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## *Circular*

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To relevant departments of CCS Headquarters, Shanghai Rules & Research Institute,  
CCS branches, CCS surveyors

### **Notice on the Implementation of IACS UR Z3 rev.5 on Periodical Survey of the Outside of the Ship's Bottom and Related Items**

#### **Background:**

In Apr. 2011, IACS UR Z3 rev.5 was adopted to clarify the requirements in UR Z3 with respect to the in-water visibility during an inwater Survey and to harmonise IMO Res.A744(18) and IACS Unified Requirements with respect to the age limit above which the bottom survey is to be carried out in dry-dock.

The substantial parts of this Notice will be included in 2012 Amendments of CCS “Rules for the Classification of Sea-going Steel Ships”

#### **Implementation requirements:**

Except otherwise required by administrations, this notice will be implemented by this Society from the date of issuing this notice..

This Circular is published on CCS website [www.ccs.org.cn](http://www.ccs.org.cn) .

Please contact Technology Management Dept. of the Headquarters in case of any unclarity during the implementation of this Circular.

Hereby notify the above.

Annex: IACS UR Z3 rev.5

# Z3 Periodical Survey of the Outside of the Ship's Bottom and Related Items

(1984)  
(Rev.1  
1996)  
(Rev.2  
Aug  
2002)  
(Corr.1  
Feb  
2004)  
Rev.3  
Aug  
2004)  
(Rev.4  
Oct  
2006)  
(Rev.5  
Apr  
2011)

## Z3.1 General

Z3.1.1 The Owner is to notify the Classification Society whenever the outside of the ship's bottom and related items can be examined in drydock or on a slipway.

Z3.1.2 There is to be a minimum of two examinations of the outside of the ship's bottom and related items during each five-year special survey<sup>1</sup> period. One such examination is to be carried out in conjunction with the special survey. In all cases the interval between any two such examinations is not to exceed 36 months. An extension of examination of the ship's bottom of 3 months beyond the due date can be granted in exceptional circumstances<sup>2</sup>.

Z3.1.3 Examinations of the outside of the ship's bottom and related items of ships is normally to be carried out with the ship in drydock. However, consideration may be given to alternate examination while the ship is afloat as an In-water Survey, subject to provisions of Z3.3. Special consideration is to be given to ships of 15 years or over before being permitted to have such examinations. For ESP ships exceeding of 15 years of age and over, such examinations are to be carried out with the ship in drydock.

Z3.1.4 The interval between examinations of the outside of the ship's bottom and related items for ships operating in fresh water and for certain harbour or non-self-propelled craft may be greater than that given in Z3.1.2.

Z3.1.5 Compliance with UR Z3 does not absolve the Owner from compliance with the requirements of SOLAS as amended, especially when shorter intervals between examination of the ship's bottom for certain types of ship are required.

Z3.1.6 For Oil Tankers, Combination Carriers, Bulk Carriers, Chemical Tankers, Double Hull Oil Tankers, Double Side Skin Bulk Carriers and General Dry Cargo Ships, reference is also be made to Z10.1, Z10.2, Z10.3, Z10.4, Z10.5 and Z7.1 as applicable.

### Footnotes:

- 1) Some Member Societies use the term "Special Periodical Survey" others use the term "Class Renewal Survey" instead of the term "Special Survey".
- 2) 'Exceptional circumstances' means unavailability of dry-docking facilities; unavailability of repair facilities; unavailability of essential materials, equipment or spare parts; or delays incurred by action taken to avoid severe weather conditions.

### Notes:

1. IACS agreed for uniform implementation date of Rev.1 1996 from 1 July 1996.
2. Changes introduced in Rev.2 are to be uniformly implemented by IACS Members and Associates from 1 July 2003.
3. Changes introduced in Rev.3 are to be uniformly implemented from 1 July 2005.
4. Changes introduced in Rev.4 are to be uniformly implemented from 1 Jan 2008.
5. Changes introduced in Rev.5 are to be uniformly implemented from 1 Jan 2012.

## Z3 (cont)

### Z3.2 Scope of the survey

Z3.2.1 When a ship is in drydock or on a slipway, it is to be placed on blocks of sufficient height and with the necessary staging to permit the examination of elements such as shell plating including bottom and bow plating, stern frame and rudder, sea chests and valves, propeller, etc.

Z3.2.2 The shell plating is to be examined for excessive corrosion, or deterioration due to chafing or contact with the ground and for any undue unfairness or buckling. Special attention is to be paid to the connection between the bilge strikes and the bilge keels. Important plate unfairness or other deterioration which do not necessitate immediate repairs are to be recorded.

Z3.2.3 Sea chests and their gratings, sea connections and overboard discharge valves and cocks and their fastenings to the hull or sea chests are to be examined. Valves and cocks need not be opened up more than once in a special survey period unless considered necessary by the Surveyor.

Z3.2.4 Visible parts of rudder, rudder pintles, rudder shafts and couplings and stern frame are to be examined. If considered necessary by the Surveyor, the rudder is to be lifted or the inspection plates removed for the examination of pintles. The clearance in the rudder bearings is to be ascertained and recorded. Where applicable, pressure test of the rudder may be required as deemed necessary by the surveyor.

Z3.2.5 Visible parts of propeller and stern bush, are to be examined. The clearance in the stern bush and the efficiency of the oil gland, if fitted, are to be ascertained and recorded. For controllable pitch propellers, the Surveyor is to be satisfied with the fastenings and tightness of hub and blade sealing. Dismantling need not to be carried out unless considered necessary by the Surveyor.

Z3.2.6 Visible parts of side thrusters are to be examined.

NOTE: For the survey of propeller shafts, refer to Requirement UR Z21.

Z3.2.7 Special consideration may be given in application of relevant sections of this Unified Requirement to commercial vessels owned or chartered by Governments, which are utilized in support of military operations or service.

### Z3.3 In-Water Surveys

Z3.3.1 The In-water Survey is to provide the information normally obtained from a docking survey. Special consideration shall be given to ascertaining rudder bearing clearances and stern bush clearances of oil stern bearings based on a review of the operating history, on board testing and stern oil sample reports. These considerations are to be included in the proposals for in-water survey which are to be submitted in advance of the survey so that satisfactory arrangements can be agreed with the Classification Society.

Z3.3.2 The In-water Survey is to be carried out with the ship at light draught in sheltered water and preferably with weak tidal streams and currents. The in-water visibility ~~is to be good~~ and the hull below waterline ~~is to be sufficiently clean to permit meaningful examination and~~ the cleanliness of the hull below the waterline is to be clear enough to permit a meaningful examination which allows the surveyor and diver to determine the condition of the plating, appendages and the welding. The Classification Society is to be satisfied with the methods of ~~localisation~~ orientation of the divers on the plating, which should make use where necessary of permanent markings on the plating at selected points.

**Z3**  
**(cont)**

Z3.3.3 The equipment, procedure for observing and reporting the survey are to be discussed with the parties involved prior to the In-water Survey, and suitable time is to be allowed to permit the diving company to test all equipment beforehand.

Z3.3.4 The In-water Survey is to be carried out by a qualified diver under surveillance of a Surveyor. The diver is to be employed by a firm approved as a service supplier according to UR Z17.

Z3.3.5 The Surveyor is to be satisfied with the method of pictorial representation, and a good two-way communication between the Surveyor and divers is to be provided.

Z3.3.6 If the In-water Survey reveals damage or deterioration that requires early attention, the Surveyor may require that the ship be drydocked in order that a detailed survey can be undertaken and the necessary repairs carried out.

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