



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 805 of 5th December 2023

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Field Surveyor Responsibility
Reference	CONARINA Guidelines

Resonable recommendations

A field Surveyor should be able to obtain the best results possible. It should be remembered that although the actual survey remains the most important part of the process, its validity will undoubtedly suffer if the Surveyor was not fully prepared beforehand or the report was not properly and promptly written afterwards.

Surveying is mainly a matter of judgment, training and experience, and while much of it cannot be learned from a book, a certain amount of guidance notes, based on the experience of others, is often helpful.

The principles by which a surveyor works:

The function of the Field Surveyor is not mere inspection, but rather thorough and objective observation, accurate reporting, and carefully reasoned recommendations, as implied by the title "Surveyor."

The Surveyor must exercise diligence to see that the full intent of the Rules is carried out. But at the same time, he must not use the Rules as a bulwark against question or criticism. When the work of the Surveyor is criticized there is always a temptation for him to retreat to a completely arbitrary and pedantic position, using the Rules as a buffer. This condition of unintelligent surveying completely nullifies the purposes for which the Bureau was founded. If the mere wording of the Rules is to be the sole criterion, it should be at least theoretically possible to have them enforced by anyone who can read and write and who has a smattering of technical knowledge, instead of by a staff of experienced *engineers* recruited and trained over a period of many years. The Surveyors are urged to maintain the high and responsible position which has contributed so much to the reputation which the Bureau enjoys by virtue of such confidence.

As a minor elaboration on the above, two points are added.

First, to keep in mind that the Surveyor's duty is to make recommendations for maintaining or restoring the vessel in compliance with Class requirements. How this is accomplished is the Owner's option, however the Surveyor should use all his knowledge and experience to assist the Owner in working out the most expeditious and economic means possible. In other words, the

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Surveyor's position is to review and accept or reject the Owner's proposals for restoring or maintaining the vessel in Class, not to initiate the proposals.

The second additional point is that the Surveyor must personally satisfy himself about every item that is to be reported on in the survey - this includes the insides of boilers and tanks and close-up views of all structural work involved, no matter how difficult of access, dirty, hot or cold.

A Surveyor should be extremely careful not to make premature or "snap decisions". He should approach a problem by first assembling all data in an organized manner, taking due account of the probable accuracy of the various segments, then review it in an analytical manner to the best of his ability, and finally state his recommendation in terms clearly understandable to all parties involved.

A Surveyor should be equally careful to make his recommendations as early as possible in the survey so the work can be put in hand in time to avoid delays. He should especially avoid making "second-thought changes" or "last-minute recommendations".

It is "no loss of face" to change a recommendation when subsequently presented with legitimate reasons for it, i.e. with newly disclosed information, but if it becomes necessary to do this often, it is probably because recommendations are being made without adequate analysis.

REFERENCES:

- CONARINA Guidelines

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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