

Main Changes NR547 Ships using Fuel Cells

The main changes in Bureau Veritas *Rules for Ships using Fuel Cells*, November 2026 edition with respect to the previous edition (January 2022) are as follows.

Rules history

November 2026 edition entry into force on November 1, 2026 Contents	Previous edition: January 2022 entry into force on January 1, 2022 Contents
NR547 – Ships using Fuel Cells [NR 547 DT R02 E November 2026]	NR547 – Ships using Fuel Cells [NR 547 DT R01 E January 2022]

Section 1 – General

Topic	Description	Reference
Fuel cell management system	Clarification of the scope of the fuel cell management system	Sec 1, [1.5.5]
Fuel cell room	Introduction of the fuel cell room concept	Sec 1, [1.5.9]
Integrated fuel cell system	Introduction of the concept of portable fuel cell space	Sec 1, [1.5.14]
Fuel cell arrangement	Addition of illustrative figures for typical arrangements	Sec 1, Fig 1

Section 2 – Safety Assessment

Topic	Description	Reference
Risk assessment	Detailed list of topics to be covered and follow-up report	Sec 2, [1.1]

Section 3 – Arrangement on board and Control of atmosphere

IMO Requirements

IMO Ref.	Title / Description	Reference
MSC.1/Circ.1647	Update on fuel cell space arrangement in machinery spaces	Sec 3, [1.2.1]

Other Changes

Topic	Description	Reference
Fuel cell space arrangement	Clarification on equipment accepted in fuel cell space	Sec 3, [1.3.2]
Enclosed fuel cell ventilation	Update for alternative configuration for enclosed fuel cell in fuel cell room	Sec 3, [2.2.4]

Section 4 – Materials

Topic	Description	Reference
H2 related provisions	Deletion of H2 specific provisions redundant with NR678	Sec 4
Non-steel materials	Addition of provisions for use of material other than steel in fuel cell spaces	Sec 4, [1.3.2]
Stainless steel materials	Clarification on the use of stainless-steel materials	Sec 4, [1.3.4]
Protection of material	Addition of provisions for protection/coating of piping	Sec 4, [1.3.6]

Section 5 – Fuel cell Power Installation

Topic	Description	Reference
H2 related provisions	Deletion of H2 specific provisions redundant with NR678	Sec 5, [3]
Supply line valves	Addition of provisions for valves used for maintenance	Sec 5, [3.2.3]
Enclosed fuel cell in fuel cell room	Update for installation of enclosed fuel cell in fuel cell room	Sec 5, [3.2.8] and Sec 5, Fig 1
Reformed fuel piping	Update on applicable provisions for reformed fuel piping design	Sec 5, [3.3.1]
Buffer tanks	Clarification on the use of buffer tanks onboard	Sec 5, [3.4]
Marine environment	Update on protection of the fuel cell against marine environment	Sec 5, [7.1.3]

Section 6 – Fire Safety

IMO Requirements

IMO Ref.	Title / Description	Reference
MSC.1/Circ.1647	Update on alternative to fire extinguishing system in fuel cell spaces	Sec 6, [3.1.1]

Other Changes

Topic	Description	Reference
Fire insulation	Update on alternative arrangement to A-60 fuel cell spaces boundaries	Sec 6, [1.1.3]

Section 7 – Electrical Systems

Topic	Description	Reference
Power conditioning system	Clarification for power conditioning system used for multiple fuel cell power system	Sec 7, [1.3]
Fuel cell management system	Clarification for fuel cell management system arrangement	Sec 7, [1.4]

Section 8 – Control, Monitoring and Safety Systems

Topic	Description	Reference
Toxicity	Alternative arrangement for toxicity management for fuel cell spaces not normally accessible	Sec 8, [5.1.1]
Gas detection	Clarification on detection arrangement for fuel cell exhaust	Sec 8, [10.1.3]

Section 9 – On-board Testing

Topic	Description	Reference
Testing	Clarification of tests to be performed for fuel cell power systems and associated spaces	Sec 9

Section 10 – Survey at Work and Certification

Topic	Description	Reference
Fuel cell power systems	Detailed requirements for testing and approval of fