Classification & Classification Societies

- Focus on the safety of human life, asset and environment
- Main objective: verify structural strength and integrity, and reliability of systems that maintain essential services on board
- Covers all offshore facilities - drilling, production, support vessels, processing equipment, subsea, risers, pipelines, and also software, risk, maintenance, etc.
- It’s a lifecycle activity (from design to decommissioning) – monitored through in-service inspection

- Independent, self-regulating, externally audited
- Technically competent, self-funded organizations
- Not controlled by and with no commercial interests on design, construction, ownership, operations, management, maintenance, insurance, chartering, financing
- Worldwide coverage: relied upon by majority of world’s countries administrations for safety/regulatory compliance

- Governing body responsible for consistency
- Verify compliance through audits
Class Rules

- Each class society develops its own requirements, Rules and Guides
  - Common goal – safety of life, asset, environment
  - Verifies compliance through technical review of design documents and surveillance of fabrication, installation and commissioning activities

- Generally composed of prescriptive requirements
- Developed over years of experience in the industry
- Extensive research and development
- Service experience, internal and external feedback
- Unified requirements developed by IACS and implemented by all members
- Constantly refined and updated based on additional research and practical experience
- Updated with technological advancement
Rule Development

R&D (internal and external), feedback, IACS Unified Requirements, International codes and standards

Development of technical requirements by CS own engineers

Implementation as guidance

Feedback from industry

Incorporation into the Rules
Staying at the Forefront of Technology

- Participation in sub-committees of industry standards organizations worldwide (API, ASTM, IEEE, AWS, ASME, SNAME, ISO, etc.)
- JIP’s
- Technology assessments and qualifications
- Collaborative projects with Universities and academia
- Partnerships with industry research institutes and organizations
- Collaboration with technology developers (engineering houses, equipment vendors, specialized contractors)
- Own R&D
  - Technology Centers focused on specific subjects
  - SME’s with practical experience and industry knowledge
- “Being where innovation is”
Benefits of Incorporating Class in the Regulations

- Full alignment with Regulatory Agencies goals
  - Safety, integrity, environment
- Class provides independent and unbiased verification
- Class societies are fully dedicated to safety by staying in the forefront of technology
- Continuous Rule update and review process
- Class has delegated authority from National Administrations
- Global presence, consistent worldwide coverage
- Lifecycle approach verifies suitability through life