

REVIEW OF AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS EDITION OF THE RULES

RULES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF SHIPS

Part 1 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 4 – Approval of manufactures and service suppliers

All major changes in respect to Rules for the Classification of Ships, Part 1 – General requirements, Chapter 4 – Approval of manufacturers and service suppliers, edition January 2025 throughout the text are shaded (if any).

Items not being indicated as corrected have not been changed.

The grammar and print errors have been corrected throughout the Rules and are not subject to above indication of changes.

The subject Chapter of the Rules includes the requirements of the following international Organisations:

International Maritime Organization (IMO):

Resolutions:

International Association of Classification Societies (IACS):

Unified Requirements (UR): Z17 (Rev. 19, Oct. 2024), Z17 (Rev. 20, Nov. 2024)

Chapter 4 **APPROVAL OF MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICE SUPPLIERS**

Contents:

	Page
1 APPROVAL OF MANUFACTURERS.....	1
1.1 GENERAL.....	1
1.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL.....	1
1.3 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL.....	1
1.4 APPROVAL PROCEDURE.....	2
1.5 DECISION ON APPROVAL.....	2
1.6 VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF THE MANUFACTURER.....	2
2 APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS.....	4
2.1 GENERAL.....	4
2.2 APPLICATION.....	4
2.3 PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION.....	5
2.4 CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE.....	6
2.5 DECISION ON APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIER.....	7
2.6 VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIER.....	7
2.7 INFORMATION REGARDING ALTERATIONS TO THE CERTIFIED SERVICE OPERATING SYSTEM.....	7
2.8 CANCELLATION OF APPROVAL.....	7

1 APPROVAL OF MANUFACTURERS

1.1 GENERAL

1.1.1 This section of this Chapter of the *Rules for the classification of ships* (hereafter referred to as: the Rules) of **CROATIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING** (hereinafter referred to as: the *Register*) is prescribing requirements for the approval of manufacturers.

Manufacturers producing particular machinery, installations, equipment, devices and materials (hereinafter referred to as products) which in compliance with the requirements of the Rules are subjected to the supervision of the *Register*, are to be approved by the *Register*.

Manufacturers of the products for which it cannot be proved that they meet the requirements of the Rules by means of usual methods of testing and supervision, except in case that their manufacture is performed to the prescribed procedures and under controlled conditions (documentation, manufacture, checking during manufacture, identification) shall be approved by the *Register*.

1.1.2 The objective of the approval is to verify that the manufacturer is able to make and deliver products that are fulfilling the requirements of the Rules regarding quality identification and documentation.

1.1.3 The approval of the manufacturer applies to the manufacturer of the products such as:

- .1 Rolled steel products:
 - a) normal strength, high strength and extra high strength structural steel of normal and improved weldability,
 - b) boiler and pressure vessel steel,
 - c) steel for low temperature service,
 - d) alloy steel including stainless steel,
 - e) clad steel.
- .2 Welded steel sections for hull construction and low temperature service.
- .3 Steel forgings.
- .4 Castings (steel, iron, and copper alloy).
- .5 Tubes and pipes.
- .6 Semi-products for rolled steel products, steel forgings and steel tubes and pipes.
- .7 Bars for chain cables.
- .8 Chain cables and accessories for ship anchor chain.
- .9 Steel wire rope.
- .10 Wrought aluminium alloys.
- .11 Aluminium/steel transition inserts.
- .12 Pressure vessels manufactured by welding.
- .13 Synthetic ropes.
- .14 Components and products of synthetic materials, and other organic origin materials.
- .15 Components and non-metallic products of non-organic origin.
- .16 Protective coatings and other anti-corrosive means.

1.1.4 In addition to the manufacturers referred to in 1.1.3., other manufacturers to which the requirements in other

parts of the Rules are expressly applied to, shall be approved by the *Register*.

1.1.5 The manufacturers which have implemented and maintained Quality System according with ISO 9001 standard (or equivalent) with certificates on approval and stamps of other institutions will be considered by the *Register* in each particular case.

