HELLENIC
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY



HCS RN 001

Rules for class numbers and class notations

Class notation system and catalogue

REVISION 1.0 | APPROVED

Effective 23 October 2026

Rules for class numbers and class notations

Hellenic Classification Society

HCS RN 001 | Revision 1.0 | Approved and effective 23 October 2026 | Class notation rules and catalogue

Revision 1.0 adopts the HCS symbols and notation catalogue. Technical review and adoption were confirmed by Maria E. Bakola, Managing Director, on 23 October 2026. Section 22 controls short-symbol syntax; full-word expressions remain explanatory aliases.

1 Purpose and approval status

This document establishes the HCS system for assigning vessel register numbers, recording the scope of classification and authorising class notations. It includes a livestock carrier acceptance module and a catalogue of ship services and additional features. The English text is the controlled operational text.

Approved by Maria E. Bakola, Managing Director, Hellenic Classification Society. Technical review and adoption confirmed on 23 October 2026. Effective date: 23 October 2026. Approval of these notation rules does not by itself grant class to a vessel or authorise statutory certification.

Control item	Required entry
Document owner	HCS Technical Department
Technical reviewer	Technical review completed; confirmation recorded 23 October 2026.
Approving authority	Maria E. Bakola, Managing Director, Hellenic Classification Society
Approval record	Approval and adoption confirmed 23 October 2026.
Effective date	23 October 2026
Review cycle	Annual review and review following significant regulatory or technical change

1 1 Relationship to engineering rules

These are notation and decision procedures, not a complete hull, machinery or stability rulebook. Before use for a vessel, HCS shall approve an applicable technical basis specifying each rule set, edition, relevant chapters, statutory requirements and acceptance criteria. Public availability of another society’s rules does not establish permission to reproduce them or claim certification by that society.

These notation rules shall be read with the applicable controlled HCS technical requirements and flag delegations. Conflicts shall be recorded and resolved by an authorised technical decision. Detailed vessel acceptance criteria and the applicable engineering basis shall be documented before a notation is assigned.

2 Class number and notation vocabulary

2 1 Register number

The HCS class number is a permanent vessel identifier, allocated once by the controlled register using a unique sequential number. Leading zeros shall be preserved. It shall not be reused after withdrawal, deletion or change of name. A register number is not evidence that classification has been granted.

2 2 HCS notation structure

The format is HCS [scope] / [service] / [navigation qualification, if any], followed by approved additional features. The following terms form the HCS notation vocabulary. No automatic equivalence to another society's symbols is implied. Short symbols and display aliases are defined in section 22.

Element	HCS token	Meaning and release condition
Scope	HULL	Hull and relevant structural arrangements accepted to the approved technical basis.
Scope	MACH	Propulsion, auxiliary machinery and relevant electrical systems accepted to the approved technical basis.
Service	LIVESTOCK CARRIER	Livestock service accepted after the dedicated appraisal and survey in section 4.
Navigation	AREA followed by reference	Only the limits expressly approved in the referenced navigation schedule.
Navigation	UNRESTRICTED	Only following a positive technical decision supporting unrestricted navigation.

For a self-propelled vessel accepted for hull, machinery and livestock service, an illustrative final notation is HCS HULL MACH / LIVESTOCK CARRIER / AREA NS 001. NS 001 is an example schedule identifier, not an existing approval. The final certificate shall identify the actual approved schedule and revision.

2 3 Additional services and symbols

A service description such as GENERAL CARGO SHIP, CONTAINER SHIP, TUG, BARGE or PASSENGER SHIP may be introduced only after its dedicated criteria, technical scope and competent resources have been approved. Listing the name in a software menu shall not activate that service for certification.

Construction supervision, automation, unattended machinery, ice strengthening, dangerous cargo capability and special equipment marks require separately defined criteria and documented verification. Do not copy 100A1, I HULL MACH, crosses, stars or another society's symbols without an approved HCS definition and demonstrated eligibility.

3 Assignment and entry into class

3 1 Application and technical basis

The owner or authorised manager shall identify the requested service, intended routes, vessel particulars, previous classification, conversion history and requested notation. The technical reviewer shall establish the applicable technical basis before authorising the survey. Each source shall be recorded by title, edition, chapter and reason for applicability; limitations and any gaps shall be explicit.

The basis shall address structure, corrosion and thickness acceptance, stability, machinery, electrical systems, fire protection, anchoring, essential services and the requested ship type. Where an external rule basis is proposed, HCS

shall assess compatibility, amendments, access and permitted use. Selecting favourable clauses from incompatible standards is not acceptable.

3 2 Existing vessel evidence

The file shall include the previous class certificate and survey status where available, outstanding conditions and recommendations, statutory certificates, general arrangement, structural and machinery records, stability information, conversion approvals and relevant damage or detention history. Missing material shall trigger a documented gap assessment and additional appraisal or survey; it shall not be treated as satisfactory evidence.

3 3 Survey order and findings

The written survey order shall identify the surveyor, approved competence, survey location and scope, proposed notation, drawings and rule basis, required tests and reporting deadlines. Attendance alone shall not grant class. The surveyor shall submit findings, measurements, test records, photographs as appropriate and a recommendation for independent technical review.

The review shall resolve defects affecting essential safety, reconcile outstanding conditions and verify the exact notation against the evidence. Any permitted deferral shall state the rule basis, risk controls, deadline and authorised decision. Flag permissions shall be obtained where required and kept distinct from the HCS class decision.

3 4 Decision and certification

The authorised technical decision maker shall approve, restrict, defer or refuse the requested notation in a signed decision record. The attending surveyor shall not approve their own unresolved findings. Where staffing is limited, HCS shall arrange a competent independent reviewer and record conflicts of interest.

Before release, the office shall compare the certificate, register, survey status and navigation schedule. A class certificate shall carry the approved notation and decision reference. Statutory certificates shall be issued only within the actual flag delegation and applicable statutory conditions. P&I acceptance, flag registration and class acceptance remain separate recorded decisions.

4 Livestock carrier acceptance module

The LIVESTOCK CARRIER service requires a documented appraisal of the conversion or original design and satisfactory survey of livestock arrangements. The reviewer shall select applicable flag, coastal State, port and animal transport requirements for the actual trade. Australian requirements shall be applied when legally applicable or expressly adopted in the technical basis, not assumed to apply to every voyage.

Review area	Evidence and acceptance record
Structure and conversion	Approved arrangement and conversion drawings; deck and pen loads; supports, securing and corrosion assessment; thickness and repair acceptance against specified criteria.
Stability and loading	Approved loading conditions and stability information for livestock, feed, water, waste, free surfaces and wind effects. Identify restrictions and the assessment of animal movement where applicable.
Ventilation and power	Engineering assessment of ventilation demand, measured distribution and performance, power arrangements, redundancy and failure response against the selected criteria. Record alarms and witnessed tests.
Water and feeding	Capacity, delivery, accessibility and contingency arrangements for the approved voyage and animal loading, supported by the applicable consumption and reserve criteria.

