

Subject

The internal inspection during periodical survey of ballast tanks and void spaces on bulk carriers

# **ClassNK**

## ***Technical Information***

No. TEC-1322  
Date 2 May 2024

To whom it may concern

IMO Resolution A. 1049(27) (2011 ESP Code) regulates the requirements of the Enhanced Survey Programme for bulk carriers and oil tankers.

The resolution includes coating condition criteria for ballast tanks and further specifies that internal inspections are required at annual intervals in cases where said coating conditions fail to satisfy the criteria.

Although different coating condition criteria have been applied to bulk carriers and oil tankers, the IMO amended the ESP Code to revise the coating condition criteria for the ballast tanks of bulk carriers as well as to clarify some other requirements. This amendment was adopted as Resolution MSC.525(106).

The outlines are as follows:

1. Applicability:

The requirements are to be applied for surveys commenced on or after 1 July 2024.

2. Scope of survey:

Internal inspection of following compartments is required at Class periodical survey.

(1) Bulk carriers\*

- (a) Ballast tanks, excluding double bottom tanks where protective coating condition is less than "Good" (i.e., "Fair" or "Poor") and not repaired
- (b) Ballast tanks excluding double bottom tanks where protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction.

(2) Double-side skin void spaces bounding cargo holds for bulk carriers\*, exceeding 20 years of age and 150 meters in length

- (a) Void spaces where protective coating is found in "Poor" condition and is not repaired
- (b) Void spaces where protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction

\* "Bulk carriers" are ships defined as the following:

- (a) Ships constructed or converted with a single deck, topside tanks and hopper side tanks in cargo spaces, and intended primarily to carry dry cargoes in bulk

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- (b) Ships constructed or converted with a single deck, two longitudinal bulkheads and a double bottom throughout the cargo spaces, and intended primarily to carry ore cargoes in the centre holds only
  - (c) Combination carriers which are designed to carry either oil or solid cargoes in bulk, such as ore/oil carriers and ore/bulk/oil carriers, and have the same construction as the ships defined in (a) or (b) above
3. To facilitate smoother inspection preparations, ClassNK updated its internet information service NK-SHIPS to allow for easy confirmation of the coating condition of ballast tanks. For vessels with ballast tanks that are determined to have coating conditions below satisfactory levels and are subject to the aforementioned inspection, ClassNK set out the following Note (Class). When applying for periodical survey, please check the coating condition of the ballast tanks and the Note (Class) from NK-SHIPS, and prepare for internal inspections accordingly if necessary.

Example:

"WBT(S) recorded to be in fair or poor coating condition require an annual internal examination after 1 July 2024, except double bottom tanks."

For any questions about the above, please contact:

(Regarding Scope of Survey)

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1. Res. MSC.525(106)

**RESOLUTION MSC.525(106)**  
**(adopted on 10 November 2022)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME  
OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF BULK CARRIERS AND OIL TANKERS, 2011  
(2011 ESP CODE)**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

NOTING resolution A.1049(27), by which the Assembly adopted the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 ("the 2011 ESP Code"), which has become mandatory under chapter XI-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("the Convention"),

NOTING ALSO article VIII(b) and regulation XI-1/2 of the Convention concerning the procedure for amending the 2011 ESP Code,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 106th session, amendments to the 2011 ESP Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) of the Convention:

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the 2011 ESP Code, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention, that the said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2024, unless, prior to that date, more than one-third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet have notified their objections to the amendments;

3 INVITES Contracting Governments to the Convention to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 July 2024, upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article VIII(b)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention;

5 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

## ANNEX

### AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF BULK CARRIERS AND OIL TANKERS, 2011 (2011 ESP CODE)

#### Contents

1 Under "Annex A", "Part B", "3 Annual survey", a new item is added after existing paragraph 3.6, as follows:

"3.7 Examination of double-side skin void spaces for bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upwards"

