

Amendments to the “Rules for the Certification of Service Suppliers”

Effective from 1/1/2026

List of the amendments:

Paragraph/Appendix amended	Reason
[2.4]	to introduce IACS UR Z17 (Rev.20 Nov 2024) “Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers”
Appendix S, [S.3.1], [S.7.1]	to introduce IACS UR Z17 (Rev.19 Oct 2024) “Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers”

1 GENERAL

These Rules set the minimum requirements for approval and certification of firms providing services such as measurements, tests or maintenance of safety systems and equipment and is applicable to both initial and renewal audits.

1.1 Definitions

- **Manufacturer:** A company that manufactures equipment required to be periodically serviced and/or maintained.

- **Service Supplier:** A person or company, not employed by an IACS Member, who at the request of an equipment manufacturer, shipyard, vessel's owner or other client acts in connection with inspection work and provides services for a ship or a mobile offshore unit such as measurements, tests or maintenance of safety systems and equipment, the results of which are used by surveyors in making decisions affecting classification or statutory certification and services.

- **Agent:** A Person or Company authorised to act for or to represent a Manufacturer or approved/recognized service supplier.

- **Subsidiary:** A Company partly or wholly owned by a Manufacturer or approved/recognized service supplier.

- **Subcontractor:** A Person or Company providing services to a Manufacturer or recognized service supplier, with a formal contract defining the assumption of the obligations of the service supplier.

1.2 Application

These Rules apply to the approval of the following categories of service suppliers:

a) Statutory services

- 1) Firms engaged in servicing inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, hydrostatic release units, marine evacuation systems;
- 2) Firms engaged in inspections and testing of radio communication equipment;
- 3) Firms engaged in inspections and maintenance of self contained breathing apparatus;
- 4) Firms engaged in annual performance testing of Voyage Data Recorders (VDR) and simplified Voyage Data Recorders (S-VDR);
- 5) Firms engaged in sound pressure level measurements of public address and general alarm systems on board ships;
- 6) Firms engaged in inspections of low location lighting systems using photo luminescent materials and evacuation guidance systems used as an alternative to low-location lighting systems;
- 7) Firms engaged in maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear;
- 8) Firms engaged in inspection, performance testing and maintenance of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS);
- 9) Firms engaged in Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management System (BWMS).

b) Classification and/or Statutory services:

- 1) Firms engaged in thickness measurements on ships or mobile offshore units except:
 - non-ESP ships less than 500 gross tonnage and
 - all fishing vessels;
- 2) Firms carrying out an in-water survey on ships and mobile offshore units by diver or Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV);
- 3) Firms engaged in inspections and maintenance of fire extinguishing equipment and systems;
- 4) Firms engaged in tightness testing of closing appliances such as hatches, doors etc. with ultrasonic equipment;
- 5) Firms engaged in measurements of noise level on board ships;
- 6) Firms engaged in examination of Ro-Ro ship's bow, stern, side and inner doors;
- 7) Firms engaged in testing of coating systems in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.215(82), as amended, and IACS UI SC223 and/or MSC.288(87), as amended;
- 8) Firms engaged in tightness testing of primary and secondary barriers of gas carriers with membrane cargo containment systems for vessels in service;
- 9) Firms engaged in survey using Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT) as an alternative means for Close-up Survey of the structure of ships and mobile offshore units.
- 10) Firms engaged in Cable Transit Seal Systems inspection on ships and Mobile Offshore Units.

Where TASNEEF accepts work of a third party (eg., service supplier) approved by itself, TASNEEF is to verify the performance of such services. For statutory service, the flag State may increase the scope of verification to be applied to these services.

Where the results of the following service providers are used by Surveyor in making decisions affecting classification services then that service provider is to be approved and verified by TASNEEF:

- 1) Firms engaged in thickness measurements on ships or mobile offshore units except:
 - non-ESP ships less than 500 gross tonnage and
 - all fishing vessels;
- 2) Firms carrying out an in-water survey on ships and mobile offshore units by diver or Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV);
- 3) Firms engaged in tightness testing of closing appliances such as hatches, doors etc. with ultrasonic equipment;
- 4) Firms engaged in survey using Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT) as an alternative means for Close-up Survey of the structure of ships and mobile offshore units.