1.1.6 The manufacturers which are not approved in compliance with the requirements of 1.1.1, may be approved by the *Register* from case to case applying the criteria of the equivalence referred to in the Rules, *Chapter 1 - General information, 1.11*.

1.1.7 Issuing of the certificate of approval of the manufacturer will not exclude the need for type approval of particular products according to the requirements of the Rules (see the Rules, *Chapter 3 - Type approval of products*).

1.1.8 Issuing of the certificate of approval of the manufacturer will not exclude the need for supervision and certification of products during regular production.

1.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL

1.2.1 In order to get the approval for production of determined products, the manufacturer shall meet the following requirements:

- .1 Availability of proper and sufficient equipment for manufacture of product of stable quality and in adequate manner.
- .2 Availability of sufficient number of qualified professional staff for manufacture of product of required quality.
- .3 Manufacturing procedures should enable achievement of stable quality products in accordance with the requirements of the Rules, as well as with standards and specifications accepted by the *Register*.
- .4 Availability of qualified technical service for quality control including qualified staff and regularly gauged equipment for successful performing of all necessary tests during manufacture in order to verify conformity with the Rule standards, and specifications requirements.
- .5 If some of tests or all tests are performed by external organization, then such institution as service supplier is required to be approved by the *Register*. Manufacturer and such institution are obliged to have cooperative agreement.
- .6 Manufacturer's Quality System is to ensure independent decision making on quality of products to aforementioned technical service for quality control.

1.3 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

1.3.1 The manufacturer who wants the manufacture of determined product to be approved by the *Register*, shall apply to the *Register* in writing. The following elaborate shall be enclosed thereto containing:

- .1 Products to be approved.

- .2 Production procedures (short description of every phase in production process).
- .3 Chemical composition (for materials).
- .4 Delivery conditions of product including particular features and dimensions.
- .5 List of equipment used in production.
- .6 Description of quality control system including list of qualified staff and testing equipment.
- .7 List of external testing institutions performing tests (fully or partially) and information on authorities that certified them. If such institution has not been approved by the *Register* the whole of the institution or just the part of it is to be subjected to approval procedure.
- .8 Particulars on achievements in production, especially in manufacture of products for which approval is requested. Given data are to be statistically elaborated for manufacturing period of at least last six months.
- .9 Particulars on eventual certification of manufacturer's Quality System according to ISO 9001.
- .10 List of subcontractors and suppliers with the description of receiving inspection procedure (on all incoming material) as a part of the manufacturer's Quality System.

1.3.2 During survey and testing or afterwards the *Register* may request additional data or amendments to the elaborate, as deemed necessary, for laying down decision on approval.

1.3.3 After elaborating the relevant documents, the *Register* shall provide to the manufacturer the approved testing program.

1.3.4 On the basis of data from 1.3.1.8 and 1.3.1.9 the *Register* may reduce the testing program, or recede from testing, if upon first testing for acceptance on determined products verify full compliance with the requirements of the Rules, standards or specifications applied for that testing.

1.3.5 The *Register* is liable to keep all obtained data as a manufacturer's business secret.

The *Register* may transfer technical data to third parties, with approval in writing of the manufacturers only.

1.3.6 If subcontractor's representative is a member of the *Register's Assessment Team*, then the *Register's* duty is to oblige him to keep business secret on writing agreement.

1.4 APPROVAL PROCEDURE

1.4.1 The procedure consists of:

- .1 Checking the condition of the manufacturer and his production possibilities specified in the elaborate, as well as the needs for possible amendments.
- .2 Appraisal of the testing results upon testing carried out to approved testing program (and possible additional tests).

1.4.2 Activities under 1.4.1.1 and 1.4.1.2 are to be performed by the *Assessment Team* appointed by the *Register*.

1.4.3 In general the *Assessment Team* consists of a Surveyor from the Head Office who is an expert in manufacture to be approved, and the Surveyor from the Branch office covering the area where the manufacturer is sited.

