Overview

As a classification society, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, better known as ClassNK or simply NK, develops rules for safeguarding vessels, their crews, and the marine environment.

In order to help ensure the safety of the ships on our register, ClassNK provides a full range of survey, auditing, and services, including classification and statutory surveys, material and equipment approvals, auditing and registration of ship safety management systems and security systems, as well as certification of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems in accordance with international standards. As a certified international third party organization, ClassNK has in recent years expanded its certification services to wind power and marine energy equipment, and is working to develop solutions to diverse safety and environmental issues, as well as broaden its range of maritime business services to include the logistics sector. The Society is constantly working to meet new client needs in response to new regulations and changes in the industry. In addition to its main classification services, ClassNK will continue to promote and enhance new business through the latest technology such as IoT and Big Data.
ClassNK is dedicated to ensuring the safety of life and property as well as environmental protection and other related matters through various businesses related to classification, the establishment of various standards, inspection, registration, certification, and research and development, etc. To achieve this mission ClassNK will:

- Deliver the highest quality services, by the highest quality personnel, while maintaining our totally independent third party, non-profit status.
- Develop relevant rules, guidances, and procedures, and conduct technical research and development to positively contribute to the maritime industry.
- Maintain and develop our global operations in line with the needs of our clients.

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ClassNK maintains an ever expanding global service network. As of December of 2017, this network is comprised of 132 survey offices and six plan approval centers in Tokyo (Head Office), Busan, Shanghai, Singapore, Istanbul and Mumbai.
As of the end of December 2017, ClassNK provides classification and registration services to 9,172 vessels totaling more than 249.8 million gross tons, or roughly 20% of the world’s commercial fleet.
The ClassNK Rules

In addition to its Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships, ClassNK has established numerous other technical rules and guidelines. The ClassNK Rules embody the experience and technical knowledge the Society has gained over more than a century of ship classification activities. These rules not only cover a ship’s hull structure at the design stage, but also apply to materials used during construction, onboard machinery and equipment, and surveys and maintenance after the ship enters into service.

In addition, the rules also apply to the shipyards and service companies responsible for the ship’s construction, repair, and maintenance.

Rule Development

Just as international regulations are updated to address the latest research and technological developments, so too are the ClassNK Rules. The Society’s Development Operations Headquarters is dedicated to constantly updating, revising, and creating new rules based upon the Society’s own R&D projects and the activities of the IMO, IACS, and flag administrations. Once new rules are developed or existing rules are amended, the Society works to ensure that the details of such rules are widely disseminated through the regular updating of its website as well as various technical seminars, press releases, and other publications.

Manufacturer / Service Supplier Approvals

To assure and enhance the quality of the ships on its register, ClassNK conducts assessments of the quality systems, production processes and facilities of manufacturers involved in the production of materials, equipment and that of service suppliers engaged in the maintenance for equipment onboard.
Class Registration Surveys (Newbuildings)

Classification Surveys during Construction

As can be seen in the chart shown below, newbuilding classification is an extensive process with surveys that cover every stage of the ship’s construction. The ship’s plans, for example, must be approved by the technical staff at one of ClassNK’s six Plan Approval Centers located in the major shipbuilding regions of the world. Once construction of the ship has begun, ClassNK surveyors will certify that all materials, components, and fittings have been properly approved, and conduct regular surveys during the construction process. Once the newbuilding has been surveyed to the satisfaction of the surveyor, a certificate of classification or installation registration, as appropriate, is issued and the ship is entered into ClassNK’s Register of Ships. Such registration by the Society ensures the ship is recognized by port and flag administrations around the world, as well as underwriters all over the world, including the International Underwriting Association of London.

Material, Machinery, and Equipment Approvals (Type Approval)

In addition to the ship itself, certification is also required for the materials used in the construction of NK classed ships, as well as the machinery and equipment to be installed on such vessels. This approval process includes examination and approval of equipment and machinery plans, as well as approvals of manufacturing processes, followed by surveys to confirm that the actual materials, machinery, and equipment meet NK standards.

ClassNK offers approval services for the following materials, machinery and equipment:

- Steel materials such as steel plates and pipes, as well as other non-ferrous materials
- Welding consumables
- PSPC coating systems
- Fire protection materials, airborne sound insulation, insulation for refrigerated chambers, and oil-impervious materials
- Engine room machinery and equipment, electrical and automatic machinery
- Anchors, chains, ropes, and other marine equipment
- Life saving appliances, fire extinguishing systems, ventilating fittings
- Equipment for marine pollution prevention and other related systems
Class Maintenance Surveys (Ships in Service)

Once registered and classified with the Society, ships are provided with a classification certificate valid for 5 years. These vessels must undergo both periodic and occasional surveys as a condition of maintaining their certification.

