



2025

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# Guidance for Remote Inspection Techniques

## APPLICATION OF "Guidance for Remote Inspection Techniques

1. Unless expressly specified otherwise, the requirements in the Guidance apply to ships for which the application for Classification Survey is submitted to the Society on or after 1 July 2025.
2. The amendments to the Guidance for 2021 edition and their effective date are as follows;

**Effective Date 1 January 2025 (Date of which the application for survey is submitted)**

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### **CHAPTER 1        GENERAL**

#### **101. Definitions**

- 8 has been amended.

### **CHAPTER 3        SURVEY USING RIT**

#### **301. General**

- Table 1 has been amended.

#### **303. Preparations for Survey**

- 1 and 2 have been amended.

#### **306. Reporting**

- 1 has been amended and 2 has been newly added.

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## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

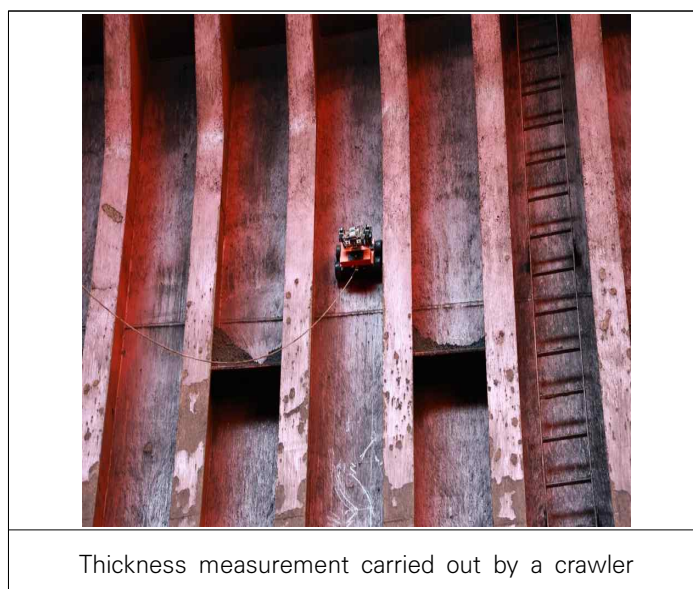
### 101. Definitions

1. **Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT)** is a means of survey that enables examination of any part of the structure without the need for direct physical access of the surveyor. For surveys conducted by use of a remote inspection technique, one or more of the following means for access, acceptable to the Surveyor, is to be provided.

#### (1) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) / Drones

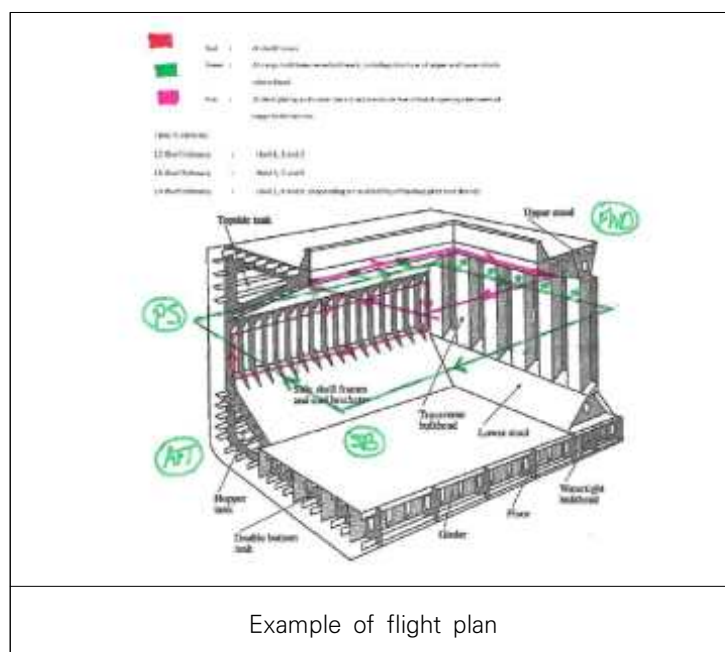


- (2) Unmanned robot arm
- (3) Remotely Operated Vehicles, ROV
- (4) Climbers
- (5) Other means acceptable to the Society



2. **Close-up Survey** means a survey where the details of structural components are within the close visual inspection range of the Surveyor, i.e. normally within reach of hand.

