



# Attaining Naval Classification

## Fact sheet



More information:

- ANCA Manual (Chapter 3.3: Attaining Naval Classification)
- ANCA Education Module 4



The classification of naval vessels is a core function of the Australian Naval Classification Authority (ANCA). To achieve this, all Australian Defence vessels will need to be classified under the Australian Naval Classification (ANC) Framework.

New Defence vessels will go through the full process to attain Naval Classification. Existing vessels will achieve Naval Classification as part of a transition plan designed to minimise impact on Defence and Industry.

Through the implementation of the ANC Framework, including a single set of sovereign design rules, ANCA will help assure the materiel seaworthiness of Australia's Defence vessels whilst optimising their capability and readiness to respond in an evolving strategic environment.



# What is Naval Classification?

Commercial classification enables ship owners and operators to obtain registration, mitigate safety and security risks, and comply with regulations. Naval Classification is broader in scope than civilian vessel classification due to the nature of their operating environment, the military operations they participate in and recognising they may suffer routine and potential conflict damage. That is why specific Defence standards are required.

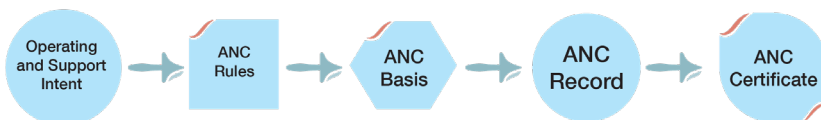
**Naval Classification** ensures a vessel's operational effect is maximised, and that operational risks are identified and minimised so far as reasonably practical - and tailored rules are applied to assure the ongoing seaworthiness of naval vessels.

The Australian Naval Classification Rules (ANC Rules) are founded on a common international convention – *NATO's Naval Ship Code* – which is well understood by industry. The ANC Rules and Design Notes prescribe the Naval Classification requirements for the design of Australia's Defence vessels, to achieve the seaworthiness outcome in consideration of the vessel's proposed configuration, role, and operating environment.

The tailored application of naval class rules will help provide clarity for industry and reduce the burden of ongoing seaworthiness assurance (for example, on Navy and the Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group (NSSG) to process waivers against civilian class requirements that will not exist under the ANC Framework).

## Naval Classification has two key phases:

### Attaining Naval Classification

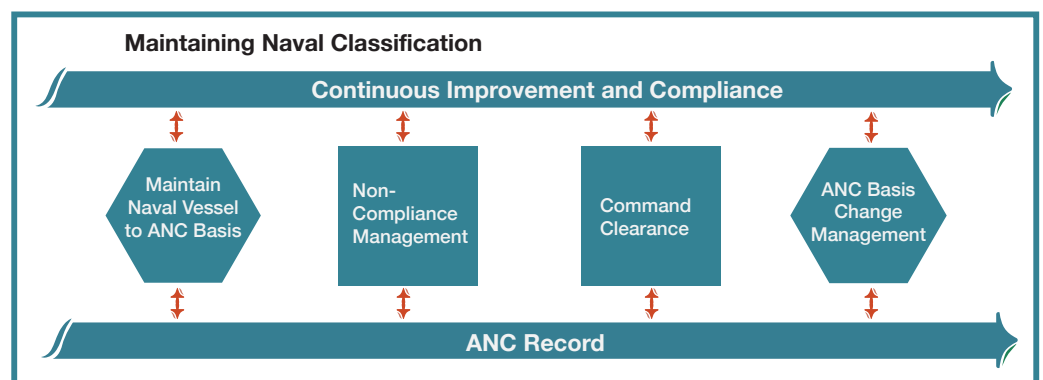


### PHASE 1: Attaining Naval Classification

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.

