



Marine Safety Center Technical Note

MTN 01-11, CH-2
16710
September 3, 2021

MARINE SAFETY CENTER TECHNICAL NOTE (MTN) NO. 01-11, CH-2

Subj: PLAN APPROVAL EXTENSION PROCEDURES

Ref: (a) Title 46 CFR Subpart 50.20-15, Previously Approved Plans
(b) Title 46 CFR Subpart 116.210, Plans for Sister Vessels
(c) Title 46 CFR Subpart 177.210, Plans for Sister Vessels
(d) Title 46 CFR Subpart 144.155, Verification of Compliance with Design Standards for a Sister Vessel
(e) Marine Safety Manual, Vol. IV, Chapter 1, Section D, Plans and Specifications
(f) Marine Safety Manual, Vol. IV, Chapter 6, Section D.2, Sister Vessels
(g) Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) No. 14-81, Stability Tests; Waiving of for "Sister Vessels"

1. Purpose: This MTN provides guidance to the marine industry regarding the process for requesting a plan approval extension (PAE).
2. Applicability: The guidelines provided in this MTN apply to all plans and calculations which have previously been marked either "Approved" or "Examined" by the MSC.
3. Background: References (a) through (e) include various provisions for the construction of new vessels / systems based on plans previously approved for the construction of another vessel / system. MSC refers to this practice as "plan approval extension". Plan approval extension involves the identification of previously approved system plans or calculations for one vessel, which can then be used in the construction of other vessels. Plan approval extensions save time and resources by preventing a duplication of effort for plans which have already been approved and are identical to another vessel under construction. Specific procedures for requesting plan approval extension from the MSC are addressed in this MTN.
4. Discussion:
 - a. A vessel owner or builder may desire that approval for plans and calculations previously marked "Approved" or "Examined" by the MSC be extended to additional vessels. The PAE should not be confused with "sister vessel" determinations. A vessel need not be considered a sister vessel to be eligible for PAE. A sister vessel determination is used specifically to waive a stability test and is not the subject of this MTN; further discussion is provided in references (f) and (g).
 - b. In the case of barges with simple hull forms, approval of stability calculations may be extended, regardless of whether two barges are deemed sisters, if the hydrostatic characteristics are identical and the lightship values on which they were based are

subsequently validated by a stability test or deadweight survey. The MSC will generate a Plan Review Information Sheet (PRIS) when barge stability calculations are approved via PAE. Once a stability test or deadweight survey on the new barge is conducted, the results must be submitted to the MSC to confirm the characteristics outlined in the PRIS before an initial Certificate of Inspection (COI) can be issued. If approval of stability calculations is extended to more than one barge, the procedures outlined in reference (g) may be followed to apply the results of the stability test or deadweight survey to subsequent sister vessels.

- c. The MSC applies the following criteria when evaluating PAE requests:
 - i. Plans with any modification or revision from the originally approved plans are not eligible for PAE. Additionally, only approved plans for a complete system are eligible for PAE. Plans provided for individual components within a system or plans that are provided for parts of a complete system are not eligible for PAE.
 - ii. The applied regulatory standards and all comments contained in the original MSC approval letters remain applicable.
 - iii. Equivalency determinations are not eligible for PAE.
 - iv. PAE requests involving plans from more than one reference vessel (e.g. hull structure approval from one vessel, and mechanical piping system approval from another vessel) will be subject to a higher level of scrutiny due to the increase in complexity of the review. In these cases, a responsible officer of the shipbuilding company or owner must attest in writing that:
 - (a) All reference vessels are of the same type and dimensions;
 - (b) The reference vessels are authorized for identical routes; and
 - (c) For plan approval extensions involving multiple reference vessels, the plans are compatible with each other (e.g. vapor piping from one vessel and hazardous zones from another vessel may not be compatible).
- d. The submitter must certify that they are the owner of the originally approved plans or that they have the legal owner's permission to request PAE of the originally approved plans.
- e. The MSC will not grant PAE to plans which were approved by another entity. To request PAE for plans that were previously approved by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) or an authorized classification society (ACS) acting on behalf of the Coast Guard, the OCMI or ACS should be contacted directly.
- f. Due to the rapidly developing nature of marine electronics and limited availability of older parts, PAE may not be granted for electrical drawings older than five years if commercially available components cannot be confirmed to still be available for installation.
- g. The automation test procedures are vessel specific and approved for each hull separately. The MSC will not grant PAE for Design Verification Test Procedures (DVTP) or Periodic Safety Test Procedures (PSTP).

- h. Novel designs (i.e. Li-ion, LNG, hydrogen fuel used for propulsion) are approved on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, MSC will not issue PAE for any vessel or system approved as a novel design.

5. Action:

- a. To request a PAE, a vessel owner or builder must complete a Plan Approval Extension Request Form, enclosure (1), and submit it to the MSC. The PAE Request Form can also be found [here](#). The submission should include a cover letter and a copy of the new vessel's Application for Inspection. The preferred method for submitting this information is via the MSC's Electronic Commerce (EC) address: msc@uscg.mil.
- b. If enclosure (1) includes plans from more than one reference vessel, the cover letter must also include the information required in paragraph 4.c.iv(a-c).
- c. If the PAE request is granted, the MSC will return enclosure (1) to the submitter, accompanied by an approval letter.
- d. If the PAE request is denied, the MSC will mark the "Denied" column on the PAE Request Form for the respective plan, and an explanation will be provided in the accompanying letter.
- e. After a PAE is granted, the submitter must provide the following documentation to the cognizant OCMI:
 - i. The PAE Request Form and accompanying MSC approval letter;
 - ii. A copy of each plan listed on the PAE Request Form; and
 - iii. All MSC approval letters corresponding to the original plans.

- 6. Disclaimer: While the guidance contained in this document may assist the industry, the public, the Coast Guard, and other Federal and State agencies in applying statutory and regulatory requirements, this guidance is not a substitute for the applicable legal requirements, nor is it in itself a regulation. It is not intended to, nor does it impose, legally binding requirements on any party, including the Coast Guard, other Federal agencies, the States, or the regulated community.



R. C. COMPHER

Encl: (1) Plan Approval Extension (PAE) Request Form

Copy: Commandant (CG-ENG), Office of Design and Engineering Standards
Commandant (CG-CVC), Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance

Date: _____

Sheet ___ of ___

MARINE SAFETY CENTER PLAN APPROVAL EXTENSION REQUEST FORM

Directions:

1. Complete the table below with all approved plans and corresponding MSC approval letters for which plan approval extension is requested.
2. Electronically submit this form with a copy of the vessel's Application for Inspection directly to the MSC (MSC@USCG.mil), or submit a paper copy to our mailing address:

Commanding Officer (MSC)
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7430

NAME AND IDENTIFICATION (O.N., CG NUMBER) OF VESSEL FOR WHICH PLANS WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED:
NAME AND IDENTIFICATION OF VESSEL(S) TO WHICH PLAN APPROVAL IS TO BE EXTENDED:

Drawing Number	# of Sheets	Rev. #	Drawing Title	MSC Project Number	Approval Date	Approval Letter Serial Number	Denied (MSC Use)

By submission of this form, I hereby certify that I am the legal owner of the plans and documents listed herein; or, have the permission of the legal owner to request plan approval extension on their behalf.

(MSC Use) This PAE Request is addressed in MSC letter Serial No. _____

Enclosure (1) to MTN 01-11