The firm shall establish, document, implement and maintain a quality management system that is capable of supporting and demonstrating the consistent fulfillment of the established requirements and assuring the quality of works performed.

The quality management system shall be documented and, at least, include the following:

- .1 quality management system documentation;
- .2 internal audits and management reviews;
- .3 control of documents and records;
- .4 requirements for personnel and their competence;
- .5 requirements for equipment and premises;
- .6 measurement assurance and technical maintenance;
- .7 requirements for submission of reporting results;
- .8 requirements for engaging subcontractors;
- .9 ensuring monitoring, review and evaluation of the QMS elements established by the organization, check and control to ensure the compliance of works with the working procedures.

2.4.2.4.2 Availability and maintenance of the quality management system in compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001/GOST R ISO 9001 (current version) or the integrated system certified by an accredited certification body or in a voluntary certification system as well as capability to support and demonstrate the consistent fulfillment of the established requirements are deemed sufficient to meet the condition.

The Register reserves the right to audit the firm's quality management system certified in the voluntary certification system.

2.4.2.5 Reporting.

2.4.2.5.1 Form and content of reports in the area indicated in the request shall include:

- .1 name and address of the firm;
- .2 identification of the report, e.g. report number;
- .3 reference to the documents, in compliance with which the activity has been performed;
- .4 description (name) and identification of the item, in relation to which the activity has been performed;
- .5 place where the activity has been performed;
- .6 date when the activity has been performed;
- .7 information on deviations from the requirements of the documents, in compliance with which the activity has been performed;
- .8 entry that the activity has been performed under the RS technical supervision;
- .9 full name, position and signature of the person who approved the report;

.10 number of every page and the total number of pages in the report.

2.4.2.5.2 The firm shall store records, photos and video materials (if available) not less than five years, which shall be specified in the firm documents.

2.4.3 Special requirements for the firm performing freight container examination (except for tank containers) in service in compliance with the CSC requirements (code 40000004 MK).

2.4.3.1 *Legal status.*

2.4.3.1.1 A firm that has the status of a legal entity during inspections of containers shall be independent of the parties interested in the results of inspections.

2.4.3.1.2 The firm shall be responsible for the impartiality and objectivity of the containers inspection results.

2.4.3.1.3 The firm shall be able to demonstrate that it is impartial and that neither the firm nor its personnel are under commercial or other pressure that could affect their technical solutions.

2.4.3.2 *Personnel.*

2.4.3.2.1 The firm's personnel performing the examination of containers shall have valid certificates to confirm completion of a theoretical training course on the subject "Freight containers, international and national requirements".

2.4.3.2.2 Personnel performing container examinations shall have at least 1 year of practical training in the area of recording or appraisal of freight container technical condition.

2.4.3.3 *Document files.*

2.4.3.3.1 The firm shall have container examination procedure and deformation measurement methodology agreed with RS.

2.4.3.4 *Reporting.*

2.4.3.4.1 The form and contents of reports shall include:

- .1 container identification and manufacturing number;
- .2 owner's (operator's) name;
- .3 data on CCC / CSC plates;
- .4 statement of acceptance/non-acceptance of container for further operation and on the opportunity for the RS certificate issue;
- .5 statement that the described container has been examined and that given data are correct;
- .6 confirmation that the CCC plate contains the date of next survey in an established manner;
- .7 photos allowing to identify containers;
- .8 information and photos on damage, wear, defects to be repaired (if applicable).

2.4.3.4.2 Subject to observance of confidentiality provisions, the firm shall keep databases (records of requests) of the examined containers, issued records.

2.4.4 Special requirements for firms performing examination of offshore containers (except for offshore tank containers) and their lifting set in service (code 40000008).

2.4.4.1 The firm and its staff shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their independence of judgement and integrity in relation to the item of survey.

The firm and its staff assessing compliance of offshore containers and issuing conclusions shall not be the designer, manufacturer, supplier, purchaser, container owner, repairer and modernizer of containers nor authorized representatives of any of these parties and their affiliates.

2.4.4.2 *Personnel.*

2.4.4.2.1 Personnel performing the examination of offshore containers and their lifting set in service shall be aware what shall be inspected during the survey and documented, regarding:

- .1 provisions of RS requirements in the specified areas as well as of ISO 10855-3;
- .2 different types of offshore containers in service;
- .3 correct strapping methods and maintenance of offshore containers;
- .4 testing methods of offshore containers and their lifting set;
- .5 prohibited defects of offshore containers and their lifting set;
- .6 different methods of non-destructive testing;
- .7 repair of offshore containers and their lifting set;
- .8 requirements for marking of offshore containers and their lifting set upon examination results.