### 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)



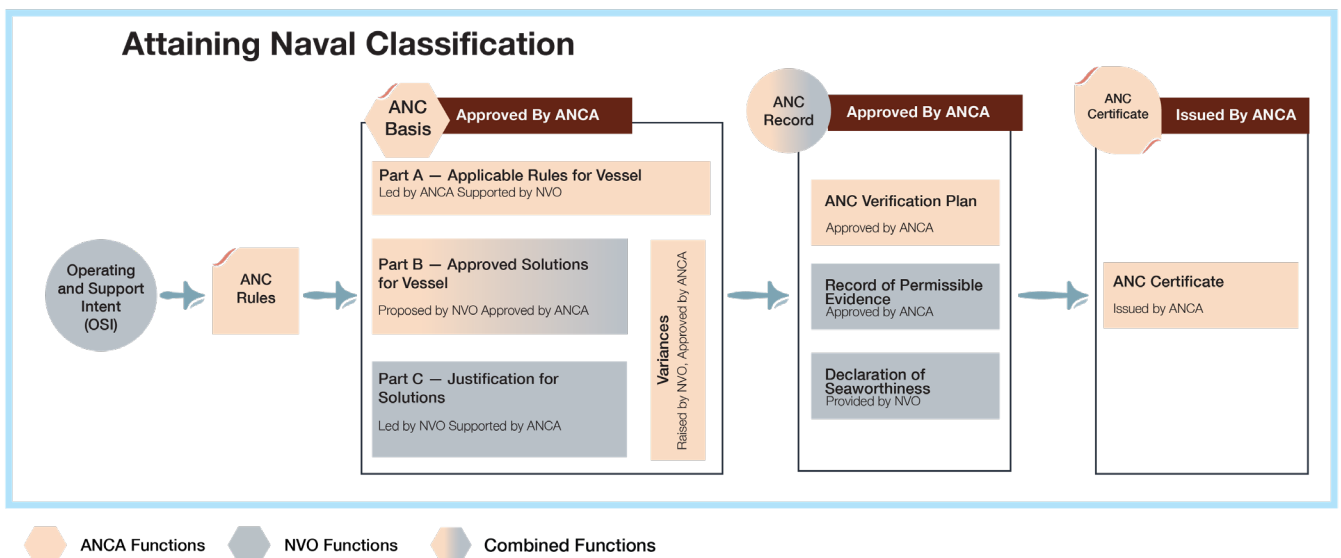
# The process to attain Naval Classification

The process to attain Naval Classification comprises a sequence of activities undertaken by the Services and Groups that operate a Naval Vessel - known as Naval Vessel Operators (or NVOs) - and in consultation with the ANCA.

The NVO:

- a. Ensures the OSI includes the content required as specified in the ANC Rules.
- b. Requests the development of Part A of the ANC Basis in context of the Naval Vessel's OSI by the ANCA and supported by the NVO.
- c. Drafts and develops Parts B & C of the ANC Basis in consultation with the ANCA.
- d. Submits the ANC Basis to the ANCA for approval.
- e. Raises variances for ANCA's approval as required and ensures they are included in updates to the ANC Basis.
- f. Develops and implements an ANC Verification Plan to capture permissible evidence within the ANC Record.
- g. Submits a Declaration of Seaworthiness (Materiel) including a completed ANC Record at the conclusion of the build phase for the ANCA's consideration.
- h. Receives and holds the ANC Certificate.

These activities fall within the Attaining Naval Classification process shown below:





# FAQs

## Is Naval Classification different to classification of non-Defence vessels?

Yes; whilst civil classification societies are used for classification of commercial vessels, civil classification does not adequately cover the risks, operational requirements and environment within which naval vessels operate. It is for this reason that tailored Naval Classification is required for Defence vessels.

## How will classification under the ANC Framework differ?

The current Defence model has been adapted from the civilian model to incorporate Defence's unique military requirements. However, this model is not fit-for-purpose, as there is no singular authority that sets the baseline for design, construction, maintenance and disposal of Australian naval vessels to meet regulatory and legislative requirements.

ANCA is authorised by the Defence Seaworthiness Authority to determine the ANC Rules which apply to each Australian naval vessel, for its design, construction, through-life maintenance and disposal. The ANC Framework is designed specifically for Defence purposes and highlights the central role of the NVO.

## Where can I access the ANC Rules for the class of vessel I operate?

The ANC Rules will be available on the Defence website: [www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority](http://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority)

## What happens if naval classification is not achieved for a vessel?

ANCA will work collaboratively with NVOs to ensure new vessels comply with ANC Framework requirements. There are various management processes for non-compliances under the ANC Framework. In extreme circumstances related to mission taskings, NVOs have the discretion to proceed with sailing even if the vessel is non-compliant; however, the NVO is responsible for rectifying the issue as soon as possible once the mission is completed. Transition of existing Defence vessels will be focused on gaining an accurate picture of the risks that need to be managed through-life for each vessel, and taking a staged approach to minimise impact.

## Find out more

For more information:

- On the ANC Framework, read the ANC Framework Fact Sheet
- Read the Maintaining Naval Classification Fact Sheet
- Visit [drnet/dswr/ANCA/Pages/Home.aspx](http://drnet/dswr/ANCA/Pages/Home.aspx)
- Visit [defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority](http://defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/australian-naval-classification-authority)
- Email [ANCA.communications@defence.gov.au](mailto:ANCA.communications@defence.gov.au)