3. **Service Supplier** means a person or company, not employed by an IACS Member, who at the request of an equipment manufacturer, shipyard, vessel's owner or other client acts in connection with inspection work and provides services for a ship or a mobile offshore unit such as measurements, tests or maintenance of safety systems and equipment, the results of which are used by surveyors in making decisions affecting classification or statutory certification and services.
4. **the Owner** means including Charterer, representatives of Owner, Representatives of Charterer and master of ship.
5. **Unmanned Aviation/Aerial Vehicle (UAV) / Drone means** a pilot-free aircraft capable of remote control or autonomous flight based on pre-programmed flight routes and/or dynamic automation systems.
6. **Operators** mean Operators (pilot mission) who directly controls the flight of the drone.
7. **Hazardous Areas mean** areas where flammable or explosive gases, vapors, or dust are generally present or may be present.
8. **Survey plans for RIT** means plans for the survey of various hull compartments, including an appropriate flight plan, if unmanned aerial vehicles are used, are recommended to be developed based on the extent of survey, requirements and the drawings of the dangerous areas of the ship. (2025)
9. **Flight Plan:** for safe flight, activities performed by flight personnel, such as supervisors, operators, and assistants, before take-off, in accordance with all applicable standards and regulations relating to flight, including weather, flight paths, flight zones, equipment composition, supporting personnel, communication requirements and other factors.



## CHAPTER 2 QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE SUPPLIERS

### 201. General

Where remote inspection techniques(hereafter referred to as “RIT”) is to be used as an alternative to close-up survey, it shall be carried out by Service Suppliers approved by the Society and the requirements and procedures of approval are to be in accordance with the Guidance for Approval of Service Suppliers.

- Note: 1) The above Guidance can be found in our website ([www.krs.co.kr](http://www.krs.co.kr)) - “Rules and Solutions” - “Classification Technical Rules Service” - “Other Rules and Guidance” - “Guidance for Approval of Service Suppliers”.
- 2) For reference, the registration guide can be found in our website ([www.krs.co.kr](http://www.krs.co.kr)) - “Our Services” - “Service Supplier”.
- 3) In case of an emergency case, it is recommended that Service Suppliers maintain third party liability insurance.

## CHAPTER 3 SURVEY USING RIT

### 301. General

In case of using the RIT, the Owner shall select a Service Supplier approved by the Society. This chapter provides the procedures when surveys using RIT is used for classification survey and follows the Table 1.

**Table 1 Classification Survey Flow for RIT**

(2025)	the Owner	Service Supplier	KR (Head Office or Branch Office)
Step 1	Select Service Supplier and provide ship's status and drawings to the Service Supplier		
Step 2 (2025)		Submission of survey plans for RIT including: 1) Determine which equipment of RIT to use 2) Risk assessment according to the scope of work and establishment of RIT flight plan	
Step 3 (2025)	Review and approve survey plans for RIT prepared by Service Supplier		
Step 4	Obtain flight-related approval from local government (if necessary)		
Step 5 (2025)	Submit an application including survey plans for RIT to the KR head office or branch office		
Step 6 (2025)			Review and approve the submitted survey plans for RIT
Step 7	Obtain work/site permit, crews, survey preparation, etc.		
Step 8	A survey planning meeting between the Owner, the Service Supplier and the attending Surveyor		
Step 9	Attend survey	Conduct RIT survey	Attend survey
Step 10		Provide survey results and data to the Owner and the attending Surveyor	
Step 11 (2025)	Confirmation and signature of reports submitted by the Service Suppliers		Review and evaluation of reports submitted by the Service Supplier (conduct confirmatory survey/Close-up survey/thickness measurement, if necessary)

### 302. Application

RIT is a tool to assist the attending Surveyor as an alternative to close-up survey. The acceptance of the survey results is to be confirmed by the Surveyor that the results meet the requirements of the Rules. If the Surveyor is dissatisfied with the results of the RIT, traditional methods may be required.

RIT may not be appropriate if any of the following conditions exist or are found during the survey.

- (1) Any indication or condition that indicates damage or abnormality in the structure under survey.
- (2) When the condition of the structure under survey affects the classification of the hull structure.
- (3) Any damage or defect that requires immediate action during the survey is identified.
- (4) The structure to be surveyed is not clean enough to be practically inspected and the view is not sufficient.

RIT is an effective way to identify unsatisfactory conditions such as defects and corrosion, but other approaches may be needed to determine the appropriate assessment and repair coverage.

