

MSC Guidelines for Sister Vessel Determination and Extension of Plan Approval

Procedure Number: C1-01

Revision Date: January 26, 2016

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Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and information regarding the submission of sister vessel determination and plan approval extension requests.

References:

- a. Navigation and Inspection Circular (NVIC) No. 14-81, "Stability Tests; Waiving of for 'Sister Vessels'"
- b. Marine Safety Manual (MSM), Vol. IV, Chapter 6.D.2, "Sister Vessels"
- c. Marine Safety Center Technical Note (MTN), 01-11 CH-1, "Plan Approval Extension Procedures"

Contact Information: If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center (MSC) by email or phone, and refer to Plan Review Guide Number C1-01.

Email: MSC@uscg.mil

Phone: 202-795-6731

Website: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/msc>

Responsibilities: Using applicable portions of references (a) through (c), the submitter shall provide sufficient documentation to indicate compliance with the applicable requirements. The submission shall be made electronically to the above email address or, if paper, in triplicate to the MSC's address found on the above website. To facilitate plan review and project management, all plans and information specified in these guidelines should be submitted as one complete package through a single point of contact for the project.

General Guidance:

- Has an Application for Inspection been submitted? In general, plan review may not occur until a copy of the Application is received.

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Sistership Determination:

- Sister vessel determinations are conducted in accordance with references (a) and (b). In general, the MSC will recognize sister vessel status for new construction vessels that meet the following criteria:
 - A responsible officer of the shipbuilding company attests in writing that the two vessels are sisters;
 - The vessels are constructed in the same shipyard, within approximately two years of one another; and
 - The same drawings are used in the construction of both vessels.

- Assuming these three criteria are met, the submitter may request that:
 - A stability test be waived for the applicable sister vessels, and
 - The stability guidance be extended from the parent vessel to the sister vessels.

- To establish sister vessel status and extend light ship values and stability guidance from parent to sister vessels, the sister vessels must be certified by the shipyard to be identical to the parent vessel in all respects.

- Sistership status is sometimes claimed between existing vessels. An example of this type of request is the case when a revised Plan Review Information Sheet (PRIS) is desired for a series of existing tank barges. In these cases, the submission must include:
 - Documentation to establish sistership status, such as the original certification made by the shipyard.
 - A letter certifying that no modifications have been made over the life of the vessels which would cause deviation from original sistership status. This will normally be verified by CG marine inspectors who will survey the vessels to original construction plans.
 - If adequate documentation is unavailable, original construction plans and/or other information to establish sistership status must be submitted. This information should include general correspondence, and/or general arrangements, tank capacities/locations, and primary hull structural plans.

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Plan Approval Extension:

- Reference (c) contains guidance for extension of plans previously approved or examined by the MSC.
- The PAE Request Form, which is attached to the end of this document, must be correctly and completely filled out. It should clearly identify the serial numbers of the original approval letters.
- In general, the following conditions must be met to extend previously approved plans to a new vessel:
 - The two vessels must be of the same type and certification.
 - Previously approved plans must meet all current regulations (e.g. the applicable rules must have remained unchanged in the interim period since the original approval).
 - The vessels must be authorized for identical routes.
 - The owner of the original plans must authorize their use.
 - There are no modifications made to any of the systems to which the originally approved and extended plans will apply. If a system is modified from the previously approved plans, the submitter must seek a separate approval for that system.
- If the PAE request form includes drawings from more than one reference vessel (e.g. plans from vessel A and vessel B will be combined to construct vessel C), the submission must include a statement from a responsible officer of the shipbuilding company stating that the plans taken from different reference vessels are compatible with one another (e.g. vapor piping from one vessel and hazardous zones from another vessel may not be compatible).
- The MSC will not grant plan approval extension to plans which were approved by another entity. The organization that issued the original approvals should be contacted for procedures to extend plan approvals.

Special Considerations for Tank Barges:

- Stability calculations are normally not eligible for plan approval extension for vessels which are not sister vessels. In the cases of barges, however, stability calculations may be extended, regardless of whether the two barges are deemed sisters, if the hydrostatic characteristics are identical and the lightship values on which the calculations were based are subsequently validated by a stability test or deadweight survey.
 - If the results of the stability test or deadweight show that the differences in lightship data of the first barge and the new barge exceed

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- 2% of the lightship weight or 1 % of the length between perpendiculars, updated stability calculations will be required.
- The Plan Review Information Sheet, a document which contains recommended loading conditions and stability information to be placed on the barge's COI, is developed upon approval of the deadweight survey results or revised stability calculations, if necessary.
 - Cargo Authority Attachments may not be extended to a tank barge which was built to plans from more than one reference barge, as the tank group characteristics for a vessel are often dependent on a variety of systems and their components. In these cases, the submission must include a new Tank Group Characteristics Loading Form (TGCL Form) which reflects the construction of the new vessel. TGCL Form's may be found on the MSC Homeport Page under Services > Cargo Authority.
 - In the case of vessels which are built to the exact same plans as a single parent vessel, the cargo authority may be extended under the assumption that the tank group characteristics are identical to the parent vessel.
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Disclaimer:

This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to, nor does it impose, legally-binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current guidance on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements, if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative, you may contact the MSC, the unit responsible for implementing this guidance.

Attachments:

- (1) Plan Approval Extension (PAE) Request Form

Date: _____

Sheet ___ of ___

MARINE SAFETY CENTER PLAN APPROVAL EXTENSION REQUEST FORM

Directions:

1. Complete the table below with all approved plans and corresponding MSC approval letters for which plan approval extension is requested.
2. Electronically submit this form with a copy of the vessel's Application for Inspection directly to the MSC (MSC@USCG.mil), or submit a paper copy to our mailing address:

Commanding Officer (MSC)
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7430

NAME AND IDENTIFICATION (O.N., CG NUMBER) OF VESSEL FOR WHICH PLANS WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED:
NAME AND IDENTIFICATION OF VESSEL(S) TO WHICH PLAN APPROVAL IS TO BE EXTENDED:

Drawing Number	# of Sheets	Rev. #	Drawing Title	MSC Project Number	Approval Date	Approval Letter Serial Number	Denied (MSC Use)

By submission of this form, I hereby certify that I am the legal owner of the plans and documents listed herein; or, have the permission of the legal owner to request plan approval extension on their behalf.

(MSC Use) This PAE Request is addressed in MSC letter Serial No. _____