



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 066 of 07th July 2012

To:	All Surveyors/Auditor
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	IACS Harmonized Common Structural Rules
Reference:	CLASS –Double Hull Tankers and Bulk Carriers

The International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) is announcing the release of the draft IACS harmonized Common Structural Rules (CSR) on the IACS website. As part of the agreed process of development, IACS invites Industry to offer comments on all parts of the draft Rules – prior to year-end 2012. Feedback should be submitted via email to csr@iacs.org.uk.

The Common Structural Rules (CSR) for Double Hull Oil Tankers and Bulk Carriers were adopted by IACS Council in December 2005 and came into force in April 2006. These two sets of Rules were developed independently and there were some variances in the adopted technical approaches for some elements of the Rules. To remove variations and achieve consistency, IACS made a commitment to Industry to harmonize the CSR, and the harmonization project for the two sets of Rules began in 2008.

The harmonization project also set out to achieve full compliance with the IMO Goal Based Standards (GBS) which come into force in the middle of 2016. With this objective in mind, this first release of the draft harmonized CSR and technical background are in compliance with the IMO Goal Based Standards (GBS), where Functional Requirements fall within the scope of these Rules.

The harmonization project has delivered a single set of Rules comprised of common, harmonized requirements applicable to both Oil Tankers and Bulker Carriers with specific sections of additional requirements applicable to each ship type.

Presentations of the draft harmonized Rules are being planned for September in Busan, Shanghai, Tokyo, Houston, London and Athens.

The harmonization of the Rules involves extensive technical work, testing and calibration, and now a period for the maritime industry and other stakeholders to review the draft harmonized CSR and raise

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questions, observations and general feedback.

This initial industry review period will be followed by a second industry review period in the Spring of 2013 and a review by IACS Societies' Technical Committees in the Autumn of 2013 with a view to adoption of the harmonized CSR by IACS Council in December 2013.

To aid with this task, IACS has set up, on the IACS website, a "Knowledge Centre" (KC) where questions, observations and feedback can be found. In addition to offering support during the review period, the "KC" will act as a depository of knowledge, explanations, common interpretations and understandings as well as facilitating the management and maintenance of the harmonized CSR in the future - thus facilitating uniform and consistent implementation of the final harmonized CSR. To access the knowledge center click on the following link: <http://iacs-csrkc.org.uk>

Please send your feedback on the draft harmonized CSR to IACS.

REFERENCES:

CLASS – Double Hull Tankers and Bulk Carriers

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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