ClassNK provides these services through its worldwide service network in order to ensure that surveys are completed anywhere in the world and with minimum disruption to the ship’s schedule.

ClassNK provides the following surveys as part of the class maintenance process:

- Annual surveys
- Special surveys
- Occasional surveys
- Intermediate surveys
- Docking surveys

Transfers of Class

Ships which have been constructed and registered in compliance with the rules of other IACS class societies may register with ClassNK by completing a transfer of class agreement (TOCA) and undergoing a survey by a ClassNK surveyor.
More than 100 flag administrations around the world recognize and authorize ClassNK to act on their behalf to conduct statutory surveys and audits and issue certificates in accordance with international conventions and codes, as well as national requirements pertaining to safety at sea and the prevention of marine pollution.

Major international conventions and codes directly relevant to the surveying, auditing and certification activities of the Society include the following.

**International Convention on Load Lines (ICLL)**
This Convention defines the limits of load lines (i.e. legal limit of loaded cargo weight) and tightness in order to ensure the safety and watertight integrity of the vessel.

**International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)**
The SOLAS Convention sets out safety standards for ship construction, fire integrity, life-saving equipment, and radio communications etc. for the purpose of safety of life at sea.

**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)**
This Convention sets out the requirements for preventing and minimizing pollution from ships including pollution by oil, noxious liquid substances in bulk, sewage from ships and air pollution from ships etc. in order to preserve the marine environment.

**Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG)**
The COLREG Convention defines navigational rules and requirements regarding signal display and shapes according to vessel type and voyage conditions in order to prevent vessel collisions at sea.

**International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (TONNAGE)**
The TONNAGE Convention i.e. TM69, which was introduced in 1969, sets out a universal system for the measurement of the gross and net tonnages of a ship.

The ISM Code sets out requirements for ship management companies to implement and maintain Safety Management System (SMS) by the company and on board in order to ensure the safe management and operation of vessels.

**International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)**
The ISPS Code stipulates requirements for ship management companies to implement and maintain Ship Security Plan (SSP) on board in order to ensure the safety and security of vessels and port facilities.

**Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006)**
The MLC stipulates requirements for shipowners to implement and maintain measures to comply with provisions for seafarers’ living and working conditions etc. on board ships in order to improve their occupational health and safety with the aim of fair competition within the shipping industry.

**International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling System on Ships, 2001 (AFS)**
In order to protect the marine environment and human health, regulations have been put in place for the use of anti-fouling hull paint containing tributyltin (TBT) and other organic tin compounds, used to prevent shells and other marine organisms from attaching to the hull.

**International Convention on the Control and Management of Ship’s Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM)**
Regulations for appropriate ballast water management on vessels were established in order to protect the marine environment from potentially harmful organisms contained in ballast water discharge.
Offshore Services

In addition to its ship classification services, ClassNK also offers a wide range of classification and technical services for the offshore sector, including classification and plan approvals for the following offshore structures:

- FSRU
- FLNG
- FPSO
- FSO
- Drilling rigs, Mega-Floats and OSVs etc.

ClassNK specialists can also provide comprehensive technical services to suit a wide variety of customer demands related to offshore projects, including rule development, plan approval, and site surveys.

The scope of class registration in these cases depends on the characteristics of each individual offshore unit. For an FPSO for example, the hull and mooring systems are generally registered in accordance with classification society rules, while for the topside facilities, classification is used only to certify the minimum safety standards for key equipment.

Although class registration is not required for many offshore facilities, classification societies are often requested to examine designs in accordance with other safety standards such as specific industry standards and oil company specifications which differ from standard classification requirements.

ClassNK carries out such examination/certification work as an independent third party upon the request of our customers.

Ongoing Activities in the Offshore Sector

ClassNK strives to be actively involved in a number of offshore development projects in order to establish design guidelines for new technologies in a timely manner.

The following are just some examples of the results that have been achieved through joint offshore R&D projects:

- Development of H2/CO2 FPSO design
- Development of FPSO/FSO mooring analysis Tool
- Development of a small scale FLNG
- Development of Micro-GTL (Gas to Liquid) plant on FPSO
- Risk assessment for FLNG Cryogenic Fluid Leakage
- Development of semi-submersible drilling rig for deep water
- Rigid Riser VIV (Vortex Induced Vibration) assessment

ClassNK continues to incorporate the outcomes of these projects into the latest ClassNK rules and guidance.
Certification Services
ClassNK offers a wide range of certification and auditing services for renewable energy technologies and management systems based on national and international standards in addition to a number of ISO standards. ClassNK's certification services are accredited by leading bodies both in Japan and internationally, and ClassNK certification is recognized as a mark of quality throughout the world.