Review area	Evidence and acceptance record
Drainage and waste	Drainage paths, pumping, collection, cleaning and disposal arrangements; assess blockage, flooding, hygiene and pollution risks.
Fire and access	Escape, crew access, firefighting access, detection and extinguishing arrangements; review combustible bedding and ventilation isolation where applicable.
Animal containment	Pen and gate strength, securing, loading ramps, footing, protection from injury and means of handling sick animals, as required by the selected standard.
Operational limits	Approved species and loading basis, deck allocation, voyage limits, contingency procedures and an accessible livestock operations manual.

Each acceptance record shall state the applicable clause, calculation or test, result, reviewer and approval reference. This module supplies review subjects; it does not establish numerical ventilation rates, animal densities, reserve quantities, scantlings or stability criteria. Those values must come from the approved applicable technical basis and vessel appraisal.

Unverified capacity or a missing essential service shall prevent release of the livestock notation until resolved. A restricted cargo capacity or route may be accepted only if supported by calculations, operating controls and an authorised decision that expressly defines the restriction.

5 Navigation and maintenance of class

5 1 Navigation schedule

Every restricted notation shall refer to a controlled schedule stating the geographical area, routes and any distance from shore or refuge, seasonal or weather limits, loading constraints and other approved operating conditions. Any numerical limit shall have a documented engineering and regulatory basis. Terms such as coastal, sheltered or Red Sea shall not stand alone without a defined scope.

GMDSS radio sea areas A1 and A2 shall be recorded as radio service particulars. They shall not be used as a substitute for structural or operational navigation limits. Insurance trading warranties shall be checked for compatibility but shall not be copied into class as a technical approval.

5 2 Survey programme

Before granting class, HCS shall approve a vessel survey programme identifying applicable annual, intermediate, renewal, bottom, machinery and additional service surveys, their dates, windows and technical references. Intervals shall come from the adopted rules and applicable requirements; this catalogue does not establish universal intervals or extensions.

Damage, conversion, change of service, material machinery alteration, loss of an essential livestock service or other event affecting class shall be reported promptly. HCS shall assess the need for an additional survey and revised notation or operating limits before continued class reliance.

Register state	Meaning and control
Entry into class pending	Application or inspection in progress; number allocated; no final class acceptance recorded.
In class	Positive decision recorded; applicable surveys and conditions maintained.

Register state	Meaning and control
Suspended	Class reliance paused by a documented suspension decision or applicable automatic rule trigger.
Withdrawn	Class ceased under the applicable procedure; date, reason and notifications recorded.
Transferred or closed	Administrative history retained, with the operative class outcome and effective date expressly recorded.

5 3 Records and verification

The register shall keep approved notation, proposed notation, class status, certificate lifecycle, date validity and technical review status as separate fields. A valid date or Current PDF label shall not override pending, suspended or withdrawn class status. QR verification shall reproduce the controlling decision and identify superseded documents.

Preserve previous certificates, decisions, notation revisions and attachments with actor, timestamp and reason. Changing a class number or notation shall require a controlled decision; routine file import shall not overwrite them. Quality reviews shall sample decisions, survey competence, source editions, expired conditions and consistency of portal outputs.

6 Worked example for livestock carrier service

Field	Recorded position or proposed action
Vessel identification	Illustrative existing livestock carrier; vessel identity entered on the decision record.
Recorded class status	Entry into class pending
Requested service for review	Livestock Carrier
Requested notation for assessment	HCS HULL MACH / LIVESTOCK CARRIER / AREA to be approved
Assigned inspector in portal	A surveyor with approved competence and a defined work order.
Formal notation assignment	Requires a documented vessel decision supported by appraisal and survey.

A requested livestock carrier notation shall be recorded separately from the assigned notation until the vessel decision is approved. The worked example is illustrative and creates no vessel classification or navigation approval.

For an existing livestock carrier, review the previous class and survey records, conversion plans, stability information and livestock service evidence. Verify current statutory records and survey attendance details. Insurance trading terms do not establish a class navigation approval. GMDSS radio areas shall be recorded separately.

6 1 Required decision record

Decision form HCS F RN 001 shall capture: vessel name and IMO; HCS number; request and survey order; rule basis with editions and clauses; plan approval references; survey report and test references; outstanding findings and closure; approved scope and service; navigation schedule and revision; survey programme; exact notation text; reviewer and conflict check; approving authority; decision date; certificate reference; notifications and effective status. Each item shall be completed or given a reasoned not applicable decision.

6 2 Continuing document control

Maintain a controlled approval record, reconcile existing HCS rules, validate notation definitions against certificates and software, confirm technical criteria and survey programmes, maintain competence and independent review arrangements, complete consultation where required and train users. Revisions require an effective date and retained history.

Reference framework

The publications below informed the structure of these rules. They are not incorporated wholesale as HCS engineering requirements. Applicability and editions require a separately documented technical decision.

IMO Resolution MSC.349(92), Code for Recognized Organizations, Part 2, section 5.2, design and development. https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.349%2892%29.pdf

Bureau Veritas NR467, July 2026 catalogue, Parts A to F. Comparator for separating classification, engineering rules and service notations. https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/nr467-rules-classification-steel-ships

AMSA, Marine Order 43, official current instrument landing page. Jurisdiction-specific livestock requirements. https://www.amsa.gov.au/about/regulations-and-standards/marine-order-43-cargo-and-cargo-handling-livestock

7 Catalogue scope and document map

Revision 1.0 establishes the controlled notation catalogue for the ship and unit families listed below. Sections 1 to 6 apply throughout. The catalogue covers its stated scope; it is not a universal list of every notation used by every classification society. New technology, unusual units and unlisted combinations require a controlled addition.

The terms in sections 8 to 16 are HCS terminology. They do not establish equivalence to LR, BV, DNV, BKI or other society symbols. The catalogue is available for vessel selection. Assignment remains subject to a documented technical basis, competent appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. Reserved applications remain excluded.

Sections	Content
1 to 6	Core rules, class numbering, assignment, livestock module, navigation, class maintenance and livestock carrier example.
8 to 10	Main scope, construction history, navigation and notation syntax.
11 to 13	Ship service catalogue grouped by cargo, passenger, workboat and specialist functions.
14 to 16	Optional features, automation, power, environmental and specialist qualifications.
17 to 19	Technical module activation, combinations, decision forms, survey planning and implementation.

7 1 Meaning of the catalogue columns

Service tokens identify the intended function. Evidence columns identify the principal specialist subjects to be addressed in addition to the complete core technical basis. Optional families are candidates for separate review, not automatically assigned marks. A service-specific column is not an exhaustive survey checklist or numerical acceptance standard.

7 2 Coverage and exclusions

Coverage includes conventional cargo ships, liquid and gas carriers, passenger ships, yachts, fishing vessels, tugs, barges, offshore service ships, mobile and stationary offshore units, inland craft, high speed craft and emerging

propulsion or control features. Military, nuclear, submersible and autonomous applications are reserved for individually approved specialist programmes. No generic token grants those capabilities.