1.4.4 If the technology of manufacturing particular product is complex, the *Register* may include other appropriate experts. One of the experts will be appointed as a leader of the *Assessment Team (Lead Assessor)*.

The *Register* retains the right to engage on contractual basis eminent experts from outside of the *Register* if deemed it necessary.

1.4.5 On completion of approval procedure, the *Assessment Team* shall submit to the *Certification Commission* of the *Register* detailed assessment report including recommendation regarding approval of the manufacturer.

It is not allowed for a member of the *Assessment Team* to be also a member of the *Certification Commission* of the *Register*.

1.5 DECISION ON APPROVAL

1.5.1 The *Certification Commission* of the *Register* shall decide on approval of the manufacturer on the basis of the elaborate, assessment report and appraisal of the testing results (according to approved testing program) submitted by the *Assessment Team*.

Decision on approval comprise approval of manufacturing of determined product and also includes the approval of the manufacturer's Quality System.

If manufacturer has documented Quality System complying with ISO 9001 standard (or equivalent), the *Certification Commission* of the *Register* may consider it acceptable.

1.5.2 The manufacturer reserves the right to complain about the decision of the *Certification Commission* of the *Register*.

The complaint shall be submitted to the Commission referred to in the regulation 39 of the *Charter* of the *Register*.

1.5.3 After laying down the decision on approval of the manufacturer, the certificate of approval of the manufacturer will be issued to the manufacturer, and entry of approved manufacturer in the *List of type approved products, approved manufacturers and service suppliers* available on the official web site of the *Register* will be made.

1.6 VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF THE MANUFACTURER

1.6.1 Certificate of approval of the manufacturer shall be valid for a period of four (4) years, if the manufacturer during that validity period shall meet the requirements as stated in 1.2.

If any of mentioned requirements, or essential method of production happens to be changed, the manufacturer is bound to inform the *Register* in due time, as well as to

apply for the extension of approval to the new method or manufacture.

If the manufacturer shall not proceed as specified, the certificate of approval of the manufacturer may be withdrawn or cancelled and manufacturer deleted from the *List of type approved products and approved manufacturers*, as well.

1.6.2 Generally, three months before the expiry date of the Certificate of approval of the manufacturer, the *Register* shall send a written reminder to the manufacturer.

At least one month before the expiry date of the validity of the Certificate, the manufacturer should apply to the *Register* in writing, for re-assessment for renewal of the validity of the Certificate of approval of the manufacturer.

1.6.3 Re-assessment for renewal of the approval consists of checking at random, and inspection of all production plants and testing facilities used in the manufacture and testing of product, as well as verification of the efficiency of the manufacturer's Quality System.

1.6.4 The *Register* may, within the term specified in 1.6.1, require performing periodical surveys, if found out that the quality of products has been considerably imperilled, with regard to criteria under which manufacturer has been approved, if receives information on change of the production method independently of the manufacturer, or furthermore, in case of an essential alternation of particular requirements of the Rules, either standards, specifications or conventions.

1.6.5 On completion of periodical, survey *Assessment Team* shall submit to the manufacturer report inclusive non-conformities found during survey, and term for implementation of the corrective actions.

1.6.6 If the manufacturer does not apply corrective measures within a reasonable time or does not fulfil additional requirements imposed by the *Register*, or does not proceed as specified in 1.6.2, then it will be deleted from the *List of type approved products, approved manufacturers and service suppliers*.

2 APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 This section of this Chapter of the Rules is prescribing requirements for approval of service suppliers.

2.1.2 To approve firms providing services, such as measurements, tests or maintenance of safety systems and equipment, the *Register* is to apply procedures in this section and in the following document of the *Register*, QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS (available upon request).

The *Register* may also accept results of the services from service suppliers approved by other classification societies, if being IACS members only.