Where such services are used by TASNEEF Surveyors in making decisions affecting statutory certification and service, the firms are subject to approval and verification by TASNEEF where TASNEEF is so authorised by the relevant flag Administration (i.e. the flag of the ship on which the servicing is to be done or the service

equipment is to be used). For such services TASNEEF may accept approvals done by:

- a) the flag Administration itself,
- b) duly authorized organizations acting on behalf of the flag Administration, or
- c) other organizations acceptable to the flag Administration (e.g. other governments, etc.).

Use of the approved service suppliers is not mandatory for the following services, unless instructed otherwise by the flag Administration with respect to statutory certification:

- a) Firms engaged in inspections of low location lighting systems using photo luminescent materials and evacuation guidance systems used as an alternative to low-location lighting systems;
- b) Firms engaged in sound pressure level measurements of public address and general alarm systems on board ships;
- c) Firms engaged in measurements of noise level onboard ships;
- d) Firms engaged in testing of coating systems in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.215(82) as amended and IACS UI SC223 and/or MSC.288(87) as amended;
- e) Firms engaged in examination of Ro-Ro ships bow, stern, side and inner doors.

1.3 Equivalence with other standards

In general, the application of these Rules is in compliance with the requirements of IACS Unified Requirement Z17 "Procedural requirements for service suppliers" and of IACS Procedural Requirements No. 23 "Procedures for reporting information on the approval of thickness measurements firms".

1.4 Voluntary certification

~~Suppliers-Firms supplying of~~ services other than those listed in [1.2] may be certified by TASNEEF on voluntary basis~~need not be certified by TASNEEF or by the ship's flag Administration. However, such firms may request TASNEEF to certify them as Service Suppliers on a voluntary basis.~~

A complete list of the type of services that may be provided as voluntary certification is available in Annex 1.

1.5 Specific requirements for particular services

These Rules include general requirements applicable to all categories of service suppliers: firms for which the certification is mandatory, and firms that request the certification on a voluntary basis. Additional specific requirements for the firms listed in [1.2], including national and/or international requirements, may be found from Appendix A to Appendix QS.

For the certification on voluntary basis of firms performing the services in Annex 1, the procedure described in [2] is to be followed, as applicable.

For some voluntary categories additional requirements are provided in the Annexes to these Rules, as specified in Annex 1.

~~Additional requirements for certification on voluntary basis of firms engaged in testing cyber resilience of ships, may be found in Annex 1.~~

~~Additional requirements for certification on voluntary basis of firms engaged in surveys of masts and rigging of sailing ships (Riggers), may be found in Annex 2.~~

1.6 Abbreviations

Hereafter the Firms supplying services are referred to as "suppliers".

2 PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

2.1 Application and documentation

For approval, the company has to submit an application to TASNEEF, specifying the categories for which approval is required and enclosing:

- 1) outline of company, e.g. organisation and management structure, including subsidiaries to be included in the approval/certification;
- 2) list of nominated agents, subsidiaries and subcontractors;
- 3) experience of the company in the specific service area;
- 4) for categories of Service Suppliers that require certification from manufacturers, manufacturer's documentary evidence that the Service Supplier has been certified or licensed to service the particular makes and models of equipment for which approval is sought shall be provided;
- 5) list of operators, technicians and inspectors documenting training and experience within the relevant service area, and qualifications according to recognised national, international or industry standards, as relevant;
- 6) description of equipment used for the particular service for which approval is sought;
- 7) guide for operators of such equipment;
- 8) training programmes for operators, technicians and inspectors;
- 9) checklists and record formats for recording results of the services carried out;
- 10) Quality Manual and/or documented procedures used for assuring the quality of the services (see [4.5]);
- 11) documented procedures for communication with the crew prior to commencing work, so that it is safe to decommission the equipment being maintained, and to provide a safe system of work in place;
- 12) evidence of approval/acceptance by other bodies, if any;
- 13) information on any other activities which may present a conflict of interest;
- 14) record of customer claims and of corrective actions requested by certification bodies;
- 15) Operators/technicians/inspectors documentation they have acknowledged the code of conduct.

