



IRCLASS
Indian Register of Shipping



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF INLAND WATERWAYS VESSELS

RULES CHANGE NOTICE NO. 3

March 2025

General Information

This Rules Change Notice gives the new additions and amendments to the 'Rules and Regulations for the Construction and Classification of Inland Waterways Vessels' along with the effective dates from which these changes are applicable.

These new additions and amendments are to be read in conjunction with the requirements given in the July, 2024 edition of the Rules, 'Rules Change Notice No.1 September, 2024' and 'Rules Change Notice No.2 December, 2024'.

The Part / Chapters where amendments are made and their effective dates are indicated in **TABLE 1**. The actual requirements, arranged in the order of Part / Chapter / Section / Sub-section / Clause, have been given subsequently.

Corrigenda issued with this Rules Change Notice are given in **TABLE 2**.

For ease of reference, the newly added text has been highlighted by underlining and the deleted text by striking through.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF INLAND WATERWAYS VESSELS – July 2024

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TABLE 1 – AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED IN THIS NOTICE

These amendments will come into force as indicated in the Table

Section / Clause	Subject/ Amendments
Part 3 Chapter 8: Deck Structure	
<i>The amendments are applicable to vessels contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2025.</i>	
3/ 3.1.4(new)	New clause is introduced to indicate design pressure on exposed decks of superstructure and deckhouse.
3/ 3.2.1	The requirements for design pressure on accommodation decks are amended based on accommodation location.
Part 3 Chapter 11: Openings and Closing Appliances, Ventilators, Air pipes and Discharges	
<i>The amendments are applicable to vessels contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2025.</i>	
4/4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3 (Deleted)	Erstwhile requirements are deleted as they are now being covered under other clauses.
4/ 4.4.1.1(new)	Glass thickness requirements for windows and side scuttles, are amended.
4/ Table 4.4.1(new)	New table provides glass thickness for standard windows, with separate requirements for Zone 2 & 3 (max 8 mm) and position-based requirements for Zone 1.
4/ 4.4.2(new)	Requirements for windows and side scuttles in the shell below main deck are better clarified.
4/ 4.4.3(new)	Requirements for deadlights and protective covers are specified.
4/ 4.4.4(new)	Requirements for windows and side scuttles above main deck are specified (erstwhile Cl. 4.4.3)
4/4.4.5(new)	Requirements for skylights are specified.

TABLE 2 – CORRIGENDA INCORPORATED IN THIS NOTICE

Section / Clause	Subject/ Corrigenda
Part 4 Chapter 3: Pumping and Piping	
2/2.7.1 b)	d_m is corrected to d_b

Part 3

General Hull Requirements

Chapter 8

Deck Structure

Section 3

Design Loads

3.1 Weather deck

3.1.1 The design pressure 'p' on exposed decks is to be taken as:

$$p = H_1 - 10 h_o \text{ [kN/m}^2\text{]}, \text{ minimum } 5 \text{ [kN/m}^2\text{]}$$

where,

h_o = vertical distance [m], from the maximum load waterline to the deck.

H_1 = as given in Table 3.1.1.

Table 3.1.1	
Zone	H_1
1	9 for $L \leq 20$ [m] 9 + 0.15 (L-20) for $20 < L < 60$ 15 for $L \geq 60$ [m]
2	9
3	5

3.1.2 For decks subjected to cargo loading the design pressure is to be taken as:

$$p = 12.5 q \text{ [kN/m}^2\text{]}$$

where 'q' is deck cargo loading [t/m²].

3.1.3 For weather decks forming crowns of tanks, the design pressure 'p' is to be taken as the greater of that given by 3.1.1 and 3.3.1.

[3.1.4 The design pressure 'p' on exposed decks of superstructure and deckhouse is to be taken as :](#)

$$p = 5 n \text{ [kN/m}^2\text{]}$$

[Where,](#)

[n = 0.4 for first tier \(non-public\) deck](#)

[n = 0.3 for upper tiers \(non-public\) deck](#)

[n = 0.8 for public deck](#)

3.2 Accommodation decks

3.2.1 The design pressure 'p' on accommodation decks is to be taken as :

$$p = 5 n \text{ 4.5 [kN/m}^2\text{]}$$

[Where,](#)

[n = 0.8 for deck of large spaces, such as : restaurants, halls, cinemas, lounges, kitchen, service spaces, games and hobbies rooms, hospitals](#)

[n = 0.6 for deck of cabins](#)

[n = 0.5 for deck of other compartments](#)

3.2.2 For decks forming crowns of tanks the design pressure 'p' is to be taken as the greater of that given by 3.2.1 and 3.3.1.