2.2 APPLICATION

2.2.1 This section applies to the approval of the following categories of service suppliers:

2.2.1.1 Statutory services:

- .1 Firms engaged in servicing inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, hydrostatic release units, marine evacuation systems.
- .2 Firms engaged in inspections and testing of radio communication equipment.
- .3 Firms engaged in inspections and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- .4 Firms engaged in annual performance testing of Voyage Data Recorders (VDR) and simplified Voyage Data Recorders (S-VDR).
- .5 Firms engaged in sound pressure level measurements of public address and general alarm systems on board ships.
- .6 Firms engaged in inspections of low location lighting systems using photo luminescent materials and evacuation guidance systems used as an alternative to low-location lighting systems.
- .7 Firms engaged in maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.
- .8 Firms engaged in inspection, performance testing and maintenance of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS).
- .9 Firms engaged in Commissioning Testing of Ballast Water Management System (BWMS).

2.2.1.2 Classification and/or Statutory services:

- .1 Firms engaged in thickness measurements on ships or mobile offshore units.
- .2 Firms carrying out an in-water survey on ships and mobile offshore units by diver or Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

- .3 Firms engaged in inspections and maintenance of fire extinguishing equipment and systems.
- .4 Firms engaged in tightness testing of closing appliances such as hatches, doors etc. with ultrasonic equipment.
- .5 Firms engaged in measurements of noise level on board ships.
- .6 Firms engaged in examination of Ro-Ro ship's bow, stern, side and inner doors.
- .7 Firms engaged in testing of coating systems in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.215(82), as amended, and IACS UI SC223 and/or MSC.288(87), as amended.
- .8 Firms engaged in survey using Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT) as an alternative means for Close-up Survey of the structure of ships and mobile offshore units.
- .9 Firms engaged in Cable Transit Seal Systems inspection on ships and Mobile Offshore Units.

2.2.2 Where the results of the following service providers:

Where the results of the following service providers:

- .1 Firms engaged in thickness measurements on ships or mobile offshore units;
- .2 Firms carrying out an in-water survey on ships and mobile offshore units by diver or Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV);
- .3 Firms engaged in tightness testing of closing appliances such as hatches, doors, etc. with ultrasonic equipment;
- .4 Firms engaged in survey using Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT) as an alternative means for Close-up Survey of the structure of ships and mobile offshore units;

are used by a Surveyor in making decisions affecting classification services then that service provider must be approved and verified by the *Register* or by other classification societies, if being IACS members only.

2.2.3 Where such services are used by Surveyors in making decisions affecting statutory certification and service, the firms are subject to approval and verification by the *Register* where the *Register* is so authorised by the relevant flag Administration (i.e. the flag of the ship on which the servicing is to be done, or the service equipment is to be used). For such services the *Register* may accept approvals done by:

- the flag Administration itself,
- duly authorized organizations acting on behalf of the flag Administration, or
- other organizations those are acceptable to the flag Administration (e.g. other governments, etc.).

2.2.4 Use of the approved service suppliers is not mandatory for the following services, unless instructed otherwise by the flag Administration with respect to statutory certification:

- .1 Firms engaged in inspections of low location lighting systems using photo luminescent materials and evacuation guidance

systems used as an alternative to low-location lighting systems.

- .2 Firms engaged in sound pressure level measurements of public address and general alarm systems on board ships.
- .3 Firms engaged in measurements of noise level onboard ships.
- .4 Firms engaged in testing of coating systems in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.215(82) as amended and IACS UI SC223 and/or MSC.288(87), as amended
- .5 Firms engaged in examination of Ro-Ro ships bow, stern, side and inner doors.

2.2.5 Detailed requirements specific to the various categories of suppliers are given in QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS. National and/or international requirements may give additional requirements. References to such national and/or international requirements, if any, are also given in QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS.

2.3 PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

2.3.1 Submission of documents

2.3.1.1 In order to be approved for the specific activity, service supplier shall submit to the *Register* an application for approval in writing, which shall include the following documents for review. General requirements are given in 2.3.2, while specific requirements are given in QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS.

- .1 Outline of the company, e.g. organisation and management structure, including subsidiaries which are to be included in the approval/certification.
- .2 List of nominated agents, subsidiaries and subcontractors.
- .3 Experience of the company in the specific service area.
- .4 For categories of Service Suppliers that require certification from manufacturers, manufacturer's documentary evidence that the Service Supplier has been certified or licensed to service the particular makes and models of equipment for which approval is sought shall be provided.
- .5 List of operators/technicians/inspectors with documented training and experience within the relevant service area, and qualifications according to recognised national, international or industrial standards, as relevant.
- .6 Description of equipment used for the particular service for which approval is sought.
- .7 A guide for operators of such equipment.
- .8 Training programmes for operators/technicians/inspectors.
- .9 Check lists and record formats for recording results of the service referred to in

QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS.

- .10 Quality Manual and/or documented procedures covering Quality System requirements in 2.3.3.
- .11 Documented procedures for communication with the crew prior to commencing work, so that it is safe to decommission the equipment being maintained, and to provide a safe system of work in place
- .12 Evidence of approval/acceptance by other bodies, if any.
- .13 Information on the other activities which may present a conflict of interest.
- .14 Record of customer claims and of corrective actions requested by certification bodies.
- .15 Operators/technicians/inspectors documentation they have acknowledged the code of conduct.

2.3.1.2 The *Register* will give special consideration to firms with restricted scope of services and/or with three or less employees.

2.3.2 General requirements

2.3.2.1 Extent of Approval - The supplier shall demonstrate, as required by 2.3.2.2 to 2.3.2.11, that it has the competence and control needed to perform services for which approval is sought.

2.3.2.2 Training of personnel - The supplier is responsible for the qualification and training of its personnel to a recognised national, international or industry standard as applicable. Where such standards do not exist, the supplier is to define standards for the training and qualification of its personnel relevant to the functions each is authorized to perform.

The personnel shall also have adequate experience and be familiar with the operation of any necessary equipment.

Operators/technicians/inspectors shall have had a minimum of one year tutored on-the-job training. Where it is not possible to perform internal training, a program of external training may be considered as acceptable.

2.3.2.3 Supervision - The supplier shall provide supervision for all services provided. The responsible supervisor shall have had a minimum of two years of experience as an operator/technician/inspector within the activity for which the supplier is approved. For a supplier consisting of one person, that person shall meet the requirements of a supervisor.

2.3.2.4 Personnel records - The supplier shall keep records of the approved operators/technicians/inspectors. The record shall contain information on age, formal education, training and experience for the services for which they are approved.

2.3.2.5 Equipment and facilities - The supplier shall have the necessary equipment and facilities for the service to be supplied. A record of the equipment used shall be kept and available. The record shall contain information on maintenance and results of calibration. The *Register* shall assess and record the validity of previous measuring results when the

equipment is found not to conform to requirements. The *Register* shall take appropriate action on the equipment affected.

2.3.2.6 Control of data - When computers are used for the acquisition, processing, recording, reporting, storage, measurement assessment and monitoring of data, the ability of computer software to satisfy the intended application shall be documented and confirmed by the service supplier. This shall be undertaken prior to initial use and reconfirmed as necessary.

NOTE: Commercial off-the-shelf software (e.g. wordprocessing, database and statistical programmes) in general use within their designed application range may be considered to be sufficiently validated and do not require any subsequent confirmation.

2.3.2.7 Where several servicing stations are owned by a given company, each station is to be assessed and approved except as specified in 2.3.3.3.

2.3.2.8 Procedures - The supplier shall have documented work procedures covering all services supplied.

2.3.2.9 Subcontractors - The supplier shall give information of agreements and arrangements if any parts of the services provided are subcontracted. Particular emphasis shall be given to quality management by the supplier in following-up such subcontracts. Subcontractors providing the services of the approved service supplier shall also meet requirements of 2.3.

