

New requirements for anchor handling winches due to amendments to SOLAS II-1 (Retroactive requirements)

To whom it may concern

ClassNK Technical Information No. TEC 1359 (issued on 8 August 2025) and No. TEC-1361 (issued on 1 September 2025) each contain information about requirements for lifting appliances and anchor handling winches being incorporated into Regulation II-1/3-13 of SOLAS.

Since 3-13 applies to existing vessels, this Technical Information is being sent out as a reminder to all concerned parties of the detailed applicability conditions and required actions.

1. Application and class notation / installation character

In the past, ClassNK has affixed the class notation "Anchor Handling Vessel (abbreviated as AHV)" to the classification characters of anchor handling vessels (i.e. vessels engaged in the installation, moving and taking up of the mooring anchors of mobile offshore drilling units, dredgers and other similar work ships) in accordance with Chapter 8, Part O of its Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships based on the applications it received. The requirements of this SOLAS amendment are mandatory for anchor handling winches whose intended purpose is the deploying, recovering and repositioning anchors and mooring lines in subsea operations that are installed on all vessels of 500 gross tonnage and above engaged in international voyages.

ClassNK stipulates relevant requirements for such winches in Part 2 of its Rules for Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches, and vessels to which these requirements apply are to be affixed with the installation character "Anchor Handling Winch (abbreviated as AHW)".

Accordingly, the treatment of the class notation and the installation character for vessels to which these requirements apply is as follows.

(1) Anchor handling vessels (with class notation "AHV")

Affix the installation character "AHW"

(2) Anchor handling vessels (without^{*1} class notation "AHV")

Affix the class notation "AHV" and the installation character "AHW"

^{*1} Since the class notation "AHV" had not been a mandatory requirement, there may be cases in which an existing anchor handling vessel installed with an anchor handling winch has yet to have the class notation affixed to its classification characters.

(3) Other vessels using winches for anchor handling operations

Affix the installation character "AHW"

2. Timing of retroactive application

In addition to being applicable to anchor handling winches installed on or after 1 January 2026, the requirements of this SOLAS amendment are also to be applied retroactively to the following anchor handling winches. The applicable dates are as follows.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- (1) Anchor handling winches installed^{*2} before 1 January 2026 on existing vessels (i.e. vessels completed and delivered before 1 January 2026)
Before the first periodical survey (i.e. Annual, Intermediate or Renewal Survey) for Safety Construction (hereinafter SC) Certificates held on or after 1 January 2026
 - (2) Anchor handling winches installed^{*2} before 1 January 2026 on vessels still at the newbuilding stage (i.e. vessels completed and delivered on or after 1 January 2026)
Before registration surveys for SC Certificates held on or after 1 January 2026
- ^{*2} In this context, "installed" means either the contractual delivery date for the anchor handling winch, or the actual delivery date of the anchor handling winch in the absence of a contractual delivery date.

3. Necessary action for retroactive application

- (1) When affixing the class notation "AHV" (refer to 1. (2) above)
 - (i) Submission of plans and documents
The following plans and documents are to be submitted to the ClassNK Hull Department no later than one month prior to the survey's scheduled commencement date.
[For approval purposes]
 - Plans showing the arrangements of anchor handling equipment
 - Details of the supporting structures for anchor handling equipment
 - Stability information for ships engaged in anchor handling operations
 [For reference purposes]
 - Details of anchor handling equipment
 - Calculation sheets of the supporting structures for anchor handling equipment
 - (ii) Application for survey
Applied the following survey item after the completion of drawing review.
 - Survey as deemed necessary based on a drawing review (e.g. general examination)
- (2) When affixing the installation character "AHW" (refer to 1. (1), (2) and (3) above)
 - (i) Submission of plans and documents
The following plans and documents are to be submitted to the ClassNK Machinery Department no later than one month prior to the scheduled survey.
[For approval purposes]
 - General arrangement of anchor handling winches
 - Construction drawings of anchor handling winches
 - Drawings of fittings
 - Arrangement of loose gear
 - List of loose gear
 - Construction drawings of driving gears
 - Power system diagrams
 - Drawings of operation and control mechanisms
 - Drawings of safety devices
 - Drawings of protective devices
 - Other drawings and documents as deemed necessary by the ClassNK
 [For reference purposes]
 - Specifications for anchor handling winches
 - Operation and maintenance manuals for anchor handling winches

(To be continued)

In cases where drawings required to be maintained on vessels have either been lost or are no longer available due to the concerned manufacturer ceasing operations, please prepare the necessary documents in advance through consultation with relevant parties (such as the manufacturer's successors, representative agents or associated maintenance contractors). Such drawings and documents may, however, be omitted in lieu of submitting relevant past survey records and certificates. In such cases, relevant records and certificates are to be submitted to the ClassNK Branch or Overseas Survey Office in charge of the survey no later than two weeks prior to the survey's scheduled commencement date.

(ii) Application for survey

Applied the following items after the completion of drawing review.

- Thorough examinations
[2.4, Part 2 of the Rules for Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches]
- Operational and functional testing
[2.3.2-2(5) and 2.5, Part 2 of the Rules for Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches]

For any questions about the above, please contact:

[Application of requirements for AHW or other general questions]

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[Application of requirements for AHV]

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[Survey requirements]

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[ClassNK Rules and IACS information]

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