



Australian Government

Defence

# What is the ANC Framework?

## Fact sheet



More information:

- ANCA Manual (Chapter 3.3: Attaining Naval Classification)
- ANCA Education Modules 2 & 3

## *Seaworthiness through sovereign Defence design rules and standards*

Australia's maritime Defence fleet is undergoing significant transformation to enhance its capability and readiness.

The implementation of the new Australian Naval Classification (ANC) Framework will support this ongoing investment in continuous naval shipbuilding, assuring the seaworthiness of current and new vessels and providing flexibility for commanders to make risk-based decisions while operating naval vessels.

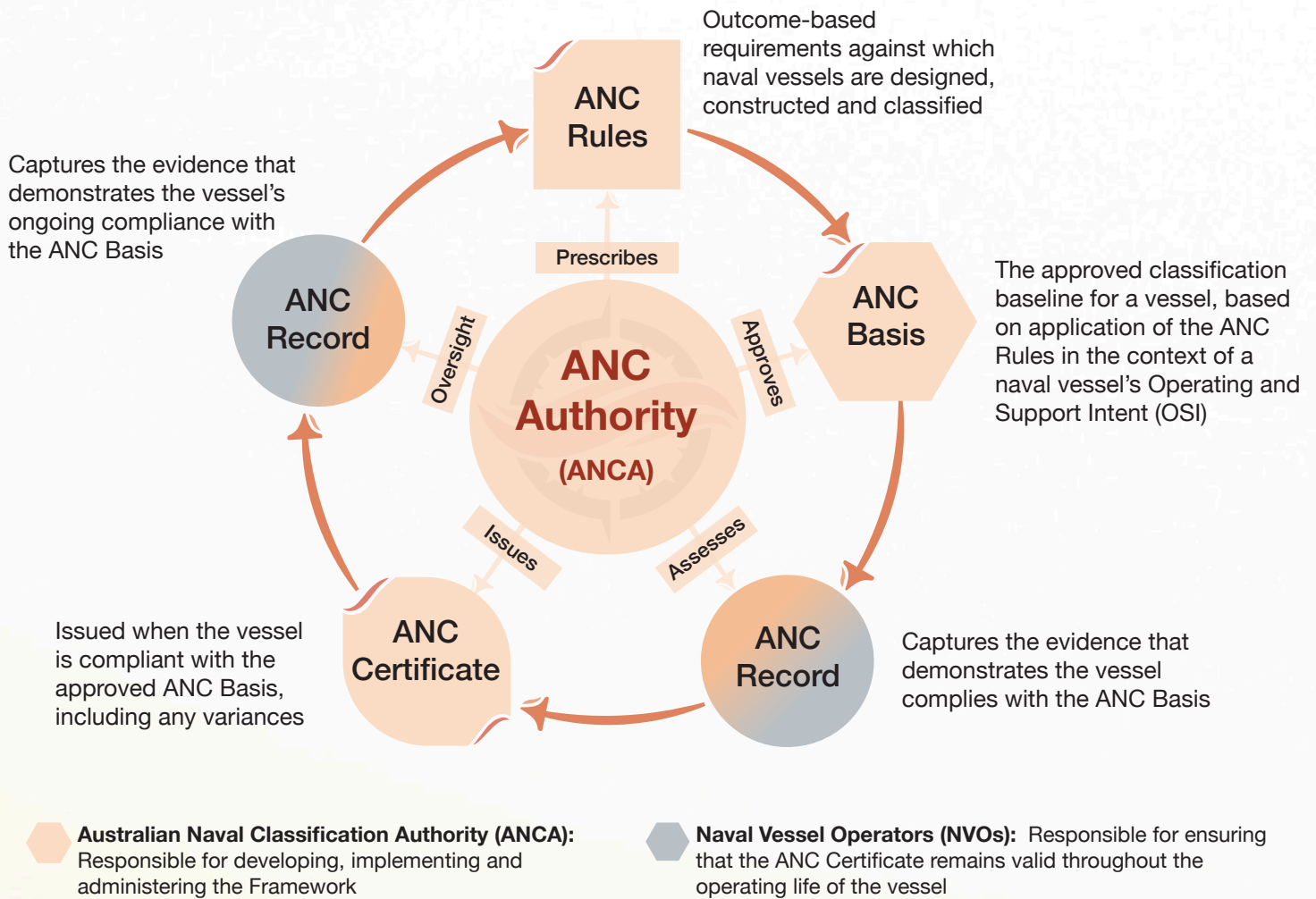
The Framework will enable innovation in the design and construction of our vessels. It will reduce acquisition and maintenance costs, strengthen Australia's ties with International partners to secure our region and improve alignment and cooperation across Defence, Government and industry more broadly.



The ANC Framework prescribes clear rules and design standards for Australia's Defence vessels, including new capabilities (both bought off the shelf and those designed and built in Australia or overseas) and evolving technologies.

The Framework has a number of components that contribute to assuring the materiel seaworthiness of Defence vessels, highlighted below:

The ANC Framework has been developed and is being implemented by the Australian Naval Classification Authority (ANCA), which is authorised by the Defence Seaworthiness Authority (DSwA) to determine the classification rules for each Australian Defence vessel for its design and construction through-life.



## Development of the Framework

The Framework draws on best practice international naval ship rules while enabling the inclusion of sovereign rules to comply with Australian requirements. There are two driving principles underpinning the ANC Framework:

**As International as Possible and as Australian as Necessary**

Leveraging best practice design standards and capability worldwide, whilst ensuring compliance with Australian requirements.

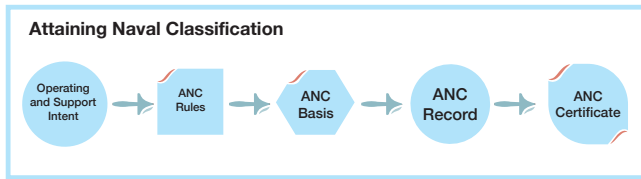
**As Civilian as Possible and as Military as Necessary**

Combining civilian classification models with Defence-specific requirements to ensure operational outcomes are met.

The use of *NATO's Naval Ship Code* to support the design of the ANC Framework comprehensively aligns Australia to international design standards for Defence vessels and allows for the necessary inclusion of sovereign design standards where required by Australian legislation. The result is a Framework that can serve as a template for other global navies.

# How the Framework is applied

The ANC Framework is applied through an operating model with two distinct phases:

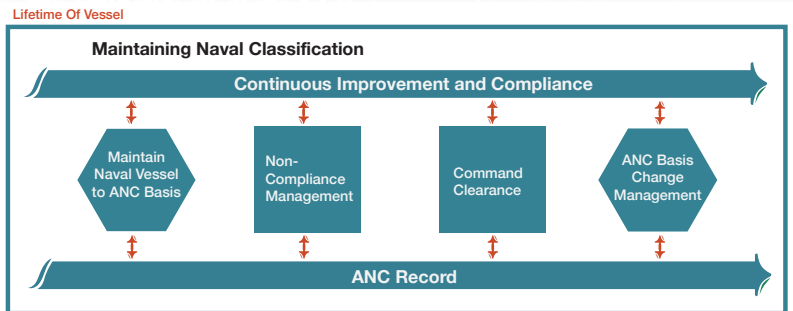


## Phase 1: Attaining Naval Classification

This is the process of applying the ANC Rules in the context of the Naval Vessel's Operating Support Intent (OSI) to create an approved ANC Basis. Evidence against the ANC Basis is then collected in an ANC Record, which is used to demonstrate compliance for the issuance of the ANC Certificate (see the Attaining Naval Classification Fact Sheet for more information).

## Phase 2: Maintaining Naval Classification

This is the process of ensuring the ANC Certificate remains valid throughout the life of the naval vessel's operation (see the Maintaining Naval Classification Fact Sheet for more information).



# What the ANC Framework will achieve

The introduction of the ANC Framework will maximise the availability and responsiveness of the fleet by:



providing more flexibility for operational commanders through the ability to make well informed risk decisions when using naval vessels



reducing acquisition and sustainment costs and administration through greater certainty and clarity of design, construction, certification and maintenance standards for industry



enabling innovation in the design and construction of our vessels through greater flexibility



strengthening alignment and cooperation between departments within Defence, Government, Industry and International partners

# Implementation

The ANC Framework will be rolled out progressively, commencing in late 2023. It will apply to new vessels from the design phase, with existing vessels transitioning to the Framework in stages.

To support this, a transition plan is being developed and ANCA will work with Capability Managers to determine the transition order to minimise disruption. This is key – the goal of transition for existing vessels is to ensure the materiel state of each vessel is known and risks can be managed, rather than full compliance with the ANC Rules.

“The goal of Transition is to ensure the materiel seaworthiness state of each vessel is known and risks can be managed.”



# FAQs

## **Does the ANC Framework apply only to new Navy vessels?**

The Framework applies to all Defence owned or operated ships and boats – current and future. All naval vessels operated across Defence will need to be certified under the ANC Framework, and the rules will apply to new vessels bought off the shelf, as well as those designed and constructed in Australia.

## **Will all vessels be required to comply with the new Framework at once?**

The ANC Framework will apply to new maritime capabilities from the design stage, whilst current maritime capabilities will transition to the Framework in phases to ensure minimal impact and disruption.

## **Does the Framework supersede existing systems for naval classification and rules?**

Yes. The current system for Naval Classification and rule sets is no longer fit-for-purpose to meet the capability and operational requirements for new and existing Defence vessels in the evolving strategic environment. Boosting sovereign capability is also an Australian Government priority; the development of new design rules that leverage best practice international standards whilst enabling inclusion of sovereign rules to meet Australian requirements will support this.

## **Where does ANCA and the Framework fit within the existing Defence Seaworthiness regulatory system?**

ANCA is authorised by the Defence Seaworthiness Authority (DSWA) to determine the classification rules for each Defence vessel, to assure our vessels in support of the Defence Seaworthiness regulatory system. These rules form part of the ANC Framework, which has been designed to ensure compliance with obligations under the Defence Seaworthiness Management System.



## **Find out more**

For more information:

- Visit [drnet/dswr/ANCA/Pages/Home.aspx](https://drnet/dswr/ANCA/Pages/Home.aspx)
- Visit [defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority](https://defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority)
- Email [ANCA.communications@defence.gov.au](mailto:ANCA.communications@defence.gov.au)