

Marine Technology Special Collection, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Classification Societies: Introduction

Definitions: “a body exercising technical supervision over shipbuilding and navigation”. Ref: <http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com> [accessed 14-02-2017]

“A **classification society** is a non-governmental organization that establishes and maintains technical standards for the construction and operation of ships and offshore structures. The society will also validate that construction is according to these standards and carry out regular surveys in service to ensure compliance with the standards”. After Ref: Classification society defined on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classification_society [accessed 14-02-2017]

“An organisation that develops official standards for the shipping industry and checks the conditions of ships and their equipment to make certain they are safe and meet the official standards of the shipping industry”. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org> [accessed 14-02-2017]

Overview: Usually, as a part of their activities, the classification societies publish titles like:-

- “*Rules for the design and construction of ships*” which are, in effect, *design standards* giving detailed technical specifications for building and operation of safe and efficient ships. Most classification societies now publish their rules online with free access.
- “*Register of ships*” which are, in effect, a directory of ships classed with that society. Usually an alphabetical list of ship names giving principal particulars of each ship such as tonnage, dimensions, machinery, owners, builders, etc. Modern editions now usually available online databases by subscription.
- “*Statistical reports*” which summarise the ships listed by type, tonnage, etc. Most are available for purchase but relatively expensive.
- *Technical reports* on various aspects of ship safety, casualties, etc. Many are commercial in confidence.
- *House magazines and trade literature*: publicity materials free to the maritime industries and the general public.

Classification Societies: Holdings & Examples

The Collection’s holdings for each society’s material are not listed on this page. Please visit the Collection’s webpage for **Search Collection** and download the appropriate guidance for **Rules & Regulations, Ship Registers, Statistical & Market Reports** as indicated in the table below for “MTSC holdings”:-

Name of Classification Society	MTSC holdings
American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), USA. http://ww2.eagle.org/content/eagle/en.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Bureau_of_Shipping	
<i>Record</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> .	SEE Rules & Regulations
<i>Surveyor</i> . The quarterly house magazine and other similar titles.	[holdings tbc?]
Bureau Veritas (BV), France. http://www.bureauveritas.com https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureau_Veritas	
<i>Register of Ships</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers

<i>Bulletin Technique de Bureau Veritas</i> . French and English language versions of their technical magazine.	SEE Periodicals
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> . [title tbc?]	SEE Rules & Regulations
China Shipping Corporation (CSC), China.	
<i>Register of ships</i> .	SEE Ship Registers
Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Norway. 1864-to date. http://www.detnorskeveritas.com https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNV_GL . 2013 combined with Germanischer Lloyd (GL) https://www.dnvgl.com	
<i>Register of Ships</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> .	SEE Rules & Regulations
Germanischer Lloyd (GL), Germany. 2013 combined with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) https://www.dnvgl.com	
<i>Register</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> .	SEE Rules & Regulations
[Title?] The monthly/quarterly house magazine.	[holdings tbc, if any?]
Greek Shipping Directory	
<i>Greek Shipping Directory</i> .	SEE Ship Registers
Lloyd's Register of Shipping (LRS) / Lloyd's Register (LR), UK. http://www.lr.org https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lloyd%27s_Register The oldest surviving classification society in the world. Founded in 1760.	
<i>Register of Ships</i> . A register of all the world's merchant ships, not just those classed with LR. So is a uniquely authoritative listing.	SEE Ship Registers
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> . There are several different titles for other marine structures and vessel types.	SEE Rules & Regulations
<i>100 A1</i> [pronounced "one hundred A one"]. The quarterly house magazine for the marine industries and general public. And various other titles.	[holdings tbc?]
<i>Lloyd's Register Staff Association Transactions</i> . A confidential in-house technical research journal.	SEE Periodicals
<i>World Casualty Statistics</i> , previously <i>Casualty Returns</i> . A statistical report on world shipping accidents.	SEE Statistical & Market Reports
<i>World Fleet Statistics</i> , 1992 – to date, previously <i>Statistical Tables</i> , start - 1991. A statistical report on world merchant ship fleets.	SEE Statistical & Market Reports
<i>World Shipbuilding Statistics</i> , previously <i>Shipbuilding Returns</i> . A statistical report on world shipbuilding.	SEE Statistical & Market Reports
Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NKK), Japan. http://www.nkkk.jp/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Kaiji_Kyokai	
<i>Register of Ships</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers
<i>Rules for the design and construction of ships</i> . Merchant ships.	SEE Rules & Regulations
Registro Italiano Navale (RINA), Italy. http://www.rinagroup.org https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Registro_Italiano_Navale	

<i>Register book / Libro Registro</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers
Dirección General de la Marina Mercante , Madrid, Spain. [need to confirm if this is a “directory” or a “ship register”]	
<i>Listo oficial d buques / Official ship register</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society/agency.	SEE Ship Registers
USSR [society title tbc?]	
<i>Ship register</i> . A register of merchant ships classed with the society.	SEE Ship Registers

Classification Societies: Example pages

Please download the appropriate guidance and list indicated in the above table e.g. SEE Ship Registers.

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