Subpart F—Determination of Lightweight Displacement and Centers of Gravity

§ 170.174 Specific applicability.

This subpart applies to each vessel for which the lightweight displacement and centers of gravity must be determined in order to do the calculations required in this subchapter.

§ 170.175 Stability test: General.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section and in §170.200, the owner of a vessel must conduct a stability test of the vessel and calculate its vertical and longitudinal centers of gravity and its lightweight displacement.

(b) An authorized Coast Guard representative must be present at each stability test conducted under this section.

(c) The stability test may be dispensed with, or a deadweight survey may be substituted for the stability test, if the Coast Guard has a record of, or is provided with, the approved results of a stability test of a sister vessel.

(d) The stability test of a vessel may be dispensed with if the Coast Guard determines that an accurate estimate of the vessel’s lightweight characteristics can be made and that locating the precise position of the vessel’s vertical center of gravity is not necessary to ensure that the vessel has adequate stability in all probable loading conditions.

§ 170.180 Plans and information required at the stability test.

The owner of a vessel must provide the following Coast Guard approved plans and information to the authorized Coast Guard representative at the time of the stability test:

(a) Lines.

(b) Curves of form.

(c) Capacity plans showing capacities and vertical and longitudinal centers of gravity of stowage spaces and tanks.

(d) Tank sounding tables.

(e) Draft mark locations.

(f) General arrangement plan of decks, holds, and inner bottoms.

(g) Inboard and outboard profiles.

(h) The stability test procedure described in §170.185(g).

§ 170.185 Stability test preparations.

The following preparations must be made before conducting a stability test:

(a) The vessel must be as complete as practicable at the time of the test.

(b) Each tank vessel must be empty and dry, except that a tank may be partially filled or full if the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center determines that empty and dry tanks are impracticable and that the effect of filling or partial filling on the location of the center of gravity and on the displacement can be accurately determined.

(c) All dunnage, tools, and other items extraneous to the vessel must be removed.

(d) The water depth at the mooring site must provide ample clearance against grounding.

(e) Each mooring line must be arranged so that it does not interfere with the inclination of the unit during the test.

(f) The draft and axis of rotation selected for testing a mobile offshore drilling unit must be those that result in acceptable accuracy in calculating the center of gravity and displacement of the unit.

(g) The stability test procedure required by §170.085 must include the following:

(1) Identification of the vessel to be tested.

(2) Date and location of the test.

(3) Inclining weight data.

(4) Pendulum locations and lengths.
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§ 170.245 Foam flotation material.

(a) Installation of foam must be approved by the OCMI.

(b) If foam is used to comply with §171.070(d), §171.095(c), or §173.063(e) of this subchapter, the following applies:

(1) Foam may be installed only in void spaces that are free of ignition sources.

(2) The foam must comply with NPFC MIL–P–21929B (incorporated by reference; see 46 CFR 170.015), including the requirements for fire resistance.

(3) A submergence test must be conducted for a period of at least 7 days to demonstrate whether the foam has adequate strength to withstand a hydrostatic head equivalent to that which would be imposed if the vessel were submerged to its margin line.

(4) The effective buoyancy at the end of the submergence test must be used as the buoyancy credit; however, in no case will a credit greater than 55 lbs per cubic foot (881 kilograms per cubic meter) be allowed.

(5) The structure enclosing the foam must be strong enough to accommodate the buoyancy of the foam.

(6) Piping and cables must not pass through foamed spaces unless they are within piping and cable trunks accessible from both ends.