STEERING GEAR INSPECTIONS

INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION OF STEERING GEAR INSPECTIONS

According to (European) regulations, power-driven steering gear must be inspected by a qualified expert at least once every three years. Since 2007, IVR, in collaboration with its affiliated steering gear manufacturers, has drawn up a harmonised inspection checklist to ensure that all inspections are carried out to the same high standard. If the certificate is due for renewal, the skipper/owner must contact an affiliated steering gear manufacturer themselves. Once the inspection of the steering gear has been carried out, the completed verification checklist is sent to IVR. If all the requirements on the verification checklist have been met, IVR will issue a certificate. This certificate is sent to the steering gear manufacturer. The manufacturer is responsible for issuing the certificate to the shipowner or the vessel.

BENEFITS FOR INLAND NAVIGATION COMPANIES

- No infringement on the existing cooperation/relationship between shipowner and steering gear manufacturer.
- An “Open System”: Any steering gear manufacturer/supplier can join if the company meets the set criteria.
- The shipowner receives a high-quality and reliable inspection and therefore greater certainty that his/her steering gear is demonstrably in good condition and meets the set requirements.
- The shipowner knows that the steering gear inspector is audited every two years by an independent and neutral organisation.
- The shipowner knows that the certificate is issued by an independent and neutral organisation.
- In this way, the system contributes to safer and less prone to damage inland navigation.

PROCEDURE

- Request by the owner for an inspection of the steering gear to be carried out by a manufacturer affiliated with the IVR.
- Carrying out a comprehensive inspection of the steering gear in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- The manufacturer submits the verification checklist to the IVR, together with an application for a certificate.
- Check of the verification checklist and vessel/owner details by IVR.
- If all criteria are met, an IVR certificate will be sent.

A detailed description of the procedure can be found on our **website**.

NEW IN THE VERIFICATIONLIST

From 1 June 2025, when issuing the certificate, checks will also be carried out more specifically to ensure that the drawings of the steering gear installation correspond to the installation on board. In case of any discrepancies, a note will be made on the certificate.

From 1 January 2026, the transitional provisions for non-Rhine vessels will cease to apply, and these vessels must also fully comply with the ES-TRIN 2025 requirements (Chapter 6 – steering system) upon (re)certification. The drawings and diagrams must also correspond fully with the on-board installation and have been approved.

NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES PER YEAR

Each year, IVR issues an average of **894** steering gear inspection certificates. A certificate is valid for three years.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS ES-TRIN / CESNI

The European Standard laying down the technical requirements for inland navigation vessels (ES-TRIN) stipulates in article **6.09** that power-driven steering systems must be inspected by an inspection body at least once every three years, and in the following cases: before being put into service, after a failure, and following any modification or repair. Find all the applicable provisions **here**.

STEERING GEAR INSPECTIONS

QUALITY ASSURANCE

To continue to guarantee the quality of the steering gear inspections, IVR conducts biennial audits of the affiliated companies and regularly organizes evaluation sessions and courses for the parties involved.

PLEASE NOTE! The inspector will carry out the assessment based on the current condition of your steering gear installation on board. It is therefore possible that, at the time of recertification, your steering gear may no longer meet requirements due to the expiry of the transitional provisions for non-Rhine vessels. In that case, modifications to your steering gear may be necessary. The IVR-affiliated steering gear inspector will inform you accordingly.

REGISTER AS AN INSPECTION COMPANY

Any steering gear manufacturer or repair company can register with IVR as an inspection company. To be approved by IVR, the company must meet the specified quality criteria. These quality criteria, which were drawn up in consultation with steering gear inspection companies, include:

- Admission/continuation audit (once every 2 years)
- Organization and technology
- Staff qualifications, training, etc.
- Administrative requirements
- Commercial

Affiliated companies are listed on the IVR website with their logo and websitelink.

AFFILIATED COMPANIES

BREKO SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR

BUYCK TECHNIEK b.v. HYDRAULISCHE SYSTEMEN VOOR SCHEEPVAART EN INDUSTRIE

DAMEN MARINE COMPONENTS

DE WAAL MACHINEFABRIEK

DOEDIJNS VYDRAULICS GROUP

e-steering

Machinefabriek Hasselt roeren, stuurwerken en boegschroeven

HYDROMARINE BY MOTRAC HYDRAULICS *Powered by experts!*

OLTHOF MARINE GROUP

VPG *Scheepsservice B.V.*

Please visit the **IVR website** for more information about the IVR steering gear inspections, quality criteria, audits and checklists. Or **contact** the IVR Technical Secretariat.

DISCLAIMER
For the purposes of this leaflet, “steering system” and “steering gear” are used interchangeably and should be understood to have the same meaning.
The content of this leaflet has been compiled with the utmost care. However, IVR cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information. IVR accepts no liability for any consequences that may arise from the content of this leaflet.
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