

Marine Technology Special Collection, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Ship Registers: Introduction

These are *registers* of seagoing merchant ships, not naval vessels. Ship registers are a type of directory. They are usually compiled and published by independent bodies such as **Classification Societies**, with a quasi-legal status, on behalf of insurance companies and governments. Whereas **trade directories** are usually compiled and published by private companies. Ship registers are usually an alphabetical list of ship names together with principal particulars of each ship in existence e.g. length, gross tonnage, propulsion machinery, owner, builder, etc.

Each ship register usually only lists the merchant ships which have been “classed” with that particular society, e.g. The ABS **Record** lists only ships classed with ABS. A notable exception is Lloyd’s Register which lists all seagoing ships over 100 gross tons of the world, regardless of which society they are classed with, and thus gives the most comprehensive overview of ships worldwide. Each register gives a slightly different range of technical information about the ships listed.

Registers are generally published annually. Current titles are now also available online by subscription as e-directories/e-databases and are updated continuously, e.g. IHS **Sea-Web** (formerly Lloyd’s Register-Fairplay).

Ship Registers: Holdings

Ship register title, country. Register book title.	MTSC holdings
ABS (American Bureau of Shipping), USA. <i>Record</i> .	1967, 1972, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1999.
BV (Bureau Veritas), France. <i>Registre</i> . [in French = <i>Register</i>].	1960, 1962, 1964, 1979, 1983, 1983, 1991, 1995, 1997.
CSC (China Shipping Corporation). <i>Register of ships</i> .	1976.
DNV (Det Norske Veritas), Norway. <i>Register of Ships</i> . Continues as <i>Register Book</i> .	1970, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1987, 1990.
GL (Germanischer Lloyd), Germany. <i>Register</i> .	1980, 1985, 1991.
<i>Greek Shipping Directory</i> , Greece.	1973, 1979, 1983, 1986.
LR/LRS (Lloyd’s Register), Great Britain. <i>Register Book</i> . All the world’s merchant ships including those classed with LR and all other societies. The most comprehensive register! Usually several volumes each year depending on the numbers of ship included, e.g. vols A-L, M-Z. Includes in 1960s onwards <i>List of Shipowners</i> [LOS], 1970s onwards <i>Register of Offshore units, submersibles, and diving systems</i> [OUSDS], <i>Register of yachts</i> , 1980s onwards <i>Maritime guide</i> [MG]. And a few other miscellaneous titles. Now published by IHS. The content of each volume changed over recent years, e.g. in which are a list of <i>Former Names of Ships</i>	1887/8, 1895-96, 1908-09 appx, 1922-23 appx, 1926-26 vi vii, 1926-27 vii. 1927-28 vi vii viii appx, 1929-30 vi, 1930-31 v1, 1931-21 vi vii, 1933-35 vi vii, 1936-37 vi vii, 1937-38 vi vii, 1938-39 vi vii, 1941-42 vi vii, 1944-45, 1945-46 vi vii, 1947-48 vi vii, 1948-49 vi vii, 1949-50 vi vii, 1951 appx, 1951-52 vi vii, 1952-53 vi vii, 1953-54 vi vii, 1955-56 vi viii, 1956-57 vi viii, 1958-59 vi viii, 1959-60 vi vii viii viV, 1960-61 vi vii viii viV, 1961-62 vi vii viii viV, 1962-63 vi vii viii viV, 1963-64 vi vii viii viV, 1964-65 vi vii viii viV, 1965-66 vi vii viii viV, 1966-67 vA-L vM-Z viii vAppx, 1967-68 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1968-69 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1969-70 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1970-71 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1971

was included.	yachts, 1971-72 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1972-73 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1973-74 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1974 yachts, 1974-75 vLOS vAppx, 1975-76 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1976-77 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1977-78 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx, 1978-79 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vOUSDS vFormer&composite names, 1979-80 vA-L vM-Z vLOS vAppx vOUSDS, 1980-81 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vAppx vOUSDS vShip Subsidiary sections, 1981-82 vLOS vAppx vOUSDS vShip Subsidiary sections, 1982-83 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vShip Subsidiary sections, 1983-84 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS, vShip Subsidiary sections, 1984-85 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS, 1985-86 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1986-87 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1987-88 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1988-89 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1989-90 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1990-91 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS vOUSDS vMG, 1991-92 vA-G vH-O vP-Z, 1992-93 vA-G vH-O vP-Z, 1993-94 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vLOS, 1995-96 vLOS vOUSDS, 1996-97 vA-G vH-O vP-Z vMG, 1999-2000 vA-G vH-O vP-Z, 2002-2003 vA-G vH-O vP-Z, 2003-2004 vA-F vG-M vN-S vT-Z, 2005-2006 vA-F vG-M vN-S vT-Z, 2009-2010 vA-F vG-M vN-S vT-Z vLOS.
NKK (Nippon Kaiji Kyokai), Japan. <i>Register of Ships</i> .	1965-55, 1979-80, 1982-83, 1984-85, 1988-89.
<i>Northern Shipping Register</i> , Sweden.	1950-51.
RIN (Registro Italiano Navale), Italy. <i>Libro Registro</i> [in Italian = <i>Register Book</i>]	1978 v1, 1983 v1, 1987 v1.
Spain, Subsecretaria de la Marina Mercantile. <i>Listo oficial d buques</i> [Spanish = <i>Official ship register</i>]. By a government agency rather than a classification society].	1971.
USSR Register of Shipping. <i>Ship register</i> .	1978-79.

Please see related topic by visiting the Collection's website for **Search Collection** then **Trade Directories**. Also **Search Collection** then **Classification Societies**.

Ship Registers: Example Pages

[under construction].

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