Class Entry for Existing Ships

For World Class Technical Service

A world leader in ship classification
Transfer of Class (TOC)

Transfer of Class (TOC) is the process that allows vessels classed with other members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) to be classed with ClassNK. Transfer of Class procedures have been laid down by IACS and these procedures provide clear responsibilities for both the gaining and losing societies with regards to TOC surveys and the submission of related documents and information.

Why Switch to ClassNK?

- Quality - From our Head Office staff to the ClassNK surveyors who attend each survey, all of our staff are highly regarded for their quality and experience, as well as their ability to respond quickly to client requests.
- Service - Registering with ClassNK ensures that our world class technical services are available throughout the life of the ship.
- Dedication - All TOC applications are handled by our dedicated Survey Department, ensuring a smooth class entry process while minimizing costs and operational disruptions.
- Convenience - Surveys can be arranged at the owner’s convenience, and once all necessary surveys have been completed, vessels can quickly return to normal operation.
Class Entry Process

How to Register with ClassNK

The class transfer process can be started at any time by contacting your local ClassNK office. Once a request or application has been received, our dedicated Survey Department will begin making TOC arrangements.

The Survey Department will review all necessary documents (plans, ship status, history, etc.) and coordinate the TOC survey. (See “General Procedure for TOC to ClassNK”.)

In most cases, the TOC survey can be combined with periodical survey requirements so as to minimize costs and limit disruptions to ship operation.
During the class entry process, the Survey Department will provide timely updates and instructions in order to prevent any difficulties or delays.
Plan Submission

Owners of ships classed with IACS members will be asked to submit the following hull and machinery plans, in accordance with IACS procedures.

Main Plans
- General Arrangement
- Capacity Plan
- Hydrostatic Curves
- Loading Manual (where required)

Hull Structure Plans
- Midship Section
- Scantling Plan
- Decks
- Shell Expansion
- Transverse Bulkheads
- Rudder and Rudder Stock
- Hatch Covers

Machinery Plans
- Machinery Arrangements
- Propeller
- Wiring Diagrams
- Bilge and Ballast Piping Diagrams
- Intermediate, Thrust and Screw Shafts
- Main Engines, Propulsion Gears and Clutch Systems
- Steering Gear Systems, Piping and Arrangements
- For Steam Turbine Vessels: Main Boilers, Superheaters and Economizers

Additional plans may be requested depending on the ship type, size, specification, flag state, navigation area, and/or other special requirements.
Requirements for TOC Survey

The following general survey requirements will usually apply depending on the ship’s age and the type of ship:

For vessels less than 5 years of age
- Survey equivalent to an Annual Survey

For vessels between 5 and 10 years of age
- Survey equivalent to an Annual Survey
- Inspection of a representative number of ballast tanks [at least the fore and aft peak tanks and two deep tanks within cargo length area]

For vessels of 10 years of age and above but less than 20 years of age
- Survey equivalent to an Annual Survey
- Inspection of a representative number of ballast tanks [at least the fore and aft peak tanks and two deep tanks within cargo length area]
  For tankers:
  - Inspection of a representative number of cargo tanks [at least one forward and one after cargo tanks]
  For other vessels:
  - Inspection of a representative number of cargo holds [at least one forward and one aft cargo hold]

For vessels with class notation (ESP) of 15 years of age and above but less than 20 years of age (tankers and bulk carriers)
- Survey equivalent to a Special Survey or Intermediate Survey, whichever is due next, including dry-docking.

For all vessels of 20 years of age and above
- Survey equivalent to a Special Survey, including dry-docking.

- If the vessel is not due for a dry-dock survey at the time of transfer, it may be possible to conduct an underwater examination in lieu of dry-docking.
- All overdue surveys and overdue recommendations from the losing society are to be completed and cleared prior to transfer. For ships 15 years of age or over, all overdue surveys and all overdue recommendations/conditions of class previously issued against the ship are to be completed and cleared by the losing society.
- For vessels wishing to change flag states, the Survey Department will provide specific instructions, as necessary.
- Additional surveys may be requested depending on the ship’s specifications, flag state, navigation area, and/or other special requirements.
Frequently Asked Questions

When can an owner submit an application for a TOC Survey to ClassNK?
A TOC Survey application can be made at any time and can be sent to any of ClassNK’s offices around the world.
As the TOC survey may be combined with a periodical survey, transferring within the regular survey period helps minimize cost and reduce operating disruptions.

Is it difficult to change a ship’s class to ClassNK?
Not at all. ClassNK has extensive experience with TOC, and ClassNK’s TOC procedures are designed to make the process as quick and efficient as possible. Our Survey Department will provide appropriate advice and information, as necessary, to ensure the process flows smoothly.

How are notations transferred?
ClassNK notations equivalent to those assigned by the former classification society will be assigned to the vessel. In some cases, it may be necessary to confirm that the contents of the previous classification society’s notations are the same as those of ClassNK.

Is there any age limit for ships registering with ClassNK?
There is no age limit for TOC to ClassNK.

ClassNK constantly strives to provide owners with the highest quality service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. By registering with ClassNK, owners can enjoy the high quality technical services and support that have made ClassNK a world leader in ship classification.