A ship may require several statutory codes, flag decisions and class modules. A statutory code label, insurance policy, commercial description, cargo permission or portal menu selection is not by itself a class notation. The approving reviewer shall record the precise applicability and evidence for every component.

8 Main scope and construction history

The main class expression begins with HCS followed by the approved scope. Construction history is a separate qualifier and shall never imply supervision that did not occur.

HCS token	**Meaning**	**Minimum basis for assignment**
HULL	Hull and structural scope	Approved structural, stability, anchoring and watertight integrity basis with satisfactory appraisal and survey.
MACH	Machinery and relevant electrical scope	Approved propulsion and essential auxiliary, electrical, control and safety basis with witnessed functional tests.
HULL MACH	Combined scope	Both HULL and MACH accepted. Normal candidate scope for a self-propelled ship.
HULL AUX	Non-propelled unit with essential auxiliaries	HULL plus defined auxiliary machinery and electrical scope. AUX does not certify propulsion.
HCS BUILT	Constructed under HCS supervision	Contemporaneous construction survey and approval records covering the claimed scope.
CLASS ENTRY	Existing unit accepted after entry appraisal	Documented entry survey and technical decision. Does not imply HCS newbuilding supervision.
CONVERTED	Material conversion reviewed	Conversion scope, plans, calculations and surveys accepted; conversion date and limitations recorded.

8 1 Limitations on partial scope

A partial scope shall be conspicuous on the certificate and register. Omitting MACH for a self-propelled ship requires a reasoned acceptance decision and a clear statement of what is excluded. A partial certificate shall not be presented as full hull and machinery classification. A non-propelled unit may still require machinery, electrical, mooring and fire safety appraisal.

8 2 Materials and special structures

Steel, aluminium, composite, timber, concrete or mixed construction shall be recorded as particulars and linked to the applicable material and structural module. A material description does not substitute for approved design, fabrication and inspection criteria. A construction qualifier is optional; uncertainty shall be recorded rather than replaced by a favourable symbol.

9 Navigation and operating qualifications

Only one controlling navigation qualification shall be used, with compatible seasonal or operating qualifiers. Every restricted qualification refers to a signed schedule with measurable boundaries and the technical basis supporting them.

HCS token	**Use**	**Required definition in approval schedule**
UNRESTRICTED	Unrestricted navigation within approved design basis	Positive acceptance of intended service, environmental basis and applicable statutory limits. Does not mean suitability for ice or polar operation.
AREA ref	Defined geographic service	Coordinates, waters, routes or named boundaries; refuges and applicable environmental or seasonal limits.
COASTAL ref	Restricted coastal service	Maximum offshore exposure, permissible route and refuge assumptions; numeric limits individually justified.
SHELTERED ref	Protected waters service	Exact waters and environmental limits. Harbour location alone is insufficient.
INLAND ref	Rivers, canals or lakes	Waterway zones, current, depth, clearance and local statutory basis.
HARBOUR ref	Harbour operations	Named port limits and operational conditions including any tow or weather limits.
SEASON ref	Seasonally restricted service	Dates, area and environmental assumptions, linked to principal navigation schedule.
WEATHER ref	Defined weather envelope	Wind, waves and other controlling thresholds, forecast source and operating procedures.
ATTENDED ref	Specified attended operation	Manning or watch assumptions and systems requiring continuous attendance; not a Safe Manning Certificate.

Single voyage permissions shall be controlled by a separate voyage approval, with flag involvement where required. They shall not be used to disguise uncompleted entry requirements or to imply full class. GMDSS A1, A2, A3 and A4 remain radio service particulars.

10 Syntax and controlled combinations

The display order is HCS [main scope] / [primary service] / [secondary service if approved] / [navigation] / [optional feature tokens]. The register shall store these components separately and create the display text from the approved decision. Descriptive particulars shall not be silently inserted as notations.

Illustrative expression	**Interpretation**
HCS HULL MACH / GENERAL CARGO SHIP / AREA NS 010	Hull and machinery with a separately approved geographic schedule.
HCS HULL MACH / LIVESTOCK CARRIER / AREA NS 011	Livestock service with its own technical module and navigation approval.

Illustrative expression	Interpretation
HCS HULL MACH / TUG / HARBOUR NS 012 / TOWING TS 012	Harbour tug with an independently defined towing equipment scope.
HCS HULL AUX / DECK BARGE / AREA NS 013	Non-propelled deck cargo unit with defined auxiliary scope.
HCS HULL MACH / PASSENGER SHIP / COASTAL NS 014	Passenger service accepted under the correct capacity and voyage basis.
HCS HULL MACH / OFFSHORE SUPPLY / AREA NS 015 / POSITION KEEPING PK 015	Separate service and position keeping approvals; no automatic DP equivalence.

Every expression above is an example only. References NS, TS and PK are illustrative identifiers. No vessel or approval is created by these examples. Omit optional tokens where they are neither requested nor required; do not omit essential applicable technical requirements.

10 1 Compatibility checks

Tanker, bulk, container, passenger and livestock services may be combined only when the approved arrangement supports each service and the operating modes are expressly controlled. Do not describe a gas carrier solely as an oil tanker, a ro-ro passenger ship solely as a ro-ro cargo ship, or a self-propelled ship as a non-propelled barge.

A PREPARED qualification, where introduced under section 16, shall never be displayed as an installed capability. A survey arrangement token shall never extend statutory survey intervals by itself. Conditions of class, expiry dates, insurance limits and surveyor recommendations remain separate records.

11 A Dry cargo and bulk service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
GCS GENERAL CARGO SHIP	Packaged and general cargo	Hold loading, structure, hatch closures, securing and cargo access.
MPC MULTIPURPOSE CARGO SHIP	Several approved cargo modes	Approved mode combinations and loading manual; securing for each mode.
BC BULK CARRIER	Solid bulk cargo in bulk	Bulk structural basis, loading restrictions, hold condition and applicable enhanced surveys.
OC ORE CARRIER	Dense ore cargo	High density cargo loads, distribution, double bottom and stability.
COMB COMBINATION CARRIER	Approved dry and liquid modes	Mode segregation, changeover, cleaning and all applicable dry and tanker modules.
CEM CEMENT CARRIER	Cement in bulk	Pneumatic loading, pressure or vacuum effects, dust and cargo equipment.
WC WOODCHIP CARRIER	Woodchips in bulk	Cargo density, high volume arrangement, dust and fire risk.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
SUL SELF UNLOADING CARRIER	Integrated dry cargo discharge	Conveyors, transfer equipment, machinery safety and fire protection.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