Certification Services (PrimeManagement)

Industries across the full spectrum of the maritime community, from shipping and shipbuilding to seafarer training, are looking for ways in which to thrive in today's globalized world. Management systems certified to international standards have come to be seen as a key tool in boosting competitiveness and ensuring sustainable growth. As a result, demand for services supporting the development of such systems is on the increase.

Through its PrimeManagement service ClassNK provides the below certification for a range of management systems such as quality, energy, environmental, occupational health and safety, road traffic safety management systems, in addition to certifications for seafarer education and training:

Certification Services for Management Systems
- ISO9001 (Quality Management Systems)
- ISO14001 (Environmental Management Systems)
- ISO39001 (Road Traffic Safety Management Systems)
- ISO50001 (Energy Management Systems)
- OHSAS18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems)
- HSE (Health, Safety & Environment) Management Systems
- PAS1018 (Indirect, temperature-controlled refrigerated delivery service Management System)

Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions
- Verification according to Clean Shipping Index
- ASSET Scheme in Japan (advanced technologies promotion subsidy scheme with emission reduction targets)
- J-Credit Scheme in Japan
- Verification for CSR reports
- Verification for CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project)
- Verification following the requirements of ISO14064-1
- Validation and Verification following the requirement of ISO14064-2
- Assessment and Verification based on EU MRV
- Verification according to Clean Cargo Working Group

Certification Services for Renewable Energy Technologies

In order to support the industry's growing needs for renewable energy technologies, ClassNK provides and compiles guidelines for certification of diverse renewable energy facilities. ClassNK is contributing towards the creation of low carbon societies both in Japan and abroad through the below renewable energy certification services.

Large and Small Wind Turbines Certification Services
- Design certification, Type certification, Prototype certification
- Windfarm certification
- Project certification
- Classification survey for floating offshore wind turbines and their supporting structures

Marine Renewable Energy Convertors Certification Services
- Certification of marine renewable energy convertors (wave energy, tidal and marine energy, ocean thermal energy)

Marine Warranty Survey Services

Photos by ClassNK   FUKUSHIMA HAMAKAZE
Research and Development
In addition to its surveying services, ClassNK contributes to the maritime industry through research & development. This R&D not only relates to ship safety and protection of the marine environment, but also emphasizes collaboration with universities, research institutions, and the industry to promote joint research on common issues and to develop human resources while fulfilling ClassNK’s role as a classification society.

R&D Roadmap Schedule

The “ClassNK R&D Roadmap 2017”, which was established in July 2017, aims to bring about the innovation of maritime technology using the latest IT as well as help ensure the safety of life and property at sea, with specific focus on development in the following four areas:

- Rule Development (rationalization of existing rules, increased transparency/rationalization of new rule development)
- Survey Technology Innovation (revolutionizing surveys through high level ICT technologies, development of remote survey technologies and survey robots)
- Marine Environmental Protection (investigation trends in environmental regulations, developing evaluation and verification techniques for environmental protection technology)
- Revolutionary Technology Development (innovation of marine technology through digitalization, developing evaluation and verification techniques for revolutionary technologies)

The R&D activities of the above are based on the following two major elements:

- Foundational R&D geared towards Core Technologies* and Integrated HR Development through R&D
- Utilization of Damage Information for Major Damage Prevention

ClassNK will collaborate with universities, research institutions, and the industry to execute the R&D Roadmap together with contributions from the further development of human resources. Through this R&D, ClassNK aims to bring about the innovation of maritime technology using the latest IT based on its mission to help ensure the safety of life and property at sea.

Core Technologies are:

- Structure (non-linear, use active response analysis, implement load structure consistency analysis etc.)
- Motion, load (elastic response, load structure coupling, CFD, etc.)
- Material, welding (streamline fracture assessments, fatigue strength assessments, corrosion prediction etc.)
- Information, control, communications, electronics (AI, image processing, data analysis, etc.)
- Energy, environment (renewable energy, environmental impact, etc.)

Classification Related R&D

ClassNK has carried out R&D directly related to classification according to the research & development plans that reflect the opinions of the industry. In 2015 research and investigations were carried out into the structural strength of large container ships, liquefied gas carriers and pure car carriers respectively. The rules for the hull girder ultimate strength and direct strength analysis of large container ships were amended in 2016 and 2017 with consideration of the results from relevant research and investigations.
Technical Services and International Activities
ClassNK offers a comprehensive range of services to meet the specific needs of the maritime industry including a range of technical services for vessels throughout their lifetime in addition to a variety of technical seminars and ClassNK Academy courses which are provided to contribute toward the development of the international maritime community.

