

21 May 2004

**Subject: New Rules for General Dry Cargo Vessels coming into effect on 1 January 2005**

Technical Manager/Superintendent,

This letter is to inform you of new Rules that we believe may apply to one or more of the ships you own or operate that are classed with ABS and indicated on the attached list. These Rules will apply as well to any ships your company may be considering building or chartering. This letter is intended to inform you of new Rules, which comes into effect on 1 January 2005, for General Dry Cargo Vessels.

These Rules were adopted by the IACS Counsel and as such is applicable to all IACS members.

The major new points are as follows:

Continuous Periodical Survey of Hull (CHS) for General Cargo Vessels with the Enhanced Survey Dry Cargo (ESDC) notation may not be undertaken.

General Cargo Vessels with ESDC notation currently on Continuous Periodical Survey of Hull are to change over to Special Periodical Survey of Hull (SSH). The change over from CHS to SSH is to be carried out as early as possible and should be no later than the due date of the next Intermediate Survey of Hull, or the due date of the end of the five year class period, whichever comes first after 1 July 2005.

In this connection:

1. All items credited for Continuous Periodical Survey of Hull within the 15 months prior to the date of change over, may be accepted without further survey at the Surveyor's discretion; and
2. All other items are to be surveyed and credited at the date of change over.

Should you have any questions please contact the ABS Division Assistant Chief Surveyor in London, Houston or Singapore.

Very truly yours,



L. A. Pendexter  
Vice President / Chief Surveyor  
American Bureau of Shipping

Cc: Assistant Chief Surveyors