11 B Unit loads and specialist dry cargo

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
CS CONTAINER SHIP	Containers as principal cargo	Stack loads, securing, supports, visibility and lashing plan.
RORO RO RO CARGO SHIP	Rolling cargo without passenger service	Deck and ramp loads, closures, ventilation, securing and fire arrangements.
VC VEHICLE CARRIER	Vehicles as principal cargo	Car deck loads, ramps, ventilation, drainage and fire scenarios.
REEF REFRIGERATED CARGO SHIP	Refrigerated cargo spaces	Insulation, refrigeration plant, cargo atmosphere and safe access.
LC LIVESTOCK CARRIER	Live animals	Full section 4 module, conversion basis, loading and essential services.
HC HEAVY CARGO SHIP	Heavy indivisible cargo	Local and global load paths, securing, stability and handling modes.
DC DECK CARGO SHIP	Cargo carried on exposed deck	Deck loading, securing, visibility, reserve buoyancy and drainage.
SSC SEMI SUBMERSIBLE CARGO SHIP	Float on or float off cargo	Submergence, ballast control, stability and approved loading sequence.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

11 C Liquid cargo service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
OT OIL TANKER	Oil cargo	Cargo properties, containment, segregation, pumping, fire and pollution basis.
PT PRODUCT TANKER	Defined petroleum products	Product list, flash points, coatings, tank systems and safety arrangements.
CT CHEMICAL TANKER	Defined chemical cargoes	Applicable chemical code, ship type, product list, containment and materials.
FLS FLS TANKER	Defined flammable liquid substances	Substance properties and the specifically applicable code or approved basis.
BIT BITUMEN TANKER	Heated bitumen or asphalt	Cargo temperatures, thermal effects, heating, venting and fire risk.
ELT EDIBLE LIQUID TANKER	Food grade liquid cargo	Tank loads, heating and segregation; hygiene certification remains separate.
WAT WATER CARRIER	Water cargo	Tank loading and sloshing, stability and systems; potable approvals separate.
BUNK BUNKERING VESSEL	Transfer of approved marine fuel cargo	Cargo module plus transfer envelope, emergency shutdown and spill response.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

11 D Gas cargo service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
GC LIQUEFIED GAS CARRIER	Specified liquefied gases	Applicable gas code, ship type, tank type, design pressure and temperature.
LNG LNG CARRIER	LNG cargo	Cryogenic containment, boil off, gas detection and emergency systems.
LPG LPG CARRIER	Specified LPG cargoes	Pressure and refrigeration basis, containment and cargo compatibility.
ETH ETHYLENE CARRIER	Ethylene cargo	Low temperature basis, materials and cargo atmosphere protection.
AMMC AMMONIA CARRIER	Ammonia cargo	Toxicity, materials, containment, detection and exposure protection.
CO2C LIQUID CO2 CARRIER	Liquefied carbon dioxide	Phase control, pressure and temperature, containment and release scenarios.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
GBUNK GAS BUNKERING VESSEL	Transfer of approved gas fuel cargo	Gas cargo basis plus transfer interfaces, separation and shutdown.
OGC OTHER GAS CARRIER	Gas outside established catalogue	Individual hazard study and approved containment basis before activation.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

12 A Passenger and high speed service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
PS PASSENGER SHIP	Passenger carriage	Passenger capacity, voyage basis, subdivision, evacuation and fire protection.
ROPAX RO RO PASSENGER SHIP	Passengers and rolling cargo	Both passenger and ro-ro arrangements including stability and fire interfaces.
PF PASSENGER FERRY	Scheduled passenger service	Applicable passenger module and route-specific operation; schedule is not a safety exemption.
HSP HIGH SPEED PASSENGER CRAFT	High speed passenger carriage	Applicable high speed criteria, operating permit interface and evacuation.
HSC HIGH SPEED CARGO CRAFT	High speed cargo carriage	High speed structure, machinery, handling and operating limits.
CTV CREW TRANSFER VESSEL	Personnel transfer at sea	Transfer arrangement, contact loads, stability and transfer weather envelope.
PTV PERSONNEL TRANSPORT VESSEL	Transport of defined personnel	Correct legal status of passengers, special or industrial personnel; capacity basis.
SPS SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIP	Approved special purpose operation	Applicable personnel definition and special purpose safety basis.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

12 B Yachts and fishing service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	**Service scope**	**Principal specialist evidence**
MY MOTOR YACHT	Motor yacht operation	Private or commercial legal status, size, persons and applicable yacht basis.
SY SAILING YACHT	Sail assisted or sail propulsion	Rig loads, stability under sail, mast and rig inspection and auxiliary systems.
STV SAIL TRAINING VESSEL	Training under sail	Trainee status, sail and passenger or special purpose interfaces.
FV FISHING VESSEL	Commercial fishing	Fishing method, deck gear, loading, stability and applicable fishing standards.
TR TRAWLER	Trawling operation	Trawling loads, winches, release arrangements and stability.
PSN PURSE SEINER	Purse seine operation	Net handling, suspended loads, deck arrangement and stability.
FP FISH PROCESSING VESSEL	Onboard fish processing	Processing plant, refrigeration, fire and personnel arrangements.
FC FISH CARRIER	Fish transport	Cargo containment, refrigeration or live fish systems and stability.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

12 C Tugs and harbour work

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	**Service scope**	**Principal specialist evidence**
TUG TUG	Approved towing service	Towing loads, bollard pull basis, stability, machinery and emergency release.
ETUG ESCORT TUG	Approved escort operation	Indirect towing forces, stability and performance envelope; separate trials.
AHV ANCHOR HANDLING VESSEL	Anchor handling	Deck loads, winches, stability, chain or wire management and release.
SALV SALVAGE VESSEL	Defined salvage services	Equipment and operational envelope; no unlimited salvage capability implied.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
PILOT PILOT VESSEL	Pilot transport or transfer	Transfer arrangement, access, stability and weather limits.
MOOR MOORING VESSEL	Mooring assistance	Line handling, personnel protection, bollard loads and stability.
WB WORKBOAT	Defined general work duties	Specific work schedule and load cases; broad label shall not conceal specialist service.
FRV FIRE RESPONSE VESSEL	External firefighting service	Fire pump duty, monitors, stability, protection and measured performance.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

12 D Barges and non propelled units

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
DB DECK BARGE	Non-propelled deck cargo	Deck loads, securing, towing or mooring, stability and watertight integrity.
CB CARGO BARGE	Non-propelled hold cargo	Cargo distribution, hold structure, closures and tow arrangements.
TB TANK BARGE	Non-propelled liquid cargo	Applicable liquid cargo module and tow, mooring and emergency interfaces.
HB HOPPER BARGE	Hopper carriage and discharge	Hopper loads, doors, release, free surfaces and stability.
CRB CRANE BARGE	Barge with lifting plant	Crane foundations, lifting stability, mooring and crane certification scope.
AB ACCOMMODATION BARGE	Floating accommodation	Personnel status, escape, fire safety, utilities and site mooring.
PONT PONTOON	Defined floating platform	Buoyancy, stability, deck loads, connection and mooring basis.
FD FLOATING DOCK	Docking ships	Dock strength, pumping, monitoring, docking loads and stability.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