#### ANNEX A

### CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE SURVEYS OF BULK CARRIERS

#### Part A

### CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF BULK CARRIERS HAVING SINGLE-SIDE SKIN CONSTRUCTION

#### 2 **Renewal survey**

#### 2.3 ***Space protection***

2 Paragraph 2.3.1 is replaced by the following:

"2.3.1 Where provided, the condition of the corrosion prevention system of ballast tanks shall be examined. For ballast tanks, excluding double-bottom tanks, where a hard protective coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition as defined in 1.2.11, and it is not renewed, or where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question shall be examined at annual intervals. Thickness measurements shall be carried out as deemed necessary by the surveyor. When such breakdown of hard protective coating is found in water ballast double-bottom tanks and it is not renewed, where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied or where a hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question may be examined at annual intervals. When considered necessary by the surveyor, or where extensive corrosion exists, thickness measurement shall be carried out."

#### 4 **Intermediate survey**

#### 4.2 ***Single-side skin bulk carriers 5 to 10 years of age***

3 Paragraphs 4.2.1.2 and 4.2.1.3 are replaced by the following:

"4.2.1.2 Where a hard coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition, corrosion or other defects are found in water ballast tanks, or where hard protective coating was not applied from the time of construction, the examination shall be extended to other ballast tanks of the same type.

4.2.1.3 In ballast tanks other than double-bottom tanks, where a hard protective coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition and it is not renewed, or where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating was

not applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question shall be examined and thickness measurements carried out as considered necessary at annual intervals. When such breakdown of hard protective coating is found in ballast double-bottom tanks, where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating has not been applied, the tanks in question may be examined at annual intervals. When considered necessary by the surveyor, or where extensive corrosion exists, thickness measurements shall be carried out."

#### ANNEX 7

### CONDITION EVALUATION REPORT (EXECUTIVE HULL SUMMARY REPORT)

#### *Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)*

4 Part 8 (Memoranda) is replaced by the following:

- "Part 8 – Memoranda
- Acceptable defects
  - Any points of attention for future surveys, e.g. for suspect areas
  - Examination of ballast tanks at annual surveys due to coating breakdown"

#### *Tank/hold corrosion prevention system*

5 The existing text of the paragraph after note no. 3 is replaced by the following:

"For ballast tanks, if coating condition less than GOOD is given, tanks shall be examined at annual surveys. This shall be noted in part 8 of the Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)."

#### ANNEX 9

### GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PLANNING OF ENHANCED SURVEYS FOR SINGLE-SIDE SKIN BULK CARRIERS – RENEWAL SURVEY HULL

#### *References*

6 The existing reference no. 3 (IACS) is replaced by the following:

- "3 IACS Recommendation 76, Guidelines for Surveys, Assessment and Repair of Hull Structure – Bulk Carriers, 2007".

#### Part B

### CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF BULK CARRIERS HAVING DOUBLE-SIDE SKIN CONSTRUCTION

2 **Renewal survey**

2.3 ***Space protection***

7 Paragraph 2.3.1 is replaced by the following:

"2.3.1 Where provided, the condition of the corrosion prevention system of ballast tanks shall be examined. For ballast tanks, excluding double-bottom tanks, where a hard protective coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition as defined

in 1.2.11, and it is not renewed, or where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question shall be examined at annual intervals. Thickness measurements shall be carried out as deemed necessary by the surveyor. When such breakdown of hard protective coating is found in water ballast double-bottom tanks and it is not renewed, where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied or where a hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question may be examined at annual intervals. When considered necessary by the surveyor, or where extensive corrosion exists, thickness measurement shall be carried out."

8 A new paragraph 2.3.4 is added after existing paragraph 2.3.3, as follows:

"2.3.4 For double-side skin void spaces bounding cargo holds for bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upwards, where provided, the condition of the corrosion prevention system of void spaces shall be examined. Where a hard protective coating is found to be in POOR condition as defined in 1.2.11, and it is not renewed, or where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction, the void spaces in question shall be examined at annual intervals. Thickness measurements shall be carried out as deemed necessary by the surveyor."

