Z26 Alternative Certification Scheme (ACS)

(Feb 2015)

1. Definitions

1.1 ACS is a certification scheme involving a manufacturer (and associated sub-suppliers, if needed) in the inspection, testing and certification of the manufacturer's products.

1.2 An ACS will clarify:

- The extent of the required inspection and testing.

- To which extent and under which conditions the manufacturer may perform all or parts of the required inspection and testing without the presence of a Surveyor from the Society when a Society Certificate is required.

1.3 The extent to which the manufacturer is given permission to carry out inspections and testing without the presence of a Surveyor is to be agreed on a case by case basis, e.g. for a specific product production line or for specific parts.

2. Scope

2.1 An ACS may be arranged with product manufacturers and/or sub-suppliers.

2.2 An ACS with a manufacturer must define the handling of subcontracted parts (those that require Society or work certificates or in any other way are addressed in the Society's Rules).
The sub-supplier may be included in the ACS of the manufacturer or have his own ACS or deliver parts that are inspected and certified by the Society.

2.3 An ACS that permits the manufacturer to carry out all or parts of required inspection and testing without the presence of a Surveyor may be arranged in two versions with regard to traceability:

- The ACS describes inspection, testing and certification additional to the manufacturer's standard quality control in order to meet the Rules. The components are to be stamped with a special stamp supplied by the Society or identified as required by the Society.

- The manufacturer has a standard quality control that covers all required inspection, testing and certification in compliance with the Rules. Traceability and the required type of product document for components or products will be defined in the ACS.

Notes:

1. The requirements of UR Z26 is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on or after 1 July 2016.

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3. Conditions

3.1 The conditions for the manufacturer to be granted the permission to carry out inspection and testing without the presence of a Surveyor are that:

- The manufacturer has an implemented Quality System according to a national or international standard approved by an accredited certification body or recognised by the Society.

- The manufacturer has a quality control system, current drawings, and Rules and standards that cover the product to be certified.

- The inspection and testing required by the Rules are either standard procedures in the Quality System and recognized by the Society or specified in detail in the ACS.

- The Society initially ascertains the manufacturer's compliance with the ACS-requirements by verifying the required product and process approvals and performing an initial audit. Follow-up and renewal audits are conducted by the Society on a regular basis to verify that conditions of the ACS are continuously maintained by the manufacturer.

- If work certificates (W) or test reports (TR) are found not to fulfil the standards agreed with the Society, the component may not be accepted.

- The agreed ACS may be suspended or cancelled when / if found justified by the Society.

- The Society may carry out unscheduled inspections at the manufacturer and/or subcontractor at its own discretion.

- The manufacturers (and designers, if producing under license) commit themselves to involve the Society when changes to the design, manufacturing process or testing are made as well as when any major production problems or any major product delivery problems have occurred.

- The validity of an ACS is to be a maximum of 5 years. The ACS may be renewed subject to an audit. The scope of the renewal audit shall:

    - verify the conditions of the ACS are still met

    - verify that the current products and processes are appropriately controlled

4. Information to be submitted

4.1 For admission to an alternative certification scheme for a product, the manufacturer is to submit an application enclosing the following documentation:

- Product details.

- Existing class approvals of the manufacturer's products as far as required.

- The procedures relevant to the manufacturing process.

- A list of material suppliers with an indication of their class approval (as far as required by the Rules) and the type of material certification in each case.

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- Quality control plans relevant to the products and relevant components to be certified through the alternative certification scheme. Said plans are to detail the inspections and tests required by the Rules with an indication of which inspections and tests are delegated to the manufacturer and which are to be done in the presence of a Society representative.

- The procedures relevant to the quality control and inspections, their methods, frequency and certification.

- The list of suppliers of materials and main components of the product, including certificates.

- The quality system details.

- List of nominated personnel for:

    - Marking/stamping of products

    - Tests and Inspection (responsible)

    - Provision of data and information (e.g. declaration of conformity, test reports etc.)

- Any other additional documents that the Society may require in order to evaluate the manufacturing processes and product quality control.

5. Audit procedure

5.1 Upon satisfactory examination of the complete documentation for application an initial audit shall be carried out at the manufacturer's works. This audit is to verify that the manufacture of the product and the relevant controls are performed in accordance with the documents submitted and are in compliance with the requirements laid down in the ACS documentation and the Society Rules.

5.2 Upon satisfactory outcome of the audits, the extent, duration and conditions of the ACS are documented.

5.3 At least one intermediate audit during the period of validity of the ACS is to be carried out. Additional audits may be required at the discretion of the Society.

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