

Subject: Revised IACS Requirements for Onboard Computers for Stability Calculations (UR L5)

Technical Manager/Superintendent,

This letter provides an update of our 8 September 2004 letter concerning the recently adopted classification requirements for onboard computers for stability calculations that may apply to the vessels you own or operate that are classed with ABS or vessels your company may be considering building to ABS class.

This letter is intended to inform you that the applicability of IACS UR L5 has changed.

In our previous letter, we advised you of IACS Unified Requirement L5 which addresses the minimum requirements for the approval of onboard software and hardware used for stability calculations. Subsequently, ABS questioned whether IACS members intended to apply UR L5 to software installed after 1 July 2005 as written in UR L5 (May 2004 version). This would mean that UR L5 would apply to software installed after 1 July 2005 on existing vessels, vessels under construction, and future new construction. After debate within IACS, it was decided that the application statement of UR L5 should be amended to the effect that UR L5 apply to stability software only on vessels contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2005. A copy of IACS UR L5 (Rev. 1 – Feb 2005), reflecting this change, is attached.

The use of onboard computers for stability information is not a requirement of class. However, should stability software be installed onboard a vessel contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2005, it shall cover all stability requirements applicable to the vessel.

The IACS Unified Requirement UR L5 addresses the minimum requirements for the approval of onboard software and hardware used for stability calculations. This UR, **which requires both software approval and either hardware approval or the provision of at least two nominated computers**, applies to onboard computers which are provided with software capable of performing stability calculations for the vessel.

Conditions of approval of the onboard computers for stability calculations

The onboard computer and software used for stability calculations are subject to approval, which is to include:

- Verification of type approval, if any;
- Verification that the data used is consistent with the current condition of the vessel;
- Verification and approval of the test conditions;
- Verification that the software is appropriate for the type of vessel and stability calculations required.

Approved stability software is not a substitute for the approved stability information, and is used as a supplement to the approved stability information to facilitate stability calculations.

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

Very truly yours,

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