### 303. Preparations for Survey

#### 1. Submitted documents

- (1) Prior to survey, the Owner shall submit the survey plans for RIT(prepared by a Service Supplier) containing the following information to the related KR Branch Office for approval.  
However, for the Special Survey No. 3 and subsequent Periodical Survey of ships subject to the Enhanced Survey Programme(ESP) (excluding Chemical Tankers), the survey plans for RIT shall be submitted to the head office of the Society for approval. (2025)

(A) Main particulars

(B) Types of survey (eg Annual/Intermediate/Special Survey, Damage Survey)

(C) Scope of Survey (ie Close-up survey, thickness measurement, nondestructive test, etc.);

– In particular, in the case of the Special Survey No. 3 and subsequent Periodical Survey of ships subject to the Enhanced Survey Programme(ESP) (excluding Chemical Tankers), if unmanned remote inspection techniques (excluding rope access or diver) is to be used for Close-up Survey(and/or thickness measurements), it shall be in accordance with the separate requirements as specified by the Society. (2025)

(D) After completion of the survey, confirmatory survey/close-up survey/thickness measurement place and method (when necessary)

(E) The place of survey, estimated time and operational status of the ship (e.g. shipyard, quay or anchorage, etc.)

(F) Transport procedures for site permits, operation work permits and transporting related equipment to the survey site.

(G) Business name, certificate number of the Service Supplier and name of worker/supervisor. (2025)

(H) Equipment used

(I) Flight route / flight method / communication method

(J) Drone Pilot Certification

(K) If necessary, approval of the aeronautical authorities, etc. of the countries and regions having jurisdiction over the operating area of the flight area, and/or the approval of the local government

(L) Emergency Response Plan Evacuation Routes and Contacts

(M) Other drawings, etc. if deemed necessary by the Society

#### 2. Survey Planning Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the survey, the Owner, Service Supplier and the Surveyor shall hold a survey planning meeting to ensure that all items mentioned in the approved survey plans for RIT are well prepared and thus safe and effective.

This meeting shall discuss the following (1) and (2). (2025)

##### (1) Risk Assessment

In addition to the usual risk assessment, the Service Supplier shall conduct a case specific risk



assessment to identify risks associated with the need for planned drone operations and the need for risk control measures. The risk assessment shall be conducted during an survey planning meeting attended by all parties and, where appropriate, incorporated into an approved survey plans for RIT. (2025)

Risk assessments include the following categories.

(A) Explosion risks in Hazardous Locations

Where RIT operation are conducted in hazardous areas, equipment used shall be explosion-proof(e.g. Ex-class) or the area shall be made for safe for use of RIT equipment. The Service Supplier shall refer to the dangerous area drawing on board to identify the dangerous area.

In addition, where applicable, the safe operation requirements specified by the Owner, Service Supplier shall be followed, Typical factors to be considered include, but not limited of the following categories

- (a) Payload : risks associated with motors, cameras or other onboard modules
- (b) Batteries : risks associated with storing, using, changing, replacing and recharging batteries
- (c) Explosion due to operation incidents/accidents

(B) Risk of falling object : in case of malfunction or failure of RIT equipment, it can pose risks to the asset and onsite personnel as a falling object. Typical factors to be considered include, but are not limited to

- (a) take-off and landing areas
- (b) mobile areas where the ship is in operation occupied by personnel

(C) Collision risks : unexpected changes in the survey environment, malfunctions of the RIT equipment, and/or human error may result in a collision.

- (a) collisions with birds, ship structures or operating equipment/machinery
- (b) collisions due to communication failures or unexpected malfunctions of the RIT equipment
- (c) collision where visual line of sight is not maintained or unexpected interruption of the pilot operation

(D) Other risks : Identify other risks in terms of personnel's health and safety

- (a) high-risk work areas that may contain high voltages, toxic gases or hazardous contents
- (B) risks associated with other work in progress in the area during the RIT operation
- (C) emergency scenarios that requires evacuation from the ship

(2) Flight Plan

- (A) check the work scope of the intended flight plan
- (B) evaluate flight conditions and determine if revision of the flight plan is necessary
- (C) check the responsibilities of all personnel, including the Owner, Service Supplier and attending Surveyor
- (D) review risks and associated mitigation plans
- (E) review of emergency plans to escape or evacuate

All parties shall have the authority to suspend the operation immediately at any time as deemed necessary.

### 304. Conduct a Survey

#### 1. General

- (1) Survey shall be conducted under the presence of the Surveyor.
- (2) The information obtained from the camera mounted on the RIT equipment shall be of sufficient quality(minimum requirement : 720 pixels or HD level or higher resolution) to determine the condition of the ship's hull structure.

In addition, if necessary, appropriate illumination shall be installed on the RIT equipment or separately prepared.

