

Prefatory Note

Introduction to the Special Feature on “Initiatives for Vehicle Carrier Fires”

General Manager of Research Institute, ClassNK
Kinya ISHIBASHI

On the occasion of the publication of ClassNK Technical Journal No. 9, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our readers.

ClassNK Technical Journal is published with the aim of contributing to the progress of technology in the maritime industry by making information concerning the technological activities and research results of the Society available to a wider range of interested parties. Based on the adoption of the revised IMO Strategy on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships at IMO MEPC80 (80th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization) in July 2023, the previous issue (ClassNK Technical Journal No. 8) reported on moves to strengthen international regulations toward the achievement of higher emission reduction targets than in the past, related technological trends for achieving that goal, and recent research and development achievements.

Adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in order to achieve carbon neutrality is increasing internationally, and as a result, marine transportation of EVs by Vehicle carriers is also increasing. Although there is statistical data showing that the occurrence probability of fires involving EVs is lower in comparison with gasoline-fueled vehicles, the situation after a fire occurs is different. Therefore, in order to contribute to safer transportation of EVs, the Society issued “Guidelines for the Safe Transportation of Electric Vehicles (Edition 1.0).”

This ClassNK Technical Journal No. 9 includes a Special Feature entitled “Initiatives for Vehicle Carrier Fires,” which introduces the guidelines for the safe transportation of EVs and fire-extinguishing technology for Vehicle carriers. This issue also includes diverse articles and papers in connection with a launch vehicle recovery ship for reusable launch vehicles being developed by the Society together with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), recent technological activities in the Society and other topics.

Based on the needs of society and the industry, the Society will continue to grapple wholeheartedly with research and development which contribute to securing the safety of human life and property at sea, protecting the marine environment and creating innovations that lead society, and will strive to contribute to the further development of the maritime industry.

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