2.4.4.2.2 Personnel performing works shall have at least 1 year of practical training in the area of recording and appraisal of technical condition of offshore containers and their lifting set.

2.4.4.2.3 Non-destructive testing and assessment of welds quality shall be performed by:

.1 firm's staff in accordance with 5.10.3 of the Rules for Technical Supervision during Manufacture of Containers, Materials and Products for Containers or

.2 laboratory which competence is confirmed by the Recognition Certificate issued by RS or Statement of Accreditation issued by authorized national body.

2.4.4.2.4 The firm shall maintain and adhere to the plans of periodical personnel certification. It is allowed to perform personnel certification without engaging third-party organizations.

2.4.4.2.5 Personnel performing examination of offshore containers and their lifting set shall be employed under labour agreement only in one firm performing the activity relating to containers.

2.4.4.3 *Document files of the firm.*

2.4.4.3.1 The firm shall have:

.1 acting version of ISO 10855-3, EN 818-6 and EN 13414-2;

.2 RS-agreed procedure for examination of offshore containers and their lifting set containing requirements for the scope of examination and tests and deformation measurement methods.

2.4.4.4 *Reporting.*

2.4.4.4.1 The form and contents of records shall include:

.1 manufacturing number (including owner's number);

.2 owner's (operator's) name;

.3 statement of acceptance/non-acceptance of container for further operation;

.4 value of total mass of testing load and tare mass, in kg, when performing lifting test of offshore container (if applicable);

.5 information on performed non-destructive testing (if applicable);

.6 statement that the described container has been examined and that given data are correct;

.7 reference to any additional report drawn up upon survey results (if applicable);

.8 confirmation that the inspection plate contains the date of carried out survey in an established manner;

.9 firm's name as well as full name and signature of a person who carried out the survey;

.10 photos allowing to identify the offshore container;

.11 information and photos on damage, wear, defects to be repaired (if applicable).

2.4.4.4.2 The form and contents of the report on results of survey of the lifting set shall include:

.1 manufacturing number of lifting set as well as number of shackles;

.2 owner's (operator's) name;

.3 value of maximum gross mass (R) of the offshore container;

.4 value of working load limit (WLL_{off}) of the lifting set;

.5 value of working load limit (WLL_s) of shackles;

.6 statement of acceptance/non-acceptance of lifting set for further operation;

.7 information on performed non-destructive testing (if applicable);

.8 statement that the described lifting set has been examined and that given data are correct;

.9 reference to any additional report drawn up upon survey results (if applicable);

.10 confirmation that the identification plate contains the date of carried out survey in an established manner;

.11 firm's name as well as full name and signature of a person who carried out the survey;

.12 photos allowing to identify the lifting set;

.13 information and photos on damage, wear, defects to be repaired (if applicable).

Note. It is permitted to issue a consolidated report containing information on offshore container and lifting set.

2.4.4.4.3 Subject to observance of confidentiality provisions, the firm shall keep databases (records of requests) of the examined containers and their lifting set, issued records.

2.4.4.5 *Quality Management System.*

2.4.4.5.1 The firm shall have quality management system certified by RS for compliance with the latest version of ISO 9001.

2.4.5 **Special requirements for firms performing conformity assessment of containers (code 4000009MK).**

2.4.5.1 The firm shall be certified by RS for compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 / GOST R ISO/IEC17020, as an A type inspection body.

2.4.5.2 The firm shall use the results of work of verified and/or RS-recognized firms in its activity.

2.4.5.3 The firm and its personnel shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their independence of judgement and integrity in relation to the item of survey.

The firm and its personnel assessing conformity of containers and issuing conclusions shall not be the designer, manufacturer, supplier, purchaser, container owner, repairer and modernizer of containers, perform preparation and testing of tank containers during periodical surveys nor authorized representatives of any of these parties and their affiliates.

2.4.5.4 *Personnel.*

2.4.5.4.1 Firm's personnel performing works on conformity assessment shall have higher technical education or shall be trained to the extent not less than 520 h in the field of "engineering, technologies and technical science" and have not less than 3 years of practical experience in the sphere of performed activity and have knowledge within the performed activity and be agreed by RS.

2.4.5.5 *Document files.*

2.4.5.5.1 The firm shall have RS-agreed examination procedures, including deformation measurement methods.

2.4.5.6 *Reporting.*

2.4.5.6.1 Records shall contain the information/conclusion to the extent sufficient for RS, their forms shall be agreed with the Register.

2.4.5.6.2 Subject to observance of confidentiality provisions, the firm shall keep databases (records of requests) of the examined containers, issued records."