2.2 General requirements

2.2.1 Extent of approval

The supplier is to demonstrate, as required by [2.2.2] to [2.2.9], that he has the competence and control needed to perform the services for which approval is sought

2.2.2 Training of personnel

The supplier is responsible for the qualification and training of its personnel to a recognised national, international or industry standard as applicable. Where such standards do not exist, the supplier is to define standards for the training and qualification of its personnel relevant to the functions they are authorised to perform.

The personnel are also to have adequate experience and be familiar with the operation of any necessary equipment.

Operators/technicians/inspectors are to have had a minimum of one year tutored on-the-job training.

Where it is not possible to perform internal training, a program of external training may be considered acceptable.

2.2.3 Supervision

The supplier is to provide supervision for all services provided. The supervisor responsible is to have had a minimum of two years of experience as an operator/technician/ inspector in the activity for which the supplier is approved.

For a supplier consisting of one person, that person is to meet the requirements of a supervisor.

2.2.4 Personnel records

The supplier is to keep records of the approved operators, technicians and inspectors. The record is to contain information on age, formal education, training and experience in the services for which they are approved.

2.2.5 Equipment and facilities

The supplier is to have the necessary equipment and facilities for the service to be supplied. A record of the equipment used is to be kept and available. The record is to contain information on maintenance and results of calibration and verifications. TASNEEF is to assess and record the validity of previous measuring results when the equipment is found not to conform to requirements. TASNEEF is to take appropriate action on the equipment affected.

2.2.6 Control of data

When computers are used for the acquisition, processing, recording, reporting, storage, measurement assessment and monitoring of data, the ability of computer software to satisfy the intended application is to be documented and confirmed by the service supplier. This is to be undertaken prior to initial use and reconfirmed as necessary.

Note 1: Commercial off-the-shelf software (e.g. wordprocessing, database and statistical programmes) in

general use within their designed application range may be considered to be sufficiently validated and do not require any subsequent confirmation.

2.2.7 Where several servicing stations are owned by a given company, each station is to be assessed and approved except as specified in [2.5.3].

2.2.8 Procedures

The supplier is to have documented work procedures covering all services supplied.

2.2.9 Subcontractors

The supplier is to give information of agreements and arrangements if any parts of the services provided are subcontracted. Particular emphasis is to be given to quality management by the supplier in following-up of such subcontracts.

Subcontractors providing the services of the approved service supplier are also to meet the requirements in [2].

2.2.10 Verification

The supplier is to verify that the services provided (including those supplied by subcontractors) are carried out in accordance with approved procedures.

2.2.11 Reporting

The report is to be prepared in a form agreed with TASNEEF. The report should detail the results of inspections, measurements, tests, maintenance and/or repairs carried out. Further instructions may be given in Appendixes. The report is to include a Copy of the Certificate of Approval.

Documented procedures and instructions are to be available for the recording of damages and defects found during inspection, servicing and repair work. This documentation is to be made available upon request.

2.3 Auditing of the supplier

Subject to the satisfactory outcome of the review of the documents submitted, the supplier is audited in order to ascertain that it is duly organised and managed in accordance with the submitted documents, and that it is capable of conducting the services for which approval/certification is sought.

2.4 Service performance

Certification is conditional on a practical demonstration of the performance of the specific service as well as satisfactory reporting being carried out. This performance may be demonstrated during the supply of an actual service or by a simulated service, provided the simulation is fully representative of an actual service.

At initial audits, when the service supplier is already certified by other ~~QSCS certified~~ [Classification Society subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the QSCS](#) according to the provision of IACS Unified Requirement

Z17 "Procedural requirements for service suppliers", this may be verified through documentary review that a practical demonstration has already been carried out.

