Black-out Tests in Special Surveys

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B
Rules for Automatic and Remote Control Systems
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B
Guidance for Automatic and Remote Control Systems

Reason for Amendment

For ships in service whose keels were laid on or after 1 July 1998, the ClassNK Rules, in accordance with SOLAS II-1, Reg. 41.5, require that the main power supply to equipment necessary for propulsion and steering as well as ensuring ship safety is to be continuous or capable of being immediately restored in the case of the loss of any one of the generators in service. Furthermore, the ClassNK Rules also specify that blackout tests are to be carried out during sea trials to verify the automatic starting of standby power supply units in the case of such generator loss.

Although blackout tests during Special Surveys are clearly required for ships which have monitoring and control systems for periodically unattended machinery spaces (hereinafter referred to as “M0 Ships”), the requirements for ships which do not have monitoring and control systems for periodically unattended machinery spaces (hereinafter referred to as “non-M0 Ships”) are not as clear. For ships subject to the requirements of continuous main power supplies, blackout tests are an essential way to verify the soundness of electrical systems and should be carried out regardless of whether the ship is a M0 Ship or a non-M0 Ship. Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended to specify that blackout tests were to be carried out for non-M0 Ships during Special Surveys in the same manner as is required for M0 Ships.

Outline of Amendment

(1) Added performance tests to verify the automatic starting of standby power supply units after blackout to the Special Survey items of non-M0 Ships.
(2) Eliminated unnecessary redundancy between the Rules for Automatic and Remote Control Systems and the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B by deleting duplicate requirements from the former.