ClassNK is an active member and participant in both the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). ClassNK has established international committees throughout the world to allow for the open exchange of information between the Society and local maritime leaders in order to contribute toward the greater good of the global maritime industry.

### Technical Services

In addition to the PrimeShip suite of services, ClassNK offers a complete range of technical services and inspection services for the maritime industry and related industrial sectors as follows:

#### Maritime Appraisal and Certification Services
ClassNK’s technical services also encompass a broad spectrum of appraisal and certification services, including:

- Hull underwriter surveys
- Condition surveys
- Damage surveys and inspections
- Appraisal surveys for navigation
- Design and strength evaluations
- Ship Condition Assessment Program (CAP)
- Fuel and lubricating oil analysis
- Conformance certification for ship installations
- Tonnage certification for passage through the Suez and Panama canals
- Certification in accordance with special regional and national administration regulations
- Issuance of Statement of Compliance for IHM (Inventory of Hazardous Materials) under the Ship Recycling Convention
- Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP)

#### Industrial Inspection Services
ClassNK also conducts industrial surveys and inspections of machinery, materials and systems for shore-based plants, and similar industrial structures as shown below.

1. Inspections during the construction of boilers, pressure vessels, pressure piping, and other industrial machinery to be imported into the several countries on behalf of the local administration.
2. Inspections of purchase contracts as a designated third party.
3. Inspections as agents on behalf of the purchaser.

### ClassNK Academy and Technical Seminars

ClassNK makes its extensive experience, expertise, and technical knowledge available to the entire maritime community via ClassNK Academy courses and technical seminars to expand the knowledge of clients who range from beginners to experts and contribute to the growth and development of the maritime community. ClassNK regularly provides a variety of ClassNK Academy courses with a focus on surveys and other inspections on-demand in countries around the world, and all courses are taught by not only ClassNK staff, but also experienced shipping and shipbuilding professionals.

ClassNK also holds regular technical seminars for its clients and maritime stakeholders around the world, providing in-depth analysis on a wide number of technical and statutory issues.

### International Activities

As a global organization, ClassNK maintains membership in a number of international decision and rule-making bodies, and contributes to numerous maritime bodies around the globe.

ClassNK is an active participant in the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), and greatly contributes to the development of rules and regulations, such as the IACS Unified Requirements (UR) and Unified Interpretations (UI). ClassNK also dispatches experts and researchers to meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), both as representatives of IACS and the Japanese government, among other international activities conducted by the Society.

In order to contribute to the greater good of the entire global maritime community, ClassNK has established international committees throughout the world to allow for the open exchange of information between the Society and local maritime leaders.
We live in a society in which IoT, Big Data analysis, and AI are being used for improvement in productivity and sophistication of industrial infrastructure, and ultimately, added value and competitiveness.

ClassNK provides advanced software and services that take advantage of digitalization for the safety and productivity of our clients. This section introduces those main digitalization services.

**Safe Ships**

**H-CSR software**

The world’s first essential support tool for H-CSR “IACS Common Structural Rules for Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers” designs

This software for hull designers has been completely upgraded through the introduction of the latest IT based on knowledge accumulated through the development of our array of software solutions and on CSR-OT and CSR-BC user demands. It supports the efficiency of basic hull designs in line with H-CSR with its newly developed features and enhanced existing features.

**Hull Maintenance**

**PrimeShip-HULLCare**

Supports ship-specific maintenance with databases of maintenance information collected from vast amounts of surveys

Compiles and categorizes survey data collected from across ClassNK’s global service network to provide hull maintenance information for each vessel registered for the Enhanced Survey Program (ESP) scheme. Using colorful and intuitive displays, users can verify the history of the hull condition for each of its vessels, and create an appropriate maintenance management plan.