13 A Offshore and subsea service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	**Service scope**	**Principal specialist evidence**
OSV OFFSHORE SUPPLY	Cargo supply to offshore facilities	Deck loads, securing, bulk systems, liquid cargo and offshore operating conditions.
AHTS ANCHOR HANDLING SUPPLY	Combined supply and anchor handling	Both service modules and all combined loading and stability modes.
SRV STANDBY RESCUE	Offshore standby or rescue	Recovery equipment, survivor capacity, protection and operations.
DSV DIVING SUPPORT	Support of diving operations	Diving interfaces and support plant; pressure systems and personnel safety basis.
SSV SUBSEA SUPPORT	Defined subsea operations	Deployment loads, handling systems, station keeping and emergency recovery.
CLV CABLE LAYING	Cable installation or repair	Cable tensions, storage, handling, deployment and stability.
PLV PIPE LAYING	Pipeline installation	Pipe loads, tensioners, supports, deployment and station keeping.
WIV WELL INTERVENTION	Defined well intervention	Well control interfaces, hazardous areas, emergency response and specialist approval.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

13 B Dredging construction and research

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	**Service scope**	**Principal specialist evidence**
DRG DREDGER	Defined dredging method	Dredging loads, machinery, stability and operating configuration.
TSHD TRAILING SUCTION HOPPER DREDGER	Suction dredging with hopper	Hopper loading, overflow, dredging gear and discharge conditions.
CSD CUTTER SUCTION DREDGER	Cutter suction dredging	Cutter, ladder, spuds, anchoring and operational stability.
GD GRAB DREDGER	Grab dredging	Crane or grab loads, fatigue, stability and control.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
LV LIFTING VESSEL	Heavy lifting operations	Load charts, foundations, stability, dynamic effects and lifting system scope.
RV RESEARCH VESSEL	Defined research operations	Laboratory risks, deployment equipment and persons carried.
SV SURVEY VESSEL	Hydrographic or similar surveying	Equipment handling, stability and the stated survey equipment scope.
ORV OIL RECOVERY VESSEL	Oil spill recovery	Recovered product properties, tanks, ventilation, fire and recovery systems.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

13 C Other surface ship service

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	Service scope	Principal specialist evidence
PAT PATROL VESSEL	Civil patrol operations	Service speed, personnel, boarding equipment and operating envelope.
TRN TRAINING SHIP	Approved training service	Persons status, training spaces, machinery access and emergency arrangements.
HOSP HOSPITAL SHIP	Floating medical service	Ship safety and medical system interfaces; clinical licensing separate.
ACC ACCOMMODATION SHIP	Floating accommodation service	Persons status, fire, escape, services, mooring and navigation mode.
WFS WIND FARM SERVICE VESSEL	Offshore wind support	Personnel transfer, lifting or work functions activated individually.
ICV INLAND CARGO VESSEL	Cargo on inland waterways	Waterway zone, structure, stability, navigation and local rules.
IPV INLAND PASSENGER VESSEL	Passengers on inland waterways	Inland passenger capacity, evacuation, stability and route basis.
AQV AQUACULTURE SERVICE VESSEL	Support of aquaculture	Equipment, live cargo or treatment systems, loading and environmental interfaces.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

13 D Offshore units and reserved services

These HCS service definitions require the applicable complete technical basis, specialist appraisal and an authorised vessel decision. The short code is an alias for the full service description.

HCS code and service	**Service scope**	**Principal specialist evidence**
SEU SELF ELEVATING UNIT	Jack-up operating modes	Foundation, legs, jacking, afloat and elevated stability and site basis.
SSU SEMI SUBMERSIBLE UNIT	Column stabilised unit	Global strength, air gap, stability, station keeping and operating modes.
DU DRILLING UNIT	Offshore drilling	Unit-specific structure, well control, hazardous areas and drilling safety basis.
PU PRODUCTION UNIT	Floating production	Process hazards, containment, mooring, offloading and specialist verification.
SU STORAGE UNIT	Floating storage	Cargo containment, mooring, transfer and site environmental basis.
RGU RE GASIFICATION UNIT	Floating gas storage and regasification	Gas containment, process plant, gas export and emergency isolation.
SPEC SPECIALIST UNIT	Novel or unlisted surface unit	Individual design and hazard basis; catalogue amendment before assignment.
RESERVED RESERVED APPLICATION	Naval, nuclear or submersible projects	Reserved service requiring a dedicated approved programme. Dedicated competence, rules and authorisation required.

Assignment shall identify capacity, cargo or operational mode and any controlling limits in the approval schedule. Optional features from sections 14 to 16 require separate evidence and do not follow automatically from the ship type.

14 A Structure cargo and equipment qualifications

These are HCS additional feature definitions. Each reference identifies a controlled specification and approval schedule. Essential statutory and class requirements apply whether or not an additional feature is requested.

HCS code and feature	**Claimed scope**	**Required specialist acceptance**
HM(ref) HULL MONITORING ref	Hull response monitoring	Sensor scope, alarm thresholds, calibration and operating procedures.
HD(ref) HEAVY DECK ref	Defined heavy deck loads	Approved local and global load limits and securing.
SEC(ref) CARGO SECURING ref	Specified cargo securing capability	Approved foundations, lashing arrangements and loading modes.
CF(ref) CONTAINER FITTED ref	Container carriage on another ship type	Stack loads and securing; does not by itself create CONTAINER SHIP service.

HCS code and feature	**Claimed scope**	**Required specialist acceptance**
RF(ref) REFRIGERATION ref	Specified refrigeration plant	Refrigerant hazards, capacity, redundancy and temperature scope.
LA(ref) LIFTING APPLIANCE ref	Defined lifting equipment	Load chart, structure, machinery, inspection and test basis.
TOW(ref) TOWING ref	Defined towing equipment and envelope	Towline load path, release, controls and stability.
AH(ref) ANCHOR HANDLING ref	Defined handling capability	Winch duty, line loads, release and operating envelope.
HELI(ref) HELIDECK ref	Specified helicopter landing facility	Structural, fire and operational interfaces; aviation acceptance separate.
DIVE(ref) DIVING SYSTEM ref	Specified diving plant	Pressure equipment, life support, controls and emergency arrangements.

Assignment is limited to the named specification and tested operating envelope. Grades, values, redundancy levels and performance claims shall be written in the schedule; they shall not be inferred from a familiar token used by another society.

14 B Machinery automation and position keeping

These are HCS additional feature definitions. Each reference identifies a controlled specification and approval schedule. Essential statutory and class requirements apply whether or not an additional feature is requested.

