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# Process for Service Provider Certification with ABS Class Society

This document outlines the process for getting certified as a service provider with ABS class society.

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## 1. Submit an Online Request

This form can be found on the ABS website on their "[Service Supplier](#)" page under the button "[Request Certification](#)." Upon successful certification, your company will be searchable via this page under the "Search Database" button.

Form Content:

- Your company name and details
- ISO 9001 Certification and other relevant certifications from IACS Societies or Flag Administrations
- Service type being certified:
  - Remote Inspection Techniques
  - ESP Hull Gauging Firm (requires NDT Level 2 supervisors and operators)
  - Hull Gauging Firm (requires NDT Level 2 supervisors and operators)

## 2. Your Request is Reviewed: Documentation

The class society will receive your request and an assigned surveyor will send you documentation regarding the next steps to be certified. They may request further information about your company that may include but is not limited to:

- Formal business license/registration
- Outline of organization structure and management

- List of operators, inspectors, and technicians, along with details of their qualifications, formal training certifications, etc.
- List of equipment, manuals, and calibration records
- Approval and authorizations from other class societies
- Operational limits of UAVs must be reported on the certificate (maximum wind speed, illumination requirements, means of operation, range, etc).

### 3. Your Request is Reviewed: Facility Audit

After the documentation review in Step 2, the surveyor from ABS will visit your facilities to gather more information related to:

- Organization and management of the facilities in accordance with submitted documentation
- Your ability to provide the proposed services in line with the requirements of the class society
- The education and experience of staff
- Your team's familiarity with ABS rules, IACS unified requirements, ship structure, reporting, etc.

### 4. Your Request is Reviewed: Practical Demonstration

Once the Facility Audit has been satisfactorily completed, your team will be asked to demonstrate each service you plan to offer in the presence of an ABS surveyor. This can take place at a different location from the facility audit. The demonstration may be carried out on another IACS member society's vessels.

Actual service provided in connection with an ongoing survey may be accepted. However, acceptance of the results to credit the survey in progress and approve your company depends on satisfactory performance.

If the demonstration cannot take place immediately after a satisfactory facility audit, then one of 3 actions may take place:

- The attending Surveyor will issue *One-Year Provisional Approval Certificate* and *One-Year Provisional Approval Letter*.
- The company will be temporarily listed on the ABS website for one (1) year with a note "pending the demonstration being accepted and the final certificate issued."

- If the demonstration of service(s) is delayed more than one (1) year from the specialist's facility audit, a new initial audit will be required.

## 5. Final Stages of Certification

After steps 2 through 4 have been completed, the report from the demonstration in step 4 will be reviewed by the auditor from ABS. Should the review be satisfactory, a certificate and an approval letter valid for 3 years from the initial audit will be issued.

## Factors to Consider

When completing a certification request with a class society, please check their latest rules and guidance related to using drones.

For example, ABS rules regarding remote inspection technology on Hull Surveys, as of December 2024, said to take note of several factors:

- **i)** Use to be approved on a case-by-case basis. (The ABS Surveyor will request authorization internally)
- **ii)** Ballast Tanks, Cargo Tanks, and Cargo Holds are to have a coating condition of GOOD with light-colored coatings.
- **iii)** Overall Survey by attending surveyor is to be carried out in all Ballast Tanks, Cargo Tanks, and Cargo Holds in addition to close-up examinations/thickness measurements completed using UAVs.
- **iv)** If the UAV video reveals serious conditions affecting Class, the affected area will be subject to survey by traditional means of access.
- **v)** If the UAV video reveals damage or deterioration that requires special attention, means of access for the Surveyor are to be provided to carry out the close-up survey.
- **vi)** On ESP vessels, the inspection is to be carried out by an ABS-recognized ESP firm qualified technician with adequate knowledge of hull structure inspection under the surveillance of the Surveyor.
- **vii)** At selected locations the Surveyors are to carry out confirmatory thickness measurements to verify the results of the drone thickness measurements.

- **viii)** Close-up and thickness measurement requirements to be in accordance with applicable Rules and requirements.
- **ix)** Safety of personnel during all UAV operations and the result of any loss of control or contact with other objects is to be evaluated and mitigated before the survey.
- **x)** Required certificate of authorization (e.g. Airworthiness Certificate) from national aviation authority (e.g. FAA, CAA, etc.).
- **xi)** High-definition display screen with live high-definition feed from inspection cameras.
- **xii)** Equipment should be rated for their intended operational environment (e.g., certified safe type for use in hazardous areas as defined in IEC 60079, operational wind speed, temperature, humidity, etc.).

Should you have any questions about this process related to Flyability or the Elios 3, please contact your Area Sales Manager or our team via the [contact form on our website](#). Your local office for the relevant class society will provide more information as they will be handling your case. This is an unofficial guide and does not include or expand on every detail that may be encountered during the certification and audit process.