

Main Changes

(NI640) Guidance Note for Structural Assessment of Passenger Ships and RO-RO Ships

The main changes in Bureau Veritas NI640 *Guidance Note for Structural Assessment of Passenger Ships and RO-RO Ships*, August 2026 edition with respect to the previous edition (August 2022) are as follows.

Rules history

August 2026 edition entry into force on August 1, 2026 Contents	Previous edition: August 2022 entry into force on August 1, 2022 Contents
NI640 - Guidance Note for Structural Assessment of Passenger Ships and RO-RO Ships [NI640 DT R02 E August 2026]	NI640 - Guidance Note for Structural Assessment of Passenger Ships and RO-RO Ships [NI640 DT R01 July 2022]

Section 3 – Hull Scantlings

Topic	Description	Reference
Fork lift trucks	Editorial improvement	Sec 3, [2.4.3] Sec 3, [4.1] Sec 3, [4.4.1]
Frames between windows	Editorial improvement	Sec 3, [4.3.3]
Fatigue	Editorial improvement	Sec 3, [4.4.2] Sec 3, [7]

Appendix 1 – Finite Element Analysis based on Complete Ship Models

Topic	Description	Reference
Horizontal wave hull girder loads	Deletion of the routing factor r_R from the formula, in line with the use of IACS Rec.34 Rev.2 in NR467, which natively include routing	App 1, [3.3.5]
Boundary conditions for local stress calculation	Second set of boundary conditions is suggested for the assessment of the bulkhead deck in case of unrealistic transverse compression stress	App 1, [3.4.3]
Load case combinations	General update of the required set of load combinations based on use case feedback	App 1, Tab 7 App 1, Tab 8

Appendix 2 – Finite Element Analysis of Structural Details

Topic	Description	Reference
List of details	List of details replaced by a reference to NR467.	App 2, [1.3.1]
Yielding criteria	Stress averaging criteria at rounded edges of openings deleted. Reference is made to NR467 fine mesh criteria.	App 2, [4.2]