



MARINE INFORMATION BULLETIN

National Standard for Commercial Vessels Part C Construction – Section 5 Engineering Subsection 5B Electrical Edition 2

PURPOSE

This bulletin has been raised to bring to your attention the publication of the second edition of the electrical subsection of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) by the National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC).

BACKGROUND

The NSCV is being developed to replace the Uniform Shipping Laws Code (USL Code). The National Standard for Commercial Vessels – Part C Construction – Section 5 Engineering – Subsection 5B Electrical Edition 2 (NSCV C 5B Ed 2) was published by the NMSC on 1 December 2005.

Edition 2 of the electrical subsection has been developed to promote greater reliance on Australian/New Zealand Standard 3000 Electrical Installations (AS/NZS 3000), also known as the Wiring Rules, in keeping with electrical installation requirements in the Australian States and Territories. NSCV C 5B Ed 2 provides additional requirements and variations to AS/NZS 3000 necessary to reflect the requirements of the marine industry and the particular environment on ships.

OBLIGATIONS

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Designing and Building Commercial Ships and Fishing Ships) Standard 2006*, establishes the criteria for designing and building commercial ships and fishing ships. This standard provides guidance to designers, builders, surveyors, masters and owners on how to meet their general safety obligations regarding the condition of a ship under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

The standard provides that a ship's design should meet the required outcomes. For a ship's electrical installation the required outcomes are the relevant provisions of the NSCV.

Further, the Queensland standard requires that a ship's electrical installation and electrical work onboard must comply with the provisions of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ESA).

The *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*, under the ESA, requires that electrical workers, employers and self employed persons ensure that electrical work is in accordance with the wiring rules. Certain electrical installations, because of their unusual requirements, application or intended use may not be covered in detail by Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000. AS/NZS 3000 section 1.9 provides that such installations may be deemed suitable provided that, having due regard to all the circumstances associated with the intended application, they:

- (a) satisfy the fundamental safety principles of Part 1 of AS/NZS 3000;
- (b) will result in a degree of safety from physical injury, fire and electric shock not less than that which, in other circumstances, would be achieved by compliance with the particular requirements of AS/NZS 3000; and
- (c) satisfy the other requirements of AS/NZS 3000 as detailed in this clause (1.9).

NSCV C 5B Ed 2 provides additional requirements and variations to AS/NZS 3000, necessary to meet the requirements of the marine industry and the particular environment on ships, while satisfying the safety requirements of Part 1 of AS/NZS 3000.

NSCV C 5B Ed 2 supersedes the first edition. The design and installation of electrical systems on new ships, and new work on existing ships, should comply with this new edition of the electrical subsection of the NSCV rather than, the now obsolete, electrical part of the USL Code. Existing installations may continue to be assessed under the USL Code electrical provisions provided safety is not compromised and no new work is involved.

Generally, imported ships meeting IEC/ISO standards, classification society rules or other known standards will comply with the fundamental safety requirements of Part 1 of AS/NZS 3000. Compliance with Part 1 of AS/NZS 3000 is mandatory. Some issues of conflict between these other standards and Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000 or NSCV C 5B Ed 2 will require resolution on a case by case basis by Maritime Safety Queensland in consultation with the Electrical Safety.

AVAILABILITY

NSCV C 5B Ed 2 and other published parts of the NSCV are available on the NMSC's website at www.nmsc.gov.au.

Contact information

If you require further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, please contact: 07 3120 7341 or msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships may be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website at www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Marine Operations Centres.

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Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500	Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
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