

SECTION B: DOMESTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

CHAPTER 3: HULL EXAMINATIONS

2. Drydocking Exam for Credit

All vessels in drydock shall be cleaned and their fittings opened to the extent necessary for the inspector to determine the condition of the underwater body and fittings. Past casualties have indicated a need to examine fittings in the underside hull that might be hidden by keel blocks. When it is known that docking plugs are fitted in the hull, the inspector should ensure that they are viewed when the vessel is in drydock.

Drydocking in Excess of Requirements

- a. **Drydocking in Excess of Requirements.** When a vessel is drydocked for repairs to the underwater body or fittings, or for other purposes in excess of the requirements for complete periodic inspections, an examination should normally be made by an inspector. This examination should be sufficient to determine that all repairs are adequate and that the vessel is safe for continued operation. If the owner or operator requests credit for a drydocking after the vessel has already been hauled out, a complete examination for credit should be conducted if the OCMI has the resources available to dedicate an inspector to the job. If the drydocking is not for full credit, the inspector should examine the underwater hull structure and fittings to the fullest extent practicable under the circumstances. In such cases, the degree of preparation and opening of fittings may be less in scope. This policy does not prevent the inspector from conducting such reasonable inspections, requiring reasonable cleaning or opening of fittings, as deemed necessary to determine that the vessels's condition is safe for continued operation. However, excessive or arbitrary requirements for the cleaning or opening of fittings are not desired.
- b. **Drydocking of "T-Boats."** For vessels inspected under Subchapter T, an inspector need not attend every drydocking that is not for full credit. An inspector shall attend each of the periodic drydockings required by 46 CFR 176.15.

NOTE: 46 CFR 176.15-10 does not contemplate examination by the inspector when T-boats are drydocked for minor repairs, such as changing a propeller, painting, or cleaning.

3. Internal Structural Exam (ISE)

The ISE requirement is in addition to the statutory requirement to determine the suitability of the hull structure at the time of a vessel's COI, as required per 46 U.S.C. 3305 and 3307. The scope of an examination of the vessel's structure during an inspection for certification that does not include a DE is left to the discretion of the OCMI. It is intended that the results of the more recent ISE's be used by an OCMI when assessing the suitability of the structure for the intended service at the time of certification. This concept is not new and has essentially been applied anytime a COI was issued as the result of an inspection that did not include a drydocking.