HCS code and feature	**Claimed scope**	**Required specialist acceptance**
UMS(ref) UNATTENDED MACHINERY ref	Periodically unattended machinery operation	Automation, alarms, protection, standby services and trials against approved criteria.
CC(ref) CENTRAL CONTROL ref	Centralised machinery control	Control station scope, alarms, overrides and failure response.
RP(ref) REDUNDANT PROPULSION ref	Defined propulsion redundancy	Failure analysis, separation, supporting services and trials.
RPOW(ref) REDUNDANT POWER ref	Defined essential power redundancy	Load analysis, segregation, failure response and recovery.
EP(ref) ELECTRIC PROPULSION ref	Electric propulsion system	Power generation, conversion, distribution, protection and control.
HYB(ref) HYBRID PROPULSION ref	Combined energy propulsion	Operating modes, integration, protection and transition trials.
PK(ref) POSITION KEEPING ref	Specified station keeping performance	Environmental envelope, failure consequence analysis and witnessed trials; no automatic DP class.
MOOR(ref) MOORING SYSTEM ref	Specified mooring arrangement	Environmental loads, lines, foundations, monitoring and site assumptions.

HCS code and feature	Claimed scope	Required specialist acceptance
SHAFT(ref) SHAFT MONITORING ref	Specified shaft condition monitoring	Measurement, acceptance criteria, records and survey treatment.
MMON(ref) MACHINERY MONITORING ref	Defined machinery condition monitoring	Failure modes, sensor reliability, analysis and acceptance programme.

Assignment is limited to the named specification and tested operating envelope. Grades, values, redundancy levels and performance claims shall be written in the schedule; they shall not be inferred from a familiar token used by another society.

15 A Safety digital and environmental qualifications

These are HCS additional feature definitions. Each reference identifies a controlled specification and approval schedule. Essential statutory and class requirements apply whether or not an additional feature is requested.

HCS code and feature	Claimed scope	Required specialist acceptance
IBS(ref) INTEGRATED BRIDGE ref	Defined bridge integration	Navigation functions, alarms, visibility, ergonomics and fallback.
CYB(ref) CYBER PROTECTION ref	Defined cyber risk controls	Asset scope, access control, segmentation, recovery, lifecycle and testing.
RMON(ref) REMOTE MONITORING ref	Remote observation capability	Data integrity, alarms, availability and onboard responsibility.
FIRE(ref) FIRE SYSTEM ref	Additional fire protection scope	Design scenarios, detection, suppression, redundancy and tests.
SR(ref) SAFE RETURN ref	Defined casualty return capability	Applicable vessel basis, casualty assumptions, essential systems and trials.
EXTFF(ref) EXTERNAL FIRE ref	External firefighting capability	Pump and monitor duty, stability, protection and performance tests.
POL(ref) POLLUTION PREVENTION ref	Defined additional pollution features	Named pollutants, systems, limits and verification; statutory certificates remain separate.
OREC(ref) SPILL RECOVERY ref	Specified spill recovery capability	Product properties, recovery equipment and storage hazards.
UN(ref) UNDERWATER NOISE ref	Defined acoustic performance	Measurement method, operating condition and accepted limits.
HAB(ref) HABITABILITY ref	Defined comfort or habitability performance	Noise, vibration or climate criteria and measurement scope.

Assignment is limited to the named specification and tested operating envelope. Grades, values, redundancy levels and performance claims shall be written in the schedule; they shall not be inferred from a familiar token used by another society.

15 B Cold climate surveys and operational features

These are HCS additional feature definitions. Each reference identifies a controlled specification and approval schedule. Essential statutory and class requirements apply whether or not an additional feature is requested.

HCS code and feature	**Claimed scope**	**Required specialist acceptance**
ICE(ref) ICE STRENGTHENING ref	Defined ice structural capability	Exact rule basis and category; hull, machinery and operational assumptions.
POLAR(ref) POLAR SERVICE ref	Defined polar operating capability	Polar regime, environmental limits and applicable statutory interfaces.
WIN(ref) WINTER OPERATION ref	Cold weather equipment suitability	Design temperatures, icing, heating, materials and essential services.
IWS(ref) IN WATER SURVEY ref	Eligibility for a defined survey arrangement	Access, markings, equipment, service providers and explicit survey acceptance.
CMS(ref) CONTINUOUS MACHINERY SURVEY ref	Approved continuous survey programme	Item list, cycles, responsibilities and records; no automatic extension.
PMS(ref) PLANNED MAINTENANCE ref	Approved maintenance survey programme	Equipment scope, maintenance system, competence and audit arrangements.
CBS(ref) CONDITION BASED SURVEY ref	Approved condition based programme	Failure analysis, monitoring, intervention criteria and survey approval.
ET(ref) EMERGENCY TOWING ref	Defined emergency towing arrangement	Load path, access, deployment and procedures.
BP(ref) BOLLARD PULL ref	Verified pull under defined trial conditions	Trial method, instrumentation and sustained result; value shown in schedule.
LCS(ref) LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS ref	Additional verified livestock service systems	Clearly defined extra scope beyond primary livestock module; no generic welfare licence.

Assignment is limited to the named specification and tested operating envelope. Grades, values, redundancy levels and performance claims shall be written in the schedule; they shall not be inferred from a familiar token used by another society.

16 Alternative energy and emerging systems

These are HCS additional feature definitions. Each reference identifies a controlled specification and approval schedule. Essential statutory and class requirements apply whether or not an additional feature is requested.

HCS code and feature	**Claimed scope**	**Required specialist acceptance**
LNGF(ref) LNG FUEL ref	Installed LNG fuel capability	Gas fuel design, containment, supply, detection, ventilation and shutdown.
LPGF(ref) LPG FUEL ref	Installed LPG fuel capability	Fuel properties, containment, supply, hazard assessment and protection.

HCS code and feature	Claimed scope	Required specialist acceptance
MEOF(ref) METHANOL FUEL ref	Installed methanol fuel capability	Toxicity, low flashpoint hazards, materials and system safeguards.
NH3F(ref) AMMONIA FUEL ref	Installed ammonia fuel capability	Toxicity, release scenarios, exposure control, detection and emergency response.
H2F(ref) HYDROGEN FUEL ref	Installed hydrogen fuel capability	Containment, leakage, ignition, ventilation and fuel system basis.
OTF(ref) OTHER FUEL ref	Specified alternative fuel	Named fuel, properties and individually approved engineering basis.
BAT(ref) BATTERY POWER ref	Installed battery energy system	Chemistry, thermal events, protection, ventilation and fire strategy.
FCELL(ref) FUEL CELL ref	Installed fuel cell system	Fuel and process hazards, integration, controls and protection.
WIND(ref) WIND ASSIST ref	Installed wind assistance	Structural loads, stability, control and safe operating envelope.
SHP(ref) SHORE POWER ref	Defined shore electrical connection	Compatibility, interlocks, earthing, protection and operating procedure.

PREPARED may be appended to a named future system only under a separate approved specification that states what has actually been installed or reserved and what remains before conversion. REMOTE CONTROL and AUTONOMOUS OPERATION are reserved pending dedicated system, human responsibility, legal and safety programmes; remote monitoring does not grant either capability.