- (3) If the quality of the equipment related to the RIT is deemed inadequate, the survey related to the RIT may be cancelled by the Surveyor before the actual survey.
- (4) RIT supervisor and operators shall act in accordance with the Surveyor's instructions. However, in the event that the instructions cannot be complied with during operation for safety reasons, the supervisor and the operator shall inform the attending Surveyor the reasons and consider alternative methods with the Surveyor.
- (5) Remove or clean any obstructions if necessary.
- (6) In the event that the required thickness measurement using the RIT cannot be carried out, temporary means of access for thickness measurement shall be provided.
- (7) Data such as photos and videos taken from cameras mounted on RIT equipment shall be recorded.
- (8) Reviews of recorded photos, videos should be carried out by the attending Surveyor and the relevant parties, either during survey or after completion of the survey, as soon as possible.  
And additional survey by RIT or traditional methods, may be required if deemed necessary by the Surveyor.

## 2. Take off

- (1) Communication : If the communication signal between team members is cut or interfered a lot, the operation shall be stopped immediately.
- (2) Documentation : It is recommended that whenever exceptions are found during operation, reference data (i.e., still image capture, location, etc.) should be correctly documented for final reporting.
- (3) Related to Drone
  - (A) Take-off and landing area: The take-off and landing areas shall be marked conspicuously and may, if necessary, restrict access to the take-off and landing areas.
  - (B) Visual line of sight(VLOS): Some aviation authorities require human direct and unaided VLOS is maintained throughout the operation. At the current level of RIT, it is recommended that VLOC is maintained even if there are no requirements applied.

The Surveyor shall be in or near the space to be surveyed and, if necessary, instruct the RIT operation team on survey requirements and execution.

## 3. After flight

- (1) Logging
  - (A) Flight records such as date and time of survey start and end, still image, video image, etc.
  - (B) when an accident or a near miss is found during the operation, it shall be documented and reported to all parties so that the decision to suspend the operation or any other adjustment can be made on time.

## 305. Data Review

Three types of visual data(still image, real-time image, and recorded images) for surveying and evaluating the condition of the structure, shall be available to the attending Surveyor.  
After completion of the flight, all visual data at the site shall be reviewed in all forms so that additional flight requests or alternative survey methods may be required, if necessary.

## 306. Reporting

1. After completion of the survey using the RIT equipment, the surveyor shall receive a result report including the following matters from a service supplier and confirm the appropriateness. (2025)
  - (1) Name of Firm carrying out RIT
  - (2) Name of supervisor and worker including certificate or training certificate number
  - (3) Survey date and location
  - (4) Name of RIT equipment used
  - (5) Name of ship, official number, classification number, gross tonnage, port of registry and the Owner (2025)
  - (6) Survey information including kinds of survey, name and/or location of surveyed structure or

space

- (7) Survey details and results (damage, condition, etc.)
  - (8) Flight records related to still images and video images including date and time of survey start and end.
  - (9) In the event that survey is suspended due to an accident, the related records
  - (10) When submitting relevant data online to KR, a method considering the reliability of the data and the risk of leakage shall be used
2. The surveyor shall keep the result report obtained from the Owner's confirmation and signature, attached to the final survey report of the relevant ship. (2025)

Note : If review of the data identifies any situation that may affect classification, though not confirmed at the time of survey, the Owner shall notify the KR.

## CHAPTER 4 DATA

### 401. General

Data(e.g. still image, video image) collected by the equipment of the RIT are mostly visual information. Appropriate equipment for marking and reproducing this collected data shall be included.

### 402. Data Acquisition

Visual data collected during the flight shall be reviewed and evaluated at the designated time and place as agreed by all parties at the survey planning meeting. To evaluate the visual data collected by the equipment of the RIT, the following criteria shall be considered.

1. Image quality shall be able to assess the structure's condition substantially and be suitable for identifying anomalies.
2. If abnormalities are identified during the survey, the quality of the images shall enable the attending Surveyor to identify the nature, severity, and approximate dimensions of the anomaly, if applicable.
3. The images of real-time or recorded video are not broken, so any part of the structure must be visible to the attending Surveyor.
4. Data identifying structural members, particularly those related to anomalies, shall be collected for later tracking.

### 403. Post-Analysis Data

While most data assessments are performed in real time, either during or within a short period of time after flight, some Service Suppliers may provide post-analysis data for further evaluation.

### 404. Data Security

Service Suppliers shall comply with any statutory or requirements, company regulations, or contracts (where applicable) and recommend that cyber security is properly handled when implementing remote data access portals for customers.

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## GUIDELINE FOR REMOTE INSPECTION TECHNIQUE USING DRONES

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