

# Amendments to the “Rules for Safety Management System Certification”

*Effective from 1/1/2026*

The Rules have been amended to introduce IACS PR 9 (Rev.5 Dec 2024) “Procedural Requirements for ISM Code Certification”.

**Annex 5 – COMPANY CERTIFICATION SCENARIOS**

	Scenario	Type of Audit	Minimum Scope of Audit	Carried Out by:	Certificate Issued
1	Change of Company name and/or address	Audit on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verify that Company organisation and responsibilities remain essentially unchanged.</li> <li>- Ensure that necessary changes have been made to SMS documentation.</li> <li>- Verify that changes have been reported to flag(s) to update the CSR for each vessel.</li> </ul>	Auditor	Reissue DOC and SMC's with new name  (expiry date as previous certificate)
2	Change to RO from a Classification Society not <a href="#">subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the holding a QSCS certificate</a>	Initial audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audit to address all elements of the ISM Code.</li> <li>- All corrective action to be verified and previous NCNs to be closed out by the gaining Society.</li> </ul>	Auditor	DOC with validity not exceeding 5 years from date of audit.
3	Additional ship type on DOC	Interim Audit on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review changes to SMS to accommodate new ship type.</li> <li>- Review plans to implement changes (minimum of 1 ship required).</li> </ul>	Auditor	Interim DOC for new ship type
4	Change from Interim DOC to full DOC in scenario 3	Additional Audit on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verify additional requirements for ship type have been implemented.</li> <li>- Review results of internal audit.</li> </ul>	Auditor	DOC (expiry date as for existing ship type)
5	Minor change to SMS	Verify at next audit	Assess potential impact on SMS when advised and decide whether visit is required.		No action
6	Major change to SMS	Verify on site	Verify changes are appropriate and adequate for new circumstances.	Auditor	No action
7	Additional Flag	Additional audit on site	Verify availability of flag state instructions and their incorporation into the management system		DOC with same expiry date as the DOC issued on behalf of other Flag State(s)

Note: Above scenarios may be subject to flag State requirements and should only be applied in the absence of any instructions from the Administration.

**Annex 6 – SHIP CERTIFICATION SCENARIOS**

	Scenario	Condition	Action required	Scope of audit and certification
1	Change of ship's name	Conducted by a surveyor or an auditor	Verification on board	1. Verify correct ship's name on all Certificates and Documents. 2. Amend/reissue SMC with new ship's name, as appropriate. <i>Note:</i> SMC must be amended by issuing RO or by special arrangement (1). Replacement SMC shall have the same expiry date as the current SMC.
2	Change of flag	Conducted by an auditor.	Interim audit on board	1. Interim audit as required by ISM Code, 14.4 2. Issue interim SMC.
3	Change in IMO ship type	Conducted by an auditor.	Interim audit on board	1. Interim audit as required by ISM Code, 14.4. 2. Issue Interim SMC with new ship type.
4	Adding IMO ship type (e.g. from bulk carrier to OBO)	Conducted by an auditor	Interim audit on board	1. Interim audit as required by ISM Code, 14.4. 2. Issue interim SMC with both ship types.
5	Change of ship type, dual to single (e.g. OBO to oil tanker)	Conducted by a surveyor or an auditor	Verification on board	1. Evidence of surrender of SOLAS or MARPOL related certificates for the original ship type. (e.g. surrender of IOPP Supp. B when going from OBO to bulk on permanent basis). 2. Amend/issue replacement SMC with appropriate ship type and same expiry date as the current SMC. <i>Note:</i> SMC must be amended by issuing RO or by special arrangement (1).
6	Change to RO from a Classification Society not <u>subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the holding a-QSCS certificate</u>	Conducted by an auditor	Initial audit on board (2)	1. Audit to address all elements of ISM Code. 2. Issue SMC.
7	Ship out of service between 3 and 6 months (3)	Conducted by an auditor	Additional audit if required by the flag State	Endorse SMC as appropriate.
8	Ship out of service more than 6 months (3)	Conducted by an auditor	Interim audit on board	1. Interim verification. 2. Issue Interim SMC.
9	Intermediate audits requested after the end of the audit time window	Conducted by an auditor	Intermediate audit on board	1. Major NC raised that may be downgraded based on completion of audit. 2. Additional audit within 3 months required. 3. If reinstated, SMC to be endorsed with a statement (e.g. Validity reinstated with scope as initial). If re-issued, SMC to have same expiry date as previous certificate.
10	Change of Company name and/or address		Attendance on board not required	1. Verify DOC has been reissued with new Company name and address. 2. Reissue SMC with the new Company name and address.

**Note:** Above scenarios may be subject to flag State requirements and shall only be applied in the absence of any instructions from the Administration.

(1) The RO may with permission from the Administration authorize a surveyor from the vessel's Classification Society, if other than the ISM RO, to amend the SMC

(2) Vessels with interim SMC, and which are not yet ready for initial audit, shall be issued with an interim SMC with same validity as the certificate issued by the losing RO. The auditor shall take into account that there may not yet be records for all activities.

(3) These instructions do not apply to ships for which seasonal lay-ups are a normal part of their operational routine – refer to MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.9.