17 Technical module activation and acceptance

Catalogue entries are adopted as HCS notation definitions. The technical authority shall maintain a service approval register recording the engineering module, applicable standards, competence, scope and limitations for operational assignment. A selectable term is not a substitute for this evidence. Reserved applications are not available for assignment.

Module item	Required controlled content
Applicability	Ship type, size, materials, construction dates, service and exclusions.
Technical standards	Rule set, edition, amendments and exact applicable chapters; statutory and flag interfaces.
Design criteria	Loads, environments, calculations, numerical limits, corrosion and repair acceptance and safety factors.
Plan appraisal	Required drawings and calculations, approval methods and independent review.
Construction or conversion	Material, fabrication, welding, inspection, testing and quality records.
Entry and periodic surveys	Scope, intervals, windows, tests, thickness measurements and acceptance criteria.
Competence	Surveyor, plan approver and decision maker competence; independence and resources.

Module item	Required controlled content
Output and lifecycle	Exact token, qualifiers, certificate wording, conditions, suspension triggers and withdrawal.
Validation	Technical review, trial application, stakeholder consultation and approval signatures.

No numerical acceptance criterion shall be filled by convention, guess or similarity to another vessel. HCS shall select a defensible technical standard and validate its applicability. Mixed rule bases require a documented compatibility assessment covering interfaces, gaps and conservatism. Alternative design acceptance shall follow an approved equivalence process with flag involvement where applicable.

This document is the approved notation catalogue and decision framework for the listed scope. Detailed engineering requirements remain controlled prerequisites for vessel acceptance. It does not supply numerical scantling, ventilation, loading, fire safety or stability criteria; the documented applicable technical basis supplies those values.

18 Decision records and survey control

18 1 Form HCS F RN 001

The class notation decision record shall contain the fields below. A blank field is not an approval. Reference each supporting record by identifier and revision, and retain the decision with the vessel file.

Field group	Mandatory entries
Identity	Vessel name, IMO or accepted alternative identity, HCS number and owner or manager.
Request	Requested service, operating modes, navigation and optional features.
Technical basis	Activated module identifiers, rule editions, applicability and gap assessment.
Evidence	Plans, calculations, construction or conversion history, survey reports and test results.
Findings	Open and closed findings, conditions, due dates and permitted restrictions.
Exact decision	Approved scope, service tokens, navigation schedule, optional tokens and exclusions.
Review	Attending surveyor, plan approver, independent reviewer and competence references.
Release	Approving authority, signature, decision date, effective date and certificate revision.
Follow up	Survey programme, notifications, conditions and next review event.

18 2 Survey programme HCS F RN 002

For every assigned service, record initial or entry, annual, intermediate, renewal, bottom, machinery and feature-specific surveys as applicable. Each line shall state the controlling rule clause, last completion, next due date, permitted window, survey scope, finding closure and approving officer. The programme shall use the approved rule intervals; this catalogue creates none.

18 3 Change management

An added service, changed route, new fuel, increased capacity, conversion or changed operating mode requires an impact review before the notation is changed. Prior approvals shall be retained. A removed capability shall be

reflected promptly in the register, certificates and QR result. Class suspension and withdrawal follow approved triggers and decision procedures, including required notifications.

19 Portal implementation and release checklist

The portal should distinguish the catalogue definition from a vessel assignment. A catalogue selection shall create a request for review and shall never set In class or Approved automatically.

Register or field	Required behaviour
Catalogue master	Token, meaning, module ID, revision, permitted scope, activation status and effective date.
Vessel proposed notation	Requested components and reviewer notes; visibly marked Proposed.
Vessel assigned notation	Locked to a signed decision and activated module revisions.
Navigation schedule	Controlling document, geographic and operational limits, revision and approval.
Evidence links	Plans, survey reports, test results, calculations and finding closure.
Class status	Independent from certificate Current, expiry date, insurance acceptance and review status.
History	Full before and after record, actor, time, reason and previous PDF retention.
QR verification	Exact assigned notation, class status, lifecycle, dates and technical review status.
Access and release	Approved competence and role controls; independent review and formal release.

19 1 Existing livestock carrier application

For an existing livestock carrier, HULL MACH with LIVESTOCK CARRIER service is a candidate scope. Record the requested notation, the technically established navigation schedule and the supporting decision. No optional feature follows automatically from this example.

19 2 Adoption record

This revision records adoption of the notation system. Maintain the reconciliation of existing rules and notation records, competence, templates and software. Future changes require controlled technical review and approval; preserve previous revisions as history.

Revision 1.0 adds the multi-type service and optional-feature catalogue. External comparator sources: BV NR467 July 2026 catalogue and LR ship classification rules page dated 1 July 2026. These sources informed coverage only; proprietary marks and engineering requirements have not been adopted through this document.

BV: https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/nr467-rules-classification-steel-ships
LR: https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/lloyds-register-rules/rules-and-regulations-for-the-classification-of-ships/

20 Comparison with published society practice

Classification societies organise notation into a main class expression, ship service, navigation and additional features. The examples below explain that architecture. They are short extracts or descriptions from identified publications, not an exhaustive third-party catalogue or an equivalence declaration.

Society and source	Published notation example	Use in the HCS system
Lloyds Register Issued certificate dated 12 April 2024	100A1; LMC; UMS	Shows separate hull character, machinery and automation elements. These LR marks are not assigned by HCS.
Bureau Veritas NR467 Part A January 2026	AUT-UMS; AUT-CCS	Separates periodically unattended machinery from centralised machinery control. HCS candidates: UNATTENDED MACHINERY and CENTRAL CONTROL.
BKI Guidance for Class Notations 2021	Livestock Carrier	Uses a named ship service within its own character and qualifier system. HCS candidate: LIVESTOCK CARRIER.

20 1 Functional comparison for ship service

Service family	HCS proposed service	Separate qualifications to consider
Dry cargo	GENERAL CARGO SHIP, CONTAINER SHIP, BULK CARRIER	Loading, securing, heavy deck, cargo equipment and navigation.
Liquid and gas	OIL TANKER, CHEMICAL TANKER, LIQUEFIED GAS CARRIER	Cargo list, ship and tank type, pressure, temperature and transfer.
Passenger	PASSENGER SHIP, RO RO PASSENGER SHIP	Persons capacity, subdivision, evacuation, route and high speed if applicable.
Special cargo	LIVESTOCK CARRIER, REFRIGERATED CARGO SHIP	Specialist service systems, capacity and approved operating envelope.
Work and offshore	TUG, OFFSHORE SUPPLY, LIFTING VESSEL	Towing, station keeping, lifting, transfer and operating modes.

A functional comparison identifies subjects to review; it does not transfer a symbol, survey credit, class status or statutory acceptance. For an actual transfer, compare exact editions, approved plans, survey evidence and outstanding conditions, then issue an HCS decision on the applicable basis.