### 3 Annual survey

9 A new paragraph 3.7 is added after existing paragraph 3.6.2, as follows:

#### ***3.7 Examination of double-side skin void spaces for bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upwards***

Examination of double-side skin void spaces, for bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upwards, shall be carried out when required as a consequence of the results of the renewal survey and intermediate survey. When considered necessary by the Administration, or when extensive corrosion exists, thickness measurements shall be carried out. If the results of these thickness measurements indicate that substantial corrosion is found, the extent of thickness measurements shall be increased in accordance with annex 10. These extended thickness measurements shall be carried out before the survey is credited as completed. Suspect areas identified at previous surveys shall be examined. Areas of substantial corrosion identified at previous surveys shall have thickness measurements taken. For bulk carriers built under the IACS Common Structural Rules, the annual thickness gauging may be omitted where a protective coating has been applied in accordance with the coating manufacturer's requirements and is maintained in good condition."

### 4 Intermediate survey

#### ***4.2 Double-side skin bulk carriers 5 to 10 years of age***

##### ***4.2.1 Ballast tanks***

10 Paragraphs 4.2.1.2 and 4.2.1.3 are replaced by the following:

"4.2.1.2 Where a hard coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition, corrosion or other defects are found in water ballast tanks or where hard protective coating was not applied from the time of construction, the examination shall be extended to other ballast tanks of the same type.

4.2.1.3 In ballast tanks other than double-bottom tanks, where a hard protective coating is found to be in less than GOOD condition and it is not renewed, or where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating was not applied from the time of construction, the tanks in question shall be examined and thickness measurements carried out as considered necessary at annual intervals. When such breakdown of hard protective coating is found in ballast double-bottom tanks, where a soft or semi-hard coating has been applied, or where a hard protective coating has not been applied, the tanks in question may be examined at annual intervals. When considered necessary by the surveyor, or where extensive corrosion exists, thickness measurements shall be carried out."

## ANNEX 7

### CONDITION EVALUATION REPORT (EXECUTIVE HULL SUMMARY REPORT)

#### ***Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)***

11 Parts 5 (Tank/hold corrosion prevention system) and 8 (Memoranda) are replaced by the following:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| "Part 5 – Tank/hold/double-side skin void space corrosion prevention system | - Separate form indicating:<br>- location of coating<br>- condition of coating (if applicable)  |
| Part 8 – Memoranda  | - Acceptable defects<br>- Any points of attention for future surveys, e.g. for suspect areas<br>- Examination of ballast tanks and double-side skin void spaces at annual surveys due to coating breakdown" |

#### ***Tank/hold corrosion prevention system***

12 The chapeau of "Tank/hold corrosion prevention system", including the table and the text underneath, is replaced by the following:

#### **"Tank/hold/double-side skin void space corrosion prevention system"**

Tank/hold/void Nos. <sup>1</sup>	Tank/hold/void corrosion prevention system <sup>2</sup>	Coating condition <sup>3</sup>	Remarks

*Notes:*

- 1 All ballast tanks, cargo holds and double-side skin void spaces shall be listed.
- 2 C = Coating  
NP = No protection
- 3 Coating condition according to the following standard:  
  
 GOOD condition with only minor spot rusting.

**FAIR** condition with local breakdown of coating at edges of stiffeners and weld connections and/or light rusting over 20% or more of areas under consideration, but less than as defined for POOR condition.

**POOR** condition with general breakdown of coating over 20% or more of areas or hard scale at 10% or more of areas under consideration.

For ballast tanks, if coating condition less than GOOD is given, tanks shall be examined at annual surveys. This shall be noted in part 8 of the Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report).

For double-side skin void spaces on bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upwards, if coating condition POOR is given, those void spaces shall be examined at annual surveys. This shall be noted in part 8 of the Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)."