[That exemption is not applicable to firms engaged in thickness measurements on ESP ships, for which the certification is conditional upon a practical demonstration to be performed on board.](#)

At renewal audits, verification by documentary review of jobs undertaken since the previous audit and that have been accepted by a ~~QSCS-certified~~ Classification Society [subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the QSCS](#) is acceptable and is sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

2.5 Quality System

2.5.1 The supplier is to have a documented system covering at least the following:

- 1) code of conduct of the relevant activity;
- 2) maintenance and calibration of equipment;
- 3) training programmes for operators/ technicians/ inspectors;
- 4) supervision and verification of operations to ensure compliance with the approved operational procedures;
- 5) recording and reporting of information;
- 6) quality management of subsidiaries, agents and subcontractors;
- 7) job preparation;
- 8) periodical review of work process procedures, complaints, corrective actions, and issuance, maintenance and control of documents.

2.5.2 A documented Quality system complying with the most current version of ISO 9000 Series and including the above items, would be considered acceptable.

2.5.3 If a manufacturer of equipment (and/or its service supplier) applies for inclusion of its nominated agents and/or subsidiaries (excluding any subcontractor), in the approval, then it is to have implemented a quality system certified in accordance with the most current version of ISO 9000 series. The quality system is to contain effective controls of the manufacturer's (and/or service supplier's) agents and/or subsidiaries. The nominated agents/subsidiaries also are to have in place an equally effective quality system complying with the most current version of ISO 9000 series. Such approvals are to be based upon an evaluation of the quality system implemented by the parent company against the most current version of ISO 9000 series. TASNEEF may require follow-up audits on such agents or subsidiaries against the most current version of ISO 9000 series to confirm adherence to this quality system.

2.6 Suppliers relations with equipment manufacturers

2.6.1 Suppliers working as service station for a manufacturer

A supplier which works as a service station for manufacturer(s) of equipment (and as a service supplier in this field) is to be assessed by the manufacturer(s) and nominated as their agent.

The manufacturer is to ensure that appropriate instruction manuals, materials etc. are available for the agent and that the agent's technicians are properly trained.

Such suppliers are to be approved either on a case-by-case basis, or in accordance with [2.5.3].

3 CERTIFICATION

3.1 Issuance of the certificate

Upon satisfactory completion of both the audit of the supplier and the demonstration test, as applicable, TASNEEF may issue a Certificate of Approval stating that the supplier's service operation system has been found to be satisfactory and that the results of services performed in accordance with that system may be accepted and utilised by the Society's Surveyors in making decisions affecting classification or statutory certification, as relevant.

The Certificate is to clearly state the type and scope of services and any limitations or restrictions imposed, including type of equipment and/or names of Manufacturers of equipment where this is a limiting restraint.

The supplier may also be included in TASNEEF's record of approved service suppliers.

3.2 Validity and renewal of the certificates

The Certificate is to be renewed at intervals of three years by verification through an audit similar to the approval one that the approved original conditions are maintained or, where applicable, on expiry of the supplier's approval received from an equipment Manufacturer, whichever comes first. In the latter case, TASNEEF is to be informed in due course by the Service Supplier.

The certificate validity is subject to the satisfactory results of unscheduled audits and/or of other type of monitoring, such as the check of a supplied service after its completion.

The renewal audits are to be performed before the expiring date of the certificate.

Prolongation of the validity of the certificates beyond the expiring date is not allowed.

3.3 SUPPLIERS ENGAGED IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF SERVICES

Where the same Supplier applies for more than one service, the audits relative to the various services may be performed at the same time. In general, for these Suppliers only one certificate listing all certified services

Appendix S - Firms engaged in Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS)

S.1 EXTENT OF ENGAGEMENT

This appendix contains specific requirements for the Sampling and Analysis of ballast water and Verification of the self-monitoring equipment during Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS), for Statutory purposes.

S.2 PROCEDURE

S.2.1 Service suppliers

Service suppliers are to have documented procedures including:

- Procedures for sampling collection and handling, analysis, assessment of BWMS correct operations and documenting and reporting. The procedures are to outline how the ballast water sampling and analysis is conducted with respect to each size class of organisms;
- Operating procedures for the ballast water test equipment specified including calibration, adjustment and maintenance.

S.2.1.1

Service Suppliers are to be familiar with the BWMS operation including features and limits of each treatment technology, and self-monitoring parameters.

S.2.1.2

Service Suppliers are to be independent of the BWMS manufacturer or supplier including shipyards.

S.3 OPERATORS

S.3.1

Service suppliers are expected to be able to perform both the biological sampling and assessment of self-monitoring parameters and has responsibility for document that the requirements to the operator are satisfied. Therefore, operators who conduct commissioning testing are to:

- demonstrate knowledge in the use of different ballast water testing equipment for the purpose of assessing biological efficacy;
- have documented evidence of sufficient engineering and biological knowledge to conduct the commissioning testing;
- have knowledge of IMO BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1, ~~as may be amended~~ - 'Guidance for the Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management Systems', [IACS Recommendation 180 'Recommendation for conducting commissioning testing of Ballast Water Management Systems'](#) and IMO BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.2 - 'Guidance on Ballast Water Sampling and Analysis for Trial Use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2)'; as may be amended;

- (*) be trained in the proper use of portable indicative analysis equipment. Review of training records and/or interviews should be conducted to confirm the equipment will be properly used during testing;
- (*) be trained in the proper use of detailed analysis methods and equipment in case the Service Supplier offers detailed analysis. Review of training records and/or interviews should be conducted to confirm the equipment will be properly used during testing;
- (*) be familiar with and understand the design concepts of the Guidelines G2 sampling devices installed on the vessel's water ballast system. Personnel is to understand the need to maintain the G2 sampling devices clean and free of contaminants and the importance of controlling the ballast water sample flow rates from the G2 device (to avoid organism mortality in the sample);
- (*) be familiar with the technologies utilized by the indicative sampling equipment and understand water quality issues that are both conducive to successful use of the equipment and circumstances that could challenge the use of the equipment;
- (*) be trained in the proper disposal procedures for water samples following testing.
- (Δ) have knowledge of the system design limitations of the BWMS (as stated in the BWMS type approval certificate) and knowledge of the BWMS self-monitoring parameters, such as flow rate, pressure, TRO concentration, UV transmittance/intensity, etc, and how the BWMS notifies the operator in case he operates BWMS outside its system design limitations. This knowledge is relevant for evaluating whether the selfmonitoring equipment of the BWMS indicates correct operation of the BWMS. In case Service Supplier are not present during ballasting operations, the Service Supplier is to have knowledge of how to access the BWMS log to evaluate that the BWMS operated correctly during ballasting operations;
- (Δ) have the procedures and knowledge to be able to assess the applicable selfmonitoring parameters (e.g., flow rate, pressure, TRO, UV intensity, etc.) of the BWMS, taking into account the System Design Limitations of the BWMS;

Notes:

- (1) the points marked with (*) are qualifications for operators performing sampling and analysis of ballast water
- (2) the points marked with (Δ) are the qualifications for operators performing verification of the self-monitoring equipment
- (3) the points above without symbol are the common qualifications for service supplier.

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Appendix S - Firms engaged in Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS)

- Type Approval issued by and Certificate No
- Results of Sample analysis
- Pump and ballast tanks used for the commissioning test, including the flow rates and volumes of the ballasting and deballasting operations
- Comments/Options: Filter and other major components, Process measurements.

S.7 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

S.7.1

The Service Supplier is to have access to the following documents, as may be amended:

- IMO Resolution MEPC.300(72) — Code for Approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS Code)
- IMO Resolution MEPC.173(58) — Guidelines for Ballast Water Sampling (G2)
- IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev. 2 — Guidance on Ballast Water Sampling and Analysis for Trial Use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2)
- IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1 - Guidance for the Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management Systems
- IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.61 - Guidance on Methodologies that may be used for Enumerating Viable Organisms for Type Approval of Ballast Water Management Systems
- IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.69 - Guidance on System Design Limitations of Ballast Water Management Systems and their Monitoring
- IMO Resolution A.1156(32) – Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certifications (HSSC), as amended (for BWMS that were Type Approved to the 2016 G8).
- [IACS Recommendation 180 'Recommendation for conducting commissioning testing of Ballast Water Management Systems'](#)

Annex 1 - Firms engaged in services for which voluntary certification is available

1 EXTENT OF ENGAGEMENT

This Annex contains the additional specific requirements for issuing the Certificate of Approval of suppliers engaged, with their operators, in the services listed in [2].

2 SERVICES

2.1

The following service categories are available for certification:

- 1 Calibration and maintenance of fixed and portable gas detection equipment
- 2 Calibration and maintenance of portable gas detection equipment
- 3 Calibration of portable electronic gauging equipment (UTI)
- 4 Calibration of pressure gauges, safety valves and level, temperature, pressure switches and transmitters.
- 5 Checking of filling of CO2 and Halon bottles with SONIC 100 level gauge
- 6 CO2 Emissions Monitoring and Reporting for EU MRV Regulation and IMO DCS Data Collection System for fuel consumption (SEEMP Part II)
- 7 Condition Based Maintenance of machinery systems
- 8 Determination of engine power
- 9 Electronic, electrical and mechanical equipment calibration
- 10 Foam concentrate analysis and service
- 11 Helideck Inspector
- 12 Inspection and maintenance of lifts and escalators
- 13 Inspection and service of Pipes Transit Systems
- 14 Inspection and testing of bottles for therapeutic gases
- 15 Inspection and testing of centralised gas welding and cutting equipment
- 16 Inspection and testing of radar systems
- 17 Inspection of accommodation ladders and gangway
- 18 Inspection, repair and maintenance of electrical and electronic systems
- 19 Inspection, testing and drying of pressure bottles
- 20 Inspection, testing and refilling of air and gas mixtures bottles for breathing apparatus and for inflatable liferafts
- 21 Inspection, testing and refilling of air and gas mixtures bottles for inflatable liferafts
- 22 Inspection, testing and refilling of CO2 and N2 bottles for inflatable liferafts
- 23 Installation, maintenance and service of Electronic Chart Display & Information System (ECDIS)
- 24 Installation, maintenance and testing of BNWAS
- 25 Measurements of comfort with regard to climate on board ships
- 26 Measurements of noise emissions in port area
- 27 Measurements of underwater radiated noise from ships
- 28 Measurements of vibrations onboard ships

- 29 Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)
- 30 Proof load testing for ship equipment
- 31 Proof load testing for towing equipment
- 32 Proof load testing of ropes and accessories for lifting appliances
- 33 Servicing of immersion suits
- 34 Servicing of magnetic compass
- 35 Servicing of marine magnetic compasses, binnacles and azimuth reading devices
- 36 Servicing of navigation equipment
- 37 Servicing of non-inflatable lifejackets
- 38 Servicing of personal detection meters and smoke detectors
- 39 Servicing of thermal protective aids
- 40 Servicing of turbochargers
- 41 Shore-Based Maintenance – EPIRB
- 42 Surveys for the purpose of developing and maintaining the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) onboard ships
- 43 Surveys of masts and rigging of sailing ships
- 44 Surveys, servicing and testing of lifting appliances
- 45 Testing of electrically powered low location lighting systems
- 46 Thermographic inspections
- 47 Vibration analysis of machineries and equipment
- 48 Testing cyber resilience of ships.

3 ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

3.1

In addition to the general requirements applicable to all the suppliers, specific requirements are provided for some type of services.

Additional requirements for certification on voluntary basis of firms engaged in testing cyber resilience of ships, may be found in Annex 2.

Additional requirements for certification on voluntary basis of firms engaged in surveys of masts and rigging of sailing ships (Riggers), may be found in Annex 3.