**Condition Based Maintenance**

**ClassNK CMAXS**

Software which uses highly advanced IBM algorithms to detect abnormalities

Enabling safe vessel operation and life cycle cost reduction through the use of Big Data, this software can unitarily manage system state diagnostics of various threats. ClassNK-CMAXS consists of two systems: ClassNK CMAXS LC-A which carries out abnormality/status diagnostics of machinery using advanced data analysis technology, and ClassNK-CMAXS e-GICS which carries out diagnostics of the main engine.
Compliance

GBS-SCF Onshore Archive Center

**ClassNK Archive Center Service**

The world's first cloud-based Archive Center service compliant with the IMO GBS “Ship Construction File” requirements

ClassNK Archive Center (NKAC) was established as the world's first archive center compliant with the IMO GBS (Goal-based Standards) and industry requirements. NKAC has been certified in accordance with Information Security Management System (ISO-27001) and from its position as a third party, provides an environment in which the entire industry can safely store and operate SCF (Ship Construction File) electronic data onboard and onshore with peace of mind. NKAC can also be used for the storage and management of documents other than GBS-SCF.

Green Industry

IHM development and maintenance

**PrimeShip-GREEN/SRM**

Widely adopted as a de-facto standard software that significantly reduces the burden for the IHM

The software supports the development and maintenance of "Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM)" required by regulations for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling. It realizes the efficient information exchange between shipping companies, shipbuilders, and suppliers, and generates the IHM automatically with minimum input, resulting in great reduction of the burden associated with IHM.

Efficient Operations

Electronic Certificate

**ClassNK e-Certificate**

The comprehensive electronic class and statutory certificate system which reduces administrative burdens and costs associated with the shipping/preservation of documents

The service issues class and statutory certificates in electronic format (PDF) to vessels to reduce administrative burdens and costs associated with the shipping/preservation of documents. It is in compliance with the IMO “Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates” (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2).

Voyage Optimization

**ClassNK-NAPA GREEN**

Comprehensive tools that provide optimal fleet maintenance and operation with ship performance monitoring and analysis based on ship-specific Big Data

This system (of software and service) carries out ship operation/performance monitoring and offers an optimal weather route, speed profile and trim to reduce fuel consumption/emissions, thus providing tangible and proven savings.

This system is equipped with a self-learning performance model that provides optimal voyage plans and maintenance with high accuracy.

Big Data Platform

**Ship Data Center (ShipDC)**

Ship Data Center Inc. was established for the wide adoption and promotion of IoT (IoT for ships) data

Going beyond individual shipowners, shipyards, and so on, ShipDC collects and provides vessel data to the various players of the maritime industry and promotes an open platform structure. While various players concentrate on their area of specialty in data circulation like the collection, storage, analysis, and use of data, Ship DC fulfills its role as an independent data center and contributes to the wide use and promotion of maritime IoT data.
The Board of Directors consists of Directors appointed by the Administrative Council. Amongst other things, the Board of Directors determines the work to be carried out by the Society, oversees the activities of the Directors, and performs other duties as prescribed under applicable laws and regulations of the Society.

The Technical Committee consists of Officers of the Society as well as representatives appointed from among shipowners, shipbuilders and manufacturers, producers of ship-use materials, as well as other persons of relevant learning and experience. It deliberates on various matters related to the establishment, revision, and abolition of rules regarding the classification and survey of ships.

The Marine Committee consists of Officers of the Society as well as representatives appointed from among shipowners, various organizations, as well as other persons of relevant learning and experience. It deliberates on various matters related to the establishment, revision, and abolition of rules regarding the operation of ships.

Auditors are appointed by the Council. Auditors audit the execution of duties by the Directors and prepare audit reports in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations.

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1899
Teikoku Kaiji Kyokai (TKK) is established
The Teikoku Kaiji Kyokai (TKK), forerunner to the present Society Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK), is born. Prince Takehito Arisugawa is elected as President of the Society.

1920
TKK classes first ship
The Kwanan Maru becomes the first ship to receive a class certificate from TKK. Following the classification of the Kwanan Maru, the TKK’s register continues to grow until it reaches over 1 million gross tons in 1929.

1946
Society is renamed
The Society is renamed the Nippon Kaiji Kyokai. This is later abbreviated to NK and in 1992 the ClassNK name and logo is created.

1962
NK establishes branch offices in New York and London
In response to the growth in ship registrations, ClassNK establishes its first overseas branch offices to provide surveys all over the world. Today, ClassNK has around 130 exclusive survey offices in 50 different countries worldwide where it performs surveys 24/7.

2011
ClassNK becomes a General Incorporated Foundation
ClassNK becomes a General Incorporated Foundation under Japanese law, paving the way for running subsidiary companies. ClassNK can now provide an even wider range of services to the industry.

2012
NK fleet tops 200 million tons
Along with the growth of the maritime industry, the ClassNK fleet continues to expand. After reaching ten million gross tons in 1965, 30 years later in 1997 this figure increases tenfold to 100 million until ClassNK becomes the first in the industry to reach 200 million gross tons in 2012.
An introduction to ClassNK

[English]