## ANNEX 9

### **GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PLANNING FOR ENHANCED SURVEYS OF DOUBLE-SIDE SKIN BULK CARRIERS – RENEWAL SURVEY HULL**

#### **References**

- 13 The existing references are replaced by the following:
- "1 IACS, Recommendation 76: Guidelines for Surveys, Assessment and Repair of Hull Structure – Bulk Carriers, 2007
  - 2 TSCF, Guidelines for the Inspection and Maintenance of Double Hull Tanker Structures, 1995
  - 3 TSCF, Guidelines Manual for Tanker Structures, 1997"

## ANNEX B

### **CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF OIL TANKERS**

#### **Part A**

### **CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF DOUBLE-HULL OIL TANKERS**

#### **1 General**

#### **1.2 Definitions**

- 14 Paragraph 1.2.1 is replaced by the following:

"1.2.1 *Double-hull oil tanker* is a ship which is constructed primarily for the carriage of oil in bulk, has cargo tanks forming an integral part of the ship's hull and is protected by a double-hull which extends for the entire length of the cargo area, consisting of double sides and double-bottom spaces for the carriage of water ballast or void spaces."



**2 Renewal survey**

**2.6 Extent of tank pressure testing**

15 Paragraph 2.6.1 is replaced by the following:

"2.6.1 The minimum requirements for ballast tank pressure testing at the renewal survey are given in 2.6.3 and in annex 3.

The minimum requirements for cargo tank testing at the renewal survey are given in 2.6.4 and annex 3.

Cargo tank testing carried out by the ship's crew under the direction of the master may be accepted by the surveyor, provided the following conditions are complied with:

- .1 a tank testing procedure, specifying fill heights, tanks being filled and bulkheads being tested, has been submitted by the owner and reviewed by the Administration prior to the testing being carried out;
- .2 the tank testing is carried out prior to the overall survey or close-up survey;
- .3 the tank testing is carried out within the special survey window and not more than three months prior to the date on which the overall or close-up survey is completed;
- .4 the tank testing has been satisfactorily carried out and there is no record of leakage, distortion or substantial corrosion that would affect the structural integrity of the tank;
- .5 the satisfactory results of the testing are recorded in the vessel's logbook; and
- .6 the internal and external condition of the tanks and associated structure are found satisfactory by the surveyor at the time of the overall and close-up survey."

ANNEX 10

**CONDITION EVALUATION REPORT (EXECUTIVE HULL SUMMARY REPORT)**

***Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)***

16 Part 9 (Memoranda) is replaced by the following:

- "Part 9 – Memoranda
- Acceptable defects
  - Any points of attention for future surveys, e.g. for suspect areas
  - Examination of ballast tanks at annual surveys due to coating breakdown"

### ***Tank corrosion prevention system***

17 The existing text of the paragraph after note 3 is replaced by the following:

"For ballast tanks, if coating condition less than GOOD is given, tanks shall be examined at annual surveys. This shall be noted in part 9 of the Contents of condition evaluation report (executive hull summary report)."

## ANNEX 12

### **GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PLANNING OF ENHANCED SURVEYS FOR OIL TANKERS**

#### ***References***

18 The existing references are replaced by the following:

- "1 IACS, Recommendation 96: Double Hull Oil Tankers – Guidelines for Surveys, Assessment and Repair of Hull Structures, 2019.
- 2 TSCF, Guidelines for the Inspection and Maintenance of Double Hull Tanker Structures, 1995.
- 3 TSCF, Guidelines Manual for Tanker Structures, 1997."

## **Part B**

### **CODE ON THE ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF INSPECTIONS DURING SURVEYS OF OIL TANKERS OTHER THAN DOUBLE-HULL OIL TANKERS**

#### **1 General**

##### **1.2 Definitions**

19 Paragraph 1.2.1 is replaced by the following:

"1.2.1 *Oil tanker* is a ship which is constructed primarily to carry oil in bulk in cargo tanks forming an integral part of the ship's hull, including ship types such as combination carriers (ore/oil ships, etc.) but excluding ships carrying oil in independent tanks which are not part of the ship's hull, such as asphalt carriers."

#### **2 Renewal Survey**

##### **2.6 Extent of tank pressure testing**

20 Paragraph 2.6.1 is replaced by the following:

"2.6.1 The minimum requirements for ballast tank pressure testing at the renewal survey are given in 2.6.3 and in annex 3.

The minimum requirements for cargo tank testing at the renewal survey are given in 2.6.4 and annex 3.

Cargo tank testing carried out by the ship's crew under the direction of the master may be accepted by the surveyor, provided the following conditions are complied with: