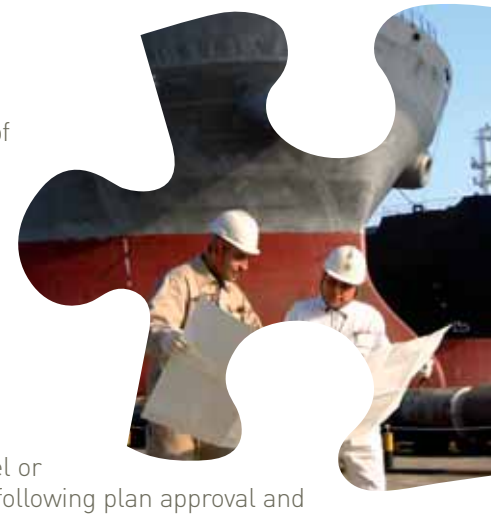
Bureau Veritas
Services

BUREAU VERITAS
Move Forward with Confidence

Classification of ships and offshore units

Providing assurances about vessel safety and reliability



BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Ship builders and ship owners want to ensure the best possible safety and reliability of their vessels along their whole life cycle. Today, there are many stakeholders who need to know the status of a ship's structure and machinery: insurers, bankers, charterers, ship crew and passengers, port authorities and communities living in vulnerable coasts where the ship may trade.

SOLUTION

What is the classification of ships and offshore units?
Classification consists of a representation of the level of compliance of a ship, vessel or offshore structure to the rules set up by a classification society. This is established following plan approval and surveys carried out by the society's experts, as provided for in the rules. Ship classification provides a point of reference on ship safety and reliability to shipbuilders, ship repairers, shipbrokers, charterers, Flag Administrations, insurers and the financial community. It is represented by a class, entered on classification certificates and transcribed in the register of ships published periodically by the society.
As one of the leading classification societies in the world, Bureau Veritas establishes and applies rules in relation to the design and construction of a ship, and assesses the structural strength of the ship as well as reliability of the machinery on board during its life.

What are the key benefits?

- Provides a written assurance that the vessel is in compliance with classification standards.
- Ensures licence to operate for ship owner.
- Contributes to the protection of human life and marine environments.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS ?

Reputation ■ Founded in 1828, Bureau Veritas was one of the first classification societies and a founding member of IACS (International Association of Classification Societies, gathering the 10 leading classification societies in the world).

Network ■ The worldwide BV network has more than 1,000 high qualified marine surveyors, specialized in the implementation of safety, security, and protection of environment rules and standards, operating in 420 survey stations in 140 countries.

Speed of response ■ Bureau Veritas provides a single convenient point of contact to each client, and a large autonomy to its local managers for plan approval, surveys and issue of certificates.

Efficient IT tools ■ Bureau Veritas' own VeriSTAR system is a powerful and sophisticated tool that facilitates the efficient management of safety and quality. It integrates all the elements of ship operation to provide timely and cost-effective solutions across a broad range of classification services.

RELATED SERVICES

In addition to classification, Bureau Veritas offers a wide range of related services.

- Statutory and non-statutory certification
- Technical assistance
- Training

Move Forward with Confidence

OUR APPROACH

When the classification of a ship or offshore unit is requested before its construction, Bureau Veritas provides three categories of service:

- Approval of plans and documentation.
- Appraisal of the design of materials and equipment used in the construction of the ship and their inspection at work, when required.
- Survey during construction at shipyards and attendance at tests and trials.

When a shipowner requests the classification of a ship already in service, the services will be different depending on whether the ship is classed or not with another society member of IACS (International Association of Classification Societies).

- For ships classed with an IACS society, the Bureau Veritas services are centered on surveys, the scope and conditions of execution which take into account the ship's type, age, its conditions of maintenance and the class previously granted by the former classification society, and include the collection of main documents.
- For ships not classed with an IACS society, the class of the ship will be assigned upon a preliminary review of the documentation and subsequent satisfactory completion of a class renewal survey.

FAQ

Do you have a coherent mission statement encompassing life, property and the environment? What is it?

Class societies have a fundamental role to play in preventing accidents at sea, through their dual role in the classification and certification of ships. Certification, which is a public service performed by the class societies as authorized agents of many Flag States signatory to IMO conventions, consists of verifying compliance with IMO regulations of vessels registered under these Flags.

Classification and certification performed by Bureau Veritas have the advantage of a single organization verifying compliance with the construction, equipment and operational safety standards set by IACS members and the international community.

Which measures has Bureau Veritas taken to eliminate substandard vessels?

Quality is fully integrated into the Bureau Veritas strategy for development. In order to achieve this primary objective, Bureau Veritas launched a plan to raise the quality of its fleet. This plan is based on 5 basic actions:

- Focus on quality owners.
- Fleet monitoring.
- Systematization of vertical audits.
- Class-entry filtering.
- Training and certification of Bureau Veritas surveyors.

CLIENT REFERENCES

Bureau Veritas has earned the confidence of many leading companies in the marine sector, including:

- **Shipyards:** Aker Yards, Dalian, DSME, Fincantieri, Hyundai, IHI, Mitsubishi, Samsung, SWS, Universal.
- **Marine Equipment Manufacturers:** Bao Steel, Caterpillar, FFE Holdings, Hyundai, Man, Mitsui, Mittal Steel, POSCO, Reintjes, Schneider, Wartsilä.
- **Ship owners:** Anangel, Boskalis, Broström, Cardiff Maritime, CMA-CGM, Dynacom, Groupe Bourbon, Dredging International, Enterprises Shipping & Trading, Exmar, Jan De Nul, Louis Dreyfus, Maersk, MSC, Nisshin, Norden, Tsakos.

CONTACT

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