

Prefatory Note

Introduction to the Special Feature on “Activities for Safe Operation of Container Ships”

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our readers to this Special Feature of ClassNK Technical Journal No. 7 on “Activities for Safe Operation of Container Ships.”

We publish the ClassNK Technical Journal to contribute to technical progress in the maritime industry by making the technological activities and research results of the Society available to all those concerned. In our previous ClassNK Technical Journal No. 6, we focused on the concepts of risk assessment and risk-based design in the maritime field, and reported on related trends and recent research and development results.

In recent years, a large number of container ships have been built accompanying increasing global demand for container freight. At the same time, it can be said that container ships have shown the greatest changes among all ship types in the current century, including remarkable increases in the size of container ships due to the effects of reduced-speed operation to meet environmental regulations. For these container ships, the Society conducted a comprehensive revision of Part C of the ClassNK Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships in 2022, which has made it possible to carry out safer and more rational structural design and evaluation than in the past. We have also issued three sets of Guidelines for container ships in the current fiscal year 2023, and are expanding our support services in response to the needs of container ship operation.

For ClassNK Technical Journal No. 7, we have assembled a Special Feature entitled “Activities for Safe Operation of Container Ships,” which presents an overview of the structural rules and above-mentioned Guidelines for container ships. This issue also includes a diverse range of other articles and papers on various research and development achievements, the technical activities of Class NK, trends in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant topics.

Based on the needs of society and the industry, we will continue to make diligent efforts in research and development which contribute to ensuring the safety of human life and property at sea, protecting the marine environment and creating innovations that lead society in order to contribute to the further development of the maritime industry.

We sincerely request the continuing understanding and support of all those concerned in the future, as in the past.