

Australian Transport Council

Uniform Shipping Laws Code

Section 5: Construction

Sub-Section K: Fibre Reinforced Plastic

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SUB-SECTION 5.K – FIBRE REINFORCED PLASTIC**K.1 General****K.2 Detailed Requirements****K.1 General**

K.1.1 This Sub-section forms part of the Construction Section and shall be read in conjunction with it.

K.1.2 The Construction Section shall be read in conjunction with Section 1 – Introduction, Definitions and General Requirements.

K.1.3 Except as provided in A.2 of Sub-Section 5.A, these requirements shall apply to Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) vessels that are subject to the survey of an Authority.

K.1.4 Subject to clause K.1.6, a certificate of survey will only be issued in respect of an FRP vessel 6m and over in measured length where the vessel has been surveyed by an Authority in accordance with Appendix III to Section 14; alternatively an Authority may permit the survey of a vessel in accordance with Appendix IV to Section 14.

K.1.5 A certificate of survey may be issued in respect of a vessel less than 6m in measured length subject to:

(a) the Authority being provided with drawings and specifications of the lay-up, and those drawings and specifications showing that the construction of the vessel meets the requirements of this Code;

(b) an affidavit from the manufacturer stating that the vessel has been laid up to those drawings and specifications; and

(c) a satisfactory report by a surveyor following an inspection of the completed vessel.

K.1.6 A vessel 6m and over but less than 10m in measured length forming part of a production series of vessels may be issued with a certificate of survey, subject to:

(a) the Authority being provided with drawings and specifications of the lay-up, and those drawings and specifications showing that the construction of the vessel meets the requirements of this Code; and either

(b) (i) the prototype vessel and at least every sixth vessel of the series being surveyed in accordance with this Code, including thickness gauging after removal from the mould and prior to the commencement of fitting out; and

(ii) the manufacturer having in place in respect of the production of the vessels a quality assurance scheme in accordance with the relevant AS.3900 series standards;

or

(c) (i) the prototype vessel and at least every sixth vessel of the series being surveyed in accordance with this Code;

(ii) an affidavit from the manufacturer stating that subsequent vessels of the series have been laid up to those drawings and specifications; and

(iii) a satisfactory report by a surveyor following an inspection and thickness gauging of each vessel after removal from the mould and prior to the commencement of fitting out.

K.1.7 In order to facilitate identification of FRP hulls constructed under survey, each hull so surveyed shall be provided with a permanent identification mark to the satisfaction of the Authority. Vessels that have been surveyed in accordance with 4.1 and 5.3 of Appendix IV to Section 14 shall be marked with a letter "E" following the identification mark.

K.1.8 The plans submitted as required by Section 1 shall include all transitions between the different parts of the hull and other joining details, e.g. deck to side shell, coaming to deck, transom to shell and transom to deck.

K.2 Detailed Requirements

- K.2.1 Subject to K.2.2 to K.2.4, the detailed requirements of this Sub-Section shall be those of Australian Standard AS.4132 Part 3 "Boat and Ship Design and Construction – Fibre-Reinforced Plastics Construction" which shall be met to the satisfaction of the Authority.
- K.2.2 The word "should", where used in AS.4132 Part 3, is to be interpreted as if it read "shall, to the satisfaction of the Authority".
- K.2.3 The materials used in construction are to be examined for acceptability by the Authority on the basis of both test results of material properties and reliability of manufacture (through either service experience or approval by recognised classification societies).
- K.2.4 Where a vessel does not come within the scope of AS.4132 Part 3, the requirements applicable to its design and construction are to be determined by the Authority.