



# EU RO Mutual Recognition Group Newsletter

Issue No. 7 – March 2017

## A Word from the Steering Committee Chair

Welcome to issue no. 7 of the EU RO MR Group newsletter.



Claudio Abbate

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the EU RO MR Steering Committee for the next 12 months.

RINA takes over the EU RO MR Group's lead in a time where Class societies are expected to deliver **high quality services, including equipment certification**, contributing to the safety of seagoing ships. Finding a balance of cooperating with the industry to strengthen their economic position, while continuously improving the safety level, is also the aim of Regulation 391/2009 and its Art 10.1.

The oncoming year will be about continuing enhancing confidence in the MR scheme and thus supporting the industry in the long run, based on the reliability of high quality class services.

In this respect, the EU RO MR Group further considers the optimal setup for this phase. This includes the full integration of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), which was welcomed to the Group in October 2016.

The Group is currently developing draft technical requirements for another 7 product groups referred to as Tier 6. In **maintaining an open dialogue** with industry, the Group evaluates additional products as proposed by the industry.

Good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders is regarded as crucial in order to integrate views of the whole industry, with the fundamental contribution of the European Commission.

Finally, on behalf of the Group, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the outgoing Advisory Board Chair, Masaki Matsunaga (ClassNK) for his excellent leadership and commitment over the past 12 months.

I would like to thank our industry partners for their contribution to our work in the last year and I hope that this newsletter provides some useful insight as to where the EU RO MR Group is now.

**Claudio Abbate**  
**Steering Committee Chairman for 2017**

- The next issue of the newsletter is due in late summer 2017.
- Previous issues can be found on <http://www.euromr.org/stakeholder-relations>

## Changes to the EU RO MR Group Leadership 2016



Handover of SC Chair  
from Masaki Matsunaga (ClassNK)  
to Claudio Abbate (RINA)

From 1 January 2017,  
Claudio Abbate of RINA took over the Steering Committee  
Chairmanship from outgoing Chairman, Masaki Matsunaga of ClassNK.

Claudio Abbate will chair the Steering Committee for 2017.

Laurent Courregelongue of Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore (BV) will  
continue to chair the Technical Committee until 31 December 2017.

For more information see [www.euromr.org/about us](http://www.euromr.org/about-us)

## Adjustments to the EU RO MR Group structure

Communication requirements, and other elements led to the following internal adjustments: It was acknowledged that the name of the internal governing body of the EU RO MR Group 'Advisory Board (AB)' could be misleading. So, the internal governing and managing body was renamed to Steering Committee (SC) from 1 Jan 2017. It is by definition an internal body of EU ROs.

Other structural changes of the Group were considered necessary to be able to react more flexibly to inquiries, challenges, general topics and concepts and to bundle expertise. A project team structure has been provided for with AdHoc Groups advising the Steering Committee, and Task Groups advising the Technical Committee.

The structure of the EU RO MR Group as of 1 Jan 2017 is as follows:



## Advisory Board (now Steering Committee) meeting held in Tokyo on 9 November 2016

### The Advisory Board in Tokyo



#### Advisory Board Members (left to right):

Sergey Tolmachev – RS; Masaki Matsunaga – Chair of the Advisory Board 2016; Ulrich Foerster – LR; Chris Campbell – Consultant; Irene Wieja – Secretary; Karel van Campenhout – ABS; Giovanni Carratino – RINA; Hans Gaetjens – BV; Praveen Kumar Mishra – IR; Laurent Courregelongue – Chair of the Technical Committee; Haitao Wang – CCS; Woon-ho Lee – KR

Photo courtesy of ClassNK

On 9 November 2016, the EU RO MR Group held its Advisory Board (AB) Meeting at the offices of ClassNK in Tokyo.

Besides the topics related to management issues and the development of Mutual Recognition Technical Requirements one major item was the first participation of the Indian Register of Shipping.

Further, the handling of feedback from the industry and other external stakeholders has been prioritized.

### Indian Register (IRS) on board of the EU RO Mutual Recognition Group

Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), who received EU RO recognition status with COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2016/1327 on 1 August 2016 went through a formalized integration process, resulting in the formal admission to the EU RO MR Group on 17 October 2016 and the participation in the Advisory Board (now Steering Committee) meeting in Tokyo on 9 November 2016.

The on-boarding process comprised the IRS acceptance of the Group's governing documents and procedures. Finalization of the gap analysis to exclude that the IRS class rules contain any more stringent requirements as compared to the MR Technical Requirements was confirmed by IRS.

This was followed by information sessions supporting IRS to familiarize with the Group's method of work and document management.

IRS has been warmly welcomed and is now integral part of the EU RO MR Group.

### Technical cooperation with industry

Industry associations or individual companies get in touch with the MR Group to discuss their needs regarding the certification of material, components and equipment. This leads to requests for clarification, triggers changes to the Technical Requirements or initiates product consideration for the Mutual Recognition Scheme. Furthermore, general questions are addressed, which also leads to important and interesting discussions – with industry partners, but also within the MR Group.

In the last months, the Group in particular focussed on issues brought up in the last Technical Review Meeting.

Eight actions were agreed with the industry partners, reaching from more general procedural questions to very specific technical questions.