End of Chapter

Part 3

General Hull Requirements

Chapter 11

Openings and Closing Appliances, Ventilators, Air Pipes and Discharges

Section 4

Miscellaneous Openings

4.4 Windows and side scuttles

~~4.4.1 Side scuttles and windows are to be made and tested according to Standards. The glass thickness of side scuttles below main deck is to be not less than 8.0 [mm].~~

~~The glass thickness of windows above deck is not to be less than:~~

$$t = \frac{w}{70} \text{ [mm]}, \text{ minimum } 6.0 \text{ [mm]}$$

~~where,~~

~~w = the height or the width of the window, whichever is smaller, [mm].~~

~~4.4.2 Side scuttles in the shell below main deck are to be non-opening type with deadlights and the lower edge of glass is to be at least 500 [mm] above the load waterline in any condition of list or trim. Further, the scuttles are to be adequately protected against damage by direct contact.~~

~~4.4.3 Side scuttles and windows above deck may be fitted without deadlight/portable covers provided the height of lower edge of glass above waterline is not less than specified in Table 4.4.3.~~

Table 4.4.3 : Height of side scuttles [mm]

Zone	h_t [mm]
4	1700
2	1000
3	500

4.4.1 General

4.4.1.1 Windows and side scuttles fitted in exposed sides of superstructures, deckhouses, or in the shell above the load waterline are to have frames of substantial construction, comparable with the surrounding structure.

The glass is to be toughened safety glass, complying with ISO 21005:2018 or an equivalent standard such as IS 8886.

The glass thickness is to be determined based on zone of operation, the size of the opening and its position relative to the waterline, as indicated in Table 4.4.1.

Glass thickness for windows not listed in the table is to be determined by linear interpolation/extrapolation or in accordance with Annex A of ISO 21005:2018.

Regardless of calculations, the minimum glass thickness is to be 6.0 mm for any window or side scuttle.

Table 4.4.1: Glass Thickness for Windows and Side Scuttles			
Size of Glass (mm)	Glass Thickness (mm)		
	Zone 1		Zone 2 and 3
	lower edge < 2.5 m above the load waterline	lower edge ≥ 2.5 m above the load waterline	
300 x 425	6	6	6
355 x 500	6	6	6
400 x 560	6	6	6
450 x 630	6	6	6
500 x 710	8	6	6
560 x 800	8	6	6
900 x 630	10	6	6
1000 x 710	10	8	8
1100 x 800	12	8	8
Side Scuttles	8	6	6

4.4.2 Windows and Side Scuttles in the Shell below Main Deck

4.4.2.1 Only non-opening windows or side scuttles are permitted in the shell below the main deck.

4.4.2.2 The lower edge of the glass is to be at least 500 mm above the load waterline in any condition of list or trim.

4.4.2.3 Windows and side scuttles in the shell are to be adequately protected against direct contact, either by efficient fenders or by being recessed into the shell structure.

4.4.3 Deadlights and Protective Covers

4.4.3.1 Blinds or deadlights made of steel or equivalent material are to be provided for all windows and side scuttles in the shell and in areas where mechanical damage can occur.

4.4.3.2 A minimum of 20% of the total number of openings are to have blinds or deadlights, with at least one cover provided for each size of opening.

4.4.4 Windows and Side Scuttles above Deck

4.4.4.1 Windows and side scuttles above deck may be fitted without deadlights or portable covers, provided the lower edge of the glass is above the waterline by at least the heights specified in Table 4.4.4.

Table 4.4.4: Minimum Height of Lower Edge of Glass Above Waterline	
Zone	Minimum Height (mm)
1	1700
2	1000
3	500

4.4.5 Skylights

4.4.5.1 Skylights are to be of substantial construction and securely attached to their coamings.

4.4.5.2 The coaming scantlings are to comply with the requirements specified for small hatchways.

4.4.5.3 The glass in skylights is to meet the same requirements as windows in the same position, as per Table 4.4.1.

End of Chapter

Part 4

Main and Auxiliary Machinery

Chapter 3

Pumping and Piping

Section 2

Bilge and Ballast Piping Systems

2.7 Sizes of bilge suction

2.7.1 The internal diameter of the bilge pipes is not to be less than that found by the following formula to the nearest 5 [mm] commercial size available:

a) $d_m = 1.5 \sqrt{L(B + D)} + 25$ [mm]

b) $d_{mb} = 2.0 \sqrt{C(B + D)} + 25$ [mm]

where,

d_m = internal diameter of bilge main [mm];

d_b = internal diameter of branch bilge [mm];

L = Rule length of ship [m];

B = Moulded breadth of ship [m];

C = Length of the compartment [m];

D = Moulded depth to bulkhead deck [m].

End of Chapter