21 Source register and interpretation controls

The following source register identifies the comparator publications used for notation structure. Older examples are explicitly dated and shall not be treated as the latest rule text. Verify the currently applicable edition before operational use.

BV NR467 Part A January 2026, Chapter 1 Section 2. Short comparator for classification categories and automated machinery notation. https://rulesexplorer-docs.bureauveritas.com/documents/nr467/jan2026/467-NR_PartA_2026-01.pdf

BV official NR467 catalogue lists the July 2026 edition. Use the applicable controlled edition for a vessel appraisal. https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/nr467-rules-classification-steel-ships

LR published Certificate of Class dated 12 April 2024, example containing 100A1, LMC and UMS. This is an issued example rather than the full rule definition. https://www.lr.org/webapi/ecert/SIGNED_Certificate%20of%20Class_2176522_12042402264526.pdf

LR Rules for Classification of Ships, official July 2026 landing page. https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/lloyds-register-rules/rules-and-regulations-for-the-classification-of-ships/

BKI Guidance for Class Notations, 2021 edition, ship service and qualifier structure. Historical comparator; confirm current rules separately. https://rules-api.bki.co.id/v1/rules/5?act=view

IMO RO Code and AMSA livestock references remain listed in section 6. Their statutory, geographic and organisational applicability shall be checked separately.

21 1 Approval interpretation

HCS terms provide readable definitions and short display codes. Each code shall retain its controlled definition, unique identifier, technical module and revision. No construction mark, numeral or letter shall be assigned solely because it resembles another society's mark.

Neither this catalogue nor its comparison table establishes IACS membership, recognition by another society, flag authorisation or automatic acceptance by insurers, ports or administrations. Those positions depend on their own actual decisions and authorisations.

22 HCS symbols and display convention

The code column in each service and feature table is the HCS short notation. The accompanying wording defines its scope. Similar letter combinations used elsewhere do not establish technical equivalence. Codes shall be displayed with the HCS identity and controlling rule revision.

Symbol	Meaning	**Assignment condition**
H1	Hull scope accepted	Corresponds to HULL. The numeral identifies this scope definition; it is not a rating, unrestricted navigation or a safety guarantee.
M1	Propulsion and essential machinery scope accepted	Corresponds to MACH; includes relevant electrical and control systems in the approved basis.
AUX	Defined auxiliary scope for a non-propelled unit	Used with H1 when the auxiliary scope has been explicitly accepted; does not include propulsion.
✠H1 or ✠M1	HCS construction supervision mark	Use separately for hull or machinery only when contemporaneous HCS construction supervision and approval records support that exact scope.
E	Existing ship class entry qualifier	Records entry after construction; requires the entry decision and does not imply HCS newbuilding supervision.
CV	Accepted conversion qualifier	Only the specified conversion scope and revision are covered; does not replace a construction supervision mark.

The Maltese cross is the HCS construction-supervision mark as defined in the table above. Use it only where contemporary HCS supervision records support the claimed hull or machinery scope. Transfer to HCS does not establish HCS newbuilding supervision. Unknown history shall be recorded without a favourable construction mark.

22 1 Symbol legend

HCS identifies the issuing society. Spaces separate scope symbols; a slash separates service and navigation blocks; parentheses contain an approval schedule or defined parameter. A comma separates optional features. A missing feature means it is not claimed. Do not use a star, cross, plus or parentheses as an unexplained decoration.

23 Navigation codes and optional feature syntax

Short code	Full term	Controlled parameter
UNR	UNRESTRICTED	Positive technical acceptance; not a default and not polar or ice permission.
AR(ref)	AREA	Approved geographic and operational schedule.
CO(ref)	COASTAL	Schedule defining offshore exposure, route and refuge assumptions.
SH(ref)	SHELTERED	Named protected waters and environmental limits.
IN(ref)	INLAND	Waterway or lake zone and local technical basis.
HA(ref)	HARBOUR	Named harbour limits and operating conditions.
SE(ref)	SEASON	Approved seasonal overlay on the controlling navigation block.
WX(ref)	WEATHER	Approved measurable weather envelope.
AT(ref)	ATTENDED	Specified attended machinery or operational condition; manning certification remains separate.

23 1 Optional feature codes

The 50 feature entries now carry short identifiers such as UMS(ref), PK(ref), ICE(ref), BAT(ref) and LNGF(ref). Their meanings and technical subjects remain those in sections 14 to 16. A reference is mandatory wherever performance, a grade, equipment scope or limits are necessary to understand the claim. It points to an approved specification, not an incomplete placeholder.

DP1, DP2, DP3, E0, AUT-UMS, 100A1, LMC and other third-party expressions shall not be substituted for these HCS codes without an approved HCS technical definition and vessel evidence. PK(ref) deliberately makes no implicit DP equipment-class claim. HCS UMS(ref) is governed by its own approved module and is not an equivalence assertion.

For a future conversion only, write PREPARED(system,ref). It shall not be used as installed capability. A ref or parameter with no approved underlying record makes the expression a proposal only. Statutory certificate labels such as SMC, ISSC, MLC, IOPP or IAPP shall not be appended as class features.

24 Notation examples and release controls

The examples below demonstrate HCS syntax. They do not record class acceptance of a real vessel. Each component shall be authorised in the vessel decision and traceable to the applicable technical basis.

Illustrative short expression	Meaning
HCS H1 M1 / GCS / UNR	Hull and machinery, general cargo ship, unrestricted navigation if positively accepted.
HCS H1 M1 E / LC / AR(NS011)	Existing livestock carrier; navigation restricted by approved schedule NS011.
HCS H1 M1 / TUG / HA(NS012) / TOW(TS012)	Harbour tug with separately specified towing capability.
HCS H1 AUX / DB / AR(NS013)	Non-propelled deck barge with defined auxiliaries.
HCS H1 M1 / ROPAX / CO(NS014)	Ro-ro passenger ship on a defined coastal service.
HCS H1 M1 / OSV / AR(NS015) / PK(PK015)	Offshore supply ship with independently approved position keeping specification.
HCS ✠H1 ✠M1 / CS / UNR / UMS(AS016)	Hypothetical HCS-supervised newbuilding, container service and a defined unattended machinery approval.

24 1 Existing livestock carrier example

Requested notation for assessment: HCS H1 M1 E / LC / AR(schedule reference). This is an illustrative expression, not an assigned vessel notation. Replace the reference with the approved navigation schedule before release. Do not add construction crosses without the required HCS construction records.

24 2 Revision and software control

Revision 1.0 adopts 96 service identifiers, 50 feature identifiers and main scope and navigation symbols, with construction mark controls. Counts include specialist and reserved entries; reserved entries are not available services. Keep requested notation, assigned notation and class status as separate controlled records.

Sources for symbol architecture: IACS FAQ describes the use of individual society notation conventions. LR official history explains the construction-survey meaning of the Maltese cross. These sources do not endorse HCS symbols. https://iacs.org.uk/about-us/faq ; https://www.lr.org/en/about-us/who-we-are/our-history/