2.3.2.10 Verification - The supplier shall verify that the services provided are carried out in accordance with approved procedures.

2.3.2.11 Reporting - The report shall be prepared in a form acceptable to the *Register*. The report should detail the results of inspections, measurements, tests, maintenance and/or repairs carried out. Special guidelines may be found in QP7.5.1-3 – APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS. The report shall include a copy of the Certificate of Approval.

2.3.2.12 Documented procedures and instructions should be available for the recording of damages and defects found during inspection, servicing and repair work. This documentation is to be made available upon request.

2.3.3 Quality system

2.3.3.1 The supplier shall have a documented system covering at least the following:

- .1 Code of conduct for the relevant activity.
- .2 Maintenance and calibration of equipment.
- .3 Training programmes for operators/technicians/inspectors.
- .4 Supervision and verification to ensure compliance with operational procedures.
- .5 Recording and reporting of information.
- .6 Quality management of subsidiaries, agents and subcontractors.
- .7 Job preparation.
- .8 Periodic review of work process procedures, complaints, corrective actions, and maintenance and control of documents.

2.3.3.2 A documented Quality system complying with the most current version of ISO 9000 series and including the above items, would be considered acceptable.

2.3.3.3 If a manufacturer of equipment (and/or its service supplier) applies to the *Register* for inclusion of its nominated agents and/or subsidiaries (excluding any subcontractor) in the approval, then it must have implemented a quality system certified in accordance with the most current version of ISO 9000 series. The quality system must contain effective controls of the manufacturer's (and/or service supplier's) agents and/or subsidiaries. The nominated agents/subsidiaries must also have in place an equally effective quality system complying with the most current version of ISO 9000 series. Such approvals shall be based upon an evaluation of the quality system implemented by the parent company against the most current version of ISO 9000 series. The *Register* may require follow-up audits on such agents or subsidiaries against the most current version of ISO 9000 series to confirm adherence to this quality system.

2.3.4 Service suppliers relations with the equipment manufacturer

2.3.4.1 A company which works as a service station for the manufacturer(s) of equipment (and as a service supplier in this field) is to be assessed by the manufacturer(s) and nominated as their agent.

The manufacturer shall ensure that appropriate instruction manuals, material, etc. are available for the agent as well as of proper training of the agent's technicians. Such suppliers shall be approved either on a case by case basis, or in accordance with 2.3.3.3.

2.4 CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

2.4.1 Certification of service supplier shall be carried out by the *Assessment Team* (see 1.4.3). Upon reviewing the submitted documents with satisfactory results, the supplier is to be audited in order to ascertain the supplier is duly organised and managed in accordance with the submitted documents, and that it is considered capable of conducting the services for which approval/certification is sought.

2.4.2 Certification is conditional on a practical demonstration of the performance of the specific service as well as satisfactory reporting being carried out. At initial audits, when the service supplier is already certified by other Classification Society subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the QSCS according to the provision of IACS UR Z17, this may be verified through documentary review that a practical demonstration has already been carried out. At renewal audits, verification by documentary review of jobs undertaken since the previous audit and that have been accepted by a Classification Society subject to verification of compliance with QSCS in accordance with Section 5 of Annex 1 to the QSCS is acceptable and is sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

2.4.3 It is not allowed for a member of the *Assessment Team* to be also a member of the *Certification Commission* of the *Register*.

2.5 DECISION ON APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIER

2.5.1 Upon satisfactory completion of both the audit of the supplier and the demonstration test, as applicable, the *Assessment Team* shall submit a report to the *Certification Commission* of the *Register* for the approval of a service supplier.

The *Certification Commission* of the *Register* is then to make decision on issuing of the Certificate of Approval stating that the supplier's service operation system has been found to be satisfactory and that the results of services performed in accordance with that system may be accepted and utilised by the *Register's* Surveyors in making decisions affecting classification or statutory certification, as relevant. The Certificate shall clearly state the type and scope of services and any limitations or restrictions imposed including type of equipment and/or names of Manufacturers of equipment where this is a limiting restraint.

