Setting the standard
We have contributed significantly to developing guidelines, standards rules and global best practice in marine operations. But, with the oil and gas sector working on more complex projects in increasingly challenging environments, we believe that the benchmark can always be higher.

Every year, we invest 5% of our revenue back into research and development to keep us at the forefront of our customers’ challenges. That results in more robust standards and, when you combine those with the deep technical expertise we bring to the complete asset lifecycle, you get true risk reduction.

About DNV GL
DNV GL enhances safety, increases reliability and manages risks in oil and gas projects and operations. Our industry experts offer local access to global best practice in every hydrocarbon-producing country. Driven by a curiosity for technical progress, we provide a neutral ground for collaboration; creating competence, sharing knowledge and setting industry standards. For more information, visit: www.dnvgl.com

OIL & GAS
NOBLE DENTON MARINE SERVICES
Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme
Many charterers of towing vessels, in accordance with their quality management systems, prefer to contract vessels that are entered into the Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme. By doing so, they can be assured of contracting a well-founded and well-equipped vessel that has been surveyed recently and is being monitored to a consistent technical standard.

**Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme - objectives:**
- To provide vessel owners, when presenting their vessels for towing services, with a Towage Approvability Certificate which confirms the vessels' acceptability to a published and recognized standard.
- To provide operators, charterers and surveyors with consistent levels of towing vessel suitability based on internationally acceptable criteria.
- To provide interested parties with a reference register listing offshore towing vessels and identifying those vessels that have been accepted into the Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme.

**How the Approvability Scheme operates:**
- For entry into the Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme, a survey will be performed by a Surveyor appointed by DNV GL's Noble Denton marine services.
- The survey report will be assessed by our Noble Denton marine services experts in London and, where acceptability is confirmed, the vessel will be issued with a certificate denoting either an ocean-going salvage tug, unrestricted, coastal, or restricted designation. The Approvability Certificate will have a validity of five years.
- At annual intervals after the initial survey, the Towing Vessel Approvability Certificate will require revalidation. The operator will be requested to complete a simple declaration confirming that certain technical features and the operators remain unaltered.
- At the end of the five-year period, or after a change of operator, a new survey will be necessary, after which the report will be assessed and a new Towing Vessel Approvability Certificate issued as appropriate.

**Designation of towing vessels:**
The Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme designation assigned to an entered vessel incorporates an assessment of towing equipment, sea keeping and manning for the defined operating area. Vessels will be designated in the following categories:

- **ST:** Ocean-going salvage tug
- **U:** Unrestricted towages
- **C:** Coastal towages
- **R1:** Restricted towages
- **R2:** Benign area towages
- **R3:** Restricted benign area towages

**The Towing Vessel Register:**
A register of offshore towing and support vessels will be published annually and contain relevant data of all vessels and the designation of vessels entered into the Towing Vessel Approvability Scheme. This register will be published to benefit operators, oil companies and other charterers, surveyors, ship brokers and underwriters in assessing vessel suitability for various towing operations.

**Guideline on the approvability of towing vessels:**
DNV GL's Noble Denton marine services have issued technical guidelines to enable operators and other interested parties to review a vessel's suitability for entry into the Approvability Scheme. It describes the various categories within the scheme. A standard towing vessel report form has been established which will be used during the initial and subsequent survey for approvability.

For details, please refer to DNVGL-SE-0122 - Guidelines for the Approval of Towing Vessels.

www.dnvgl.com/SE-0122