Further, valuable input regarding the alignment of especially testing requirements, and consistency in wording of the Technical Requirements, including technical editing items such as referencing of international standards in all EU RO MR documents were followed up.

Resulting from this input, Change Requests, e.g. on the TR Pressure Gauge Transmitters, Contactors, Circuit Breakers, Switches and Mechanical Joints were processed or are under way to be finalized in the next weeks in the Group's maintenance process.

Product Consideration Processes (PCF), e.g. for Public Address General Alarm Systems, Position Switches and High Voltage Switchboard have been or are being processed.

Further, clarification was requested, more general regarding the certification process, testing requirements, application cases, but also technically regarding, e.g. the Technical Requirement on Plastic Piping Systems, for which a Technical Interpretation has been created, and put on the EU RO MR website next to the respective TR. ([T1005](#)).

As the valuable input from industry helps improving the scheme in general, and the Technical Requirements in particular, industry is encouraged to address any issue of interest to the Group under <http://www.euromr.org/contact-us>.

### Development of Technical Requirements for a 6th Tier of Type Approved Products

A sixth tier of 7 MR technical requirements (Tier 6) is currently under development by the EU RO MR Technical Committee, which will be released on 30 December 2017 and will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

The Tier 6 products are confirmed as:

- Gaskets and seals for piping systems
- Anti-acid paints (batteries' storage rooms)
- Valves - Boiler water systems (Class III)
- Valves - Steam systems (Class III, non-essential Systems)
- Electrical insulation mats
- Non-metallic gratings
- Touch screen i.e. a display monitor or a video screen that is also an input device

For more information on the MR technical requirement development process, please visit: <http://www.euromr.org/tr-development>.

### Tier 6 Industry Consultation Phase – June to September 2017

The Tier 6 Industry Consultation Phase will start from 15 June 2017. During the consultation phase, which will last until 15 September 2017, all associations that represent the marine technology and equipment manufacturing industry and are registered with the EU RO MR Group, will be contacted for collecting feedback on the draft MR Technical Requirements of Tier 6. Involvement and input from these groups will be highly welcomed.

If you are an industry association (or manufacturer) interested in assisting the EU RO MR Group with the Tier 6 development project, and are not yet registered with us, please contact [secretariat@euromr.org](mailto:secretariat@euromr.org) for further information by 15 May 2017.



Draft Tier 6 MR Technical Requirements will be published on the [website](#) in June 2017.

## Requests for Information of general interest

For any kind of queries regarding the MR scheme, the website [www.euomr.org](http://www.euomr.org) provides for the possibility to get in touch with the Group under <http://www.euomr.org/contact-us>

The Group has received several inquiries over the last months. The following example is of general interest:

**Question by manufacturer:** ‘Our company have a product which we want approved according to technical requirement in the EU-RO mutual recognition documents. However, it is to me a little unclear to which organisation the initial inquiry shall take place to start the process. Could you please enlighten me on this point.’

**Reply by the MR Group:** The initial inquiry can be directed to any of the classification societies being recognized by the EU. Please get in touch with the classification society of your choice. All societies that are members to the EU RO MR Group (see website [www.euomr.org](http://www.euomr.org)) do have the expertise to advise on the process of Mutual Recognition and support you as necessary.

Do not hesitate to contact the EU RO MR Group, if you have a general question, need for clarification or a more specific inquiry regarding your product for which you do not find a comprehensive answer in the information provided on the website.

## Further Information on Mutual Recognition

For further information on MR, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page <http://www.euomr.org/faqs>

The overall aim of the FAQ page is to help users navigate the information that is available on MR within its various reports and guidance documents found online.



The screenshot shows the website for the EU RO Mutual Recognition Group. The header includes the group's name and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Guidance for Mutual Recognition, TR Development, Technical Requirements, Links to MR Certificates, Stakeholder Relations, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)' and lists several topics: 'The EU RO MR Group', 'EU ROs' Approach to MR', 'MR Type Approval Process and Certificates', 'MR TR Development and Maintenance', 'Being Kept Informed', and 'Seeking Clarification and Providing Comments on Technical Issues'. A note at the bottom states that the FAQ page is under constant review and iteration. At the bottom of the page, there is a row of logos for various classification societies: ABS, DNV-GL, ICLASS, KR, Lloyd's Register, ClassNK, and RINA.

## Contact the EU RO MR Secretariat

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### EU RO MR Group Events January to June 2017

Date	Event
1 January 2017	Handover to new Steering Committee Chair (RINA)
March 2017	Steering Committee Meeting
March 2017	Technical Committee Meeting

## Contact the EU ROs

- ABS - [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org)
- BV - [www.veristar.com](http://www.veristar.com)
- CCS - [www.ccs.org.cn](http://www.ccs.org.cn)
- CRS - [www.crs.hr](http://www.crs.hr)
- DNV GL - [www.dnvgl.com](http://www.dnvgl.com)
- IRS - [www.irclass.org](http://www.irclass.org)
- KR - [www.krs.co.kr](http://www.krs.co.kr)
- LR - [www.lr.org](http://www.lr.org)
- NK - [www.classnk.or.jp](http://www.classnk.or.jp)
- PRS - [www.prs.pl](http://www.prs.pl)
- RINA - [www.rina.org](http://www.rina.org)
- RS - [www.rs-class.org](http://www.rs-class.org)



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