2.5.2 After the decision on approval, the *Register* may include service supplier in the *List of type approved products, approved manufacturers and service suppliers* on the official web site of the *Register*.

2.5.3 A service supplier reserves the right to complain about the decision of the *Certification Commission* of the *Register*.

The complaint shall be submitted to the *Commission* referred to in the regulation 39 of the *Charter* of the *Register*.

2.6 VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF SERVICE SUPPLIER

2.6.1 Renewal of the Certificate is to be made at intervals not exceeding four (4) years by verification through audits that approved conditions are maintained or, where applicable, on expiry of the supplier's approval received from an equipment Manufacturer, whichever comes first. In the latter case, the *Register* is to be informed in due course by the Service Supplier.

For firms engaged in thickness measurements, renewal of the Certificate shall be made at intervals not exceeding 3 (three) years, by verification that original conditions are maintained.

2.6.2 Generally, three months before the expiry date of the Certificate of approval of service supplier, the *Register* shall send a written reminder to the service supplier.

At least one (1) month before the expiry date of the validity of the Certificate, the service supplier should apply to the *Register* in writing, for re-assessment for renewal of the validity of the Certificate of approval of the service supplier.

2.6.3 Re-assessment of the service supplier covers the review of the Quality Manual, work instructions, control sheet with the data on measurement and testing of the equipment to prove that the metrological conditions are complied with, control of the corrective actions and results obtained from procedure dealing with complaints.

Additional testing in order to improve and develop the area of activities of a service supplier may be carried out in the course of assessment.

2.6.4 Within the terms, other than those stated in 2.6.1 and 2.6.2, the *Register* may require performing of intermediate audit, if considers it necessary for quality of the performed services, implementation or amendments of standards, resolutions, conventions and similar.

2.6.5 Upon such audit the *Register* may require that the corrective actions are carried out to remedy non-conformities within the specified period of time.

2.6.6 In exceptional cases when the process of re-assessment for renewal of the validity of the Certificate of approval of the service supplier cannot be finished before the expiry date of the Certificate due to circumstances reasonably beyond the supplier's or the *Register's* control, the *Register* may allow the service supplier to continue with activity, for a period not exceeding three (3) months, in order to complete the re-assessment process.

2.7 INFORMATION REGARDING ALTERATIONS TO THE CERTIFIED SERVICE OPERATING SYSTEM

2.7.1 When any alteration to the certified service operating system of the supplier is made, such alteration is to be immediately informed to the *Register*. Re-audit may be required when deemed necessary by the *Register*.

2.8 CANCELLATION OF APPROVAL

2.8.1 The *Register* reserves the right to cancel the approval and to inform the IACS Members accordingly (for firms engaged in thickness measurements refer to IACS PR23).

2.8.2 Approval of a service supplier may be cancelled in the following cases:

- .1 Where the service was improperly carried out or the results were improperly reported.
- .2 Where a Surveyor finds deficiencies in the accepted service operating system of the service supplier and appropriate corrective action is not taken.
- .3 Where alterations have been made to the Company's Quality System relevant to the service supplier certificates, without written notification to the *Register*.
- .4 Where the intermediate audit, if requested as per 2.6.4, has not been carried out.
- .5 Where wilful acts or omissions are ascertained.
- .6 Where any deliberate misrepresentation has been made by the Service Supplier.

2.8.3 A supplier whose approval was cancelled, may apply for re-approval after six-month period, provided a supplier has corrected the non-conformities which resulted in cancellation, and the *Register* is able to confirm that supplier has effectively implemented the corrective action. This possibility may not be granted if cancellation has been based on a

grave fault, such as violation of ethics, and in such case the *Register* reserves the right to permanently disqualify the implicated entity or its Principals from holding any service certifications from the *Register*.

2.8.4 Expiration or cancellation of the Supplier's parent company approval automatically invalidates approval of all agents and subsidiaries if these are certified according to 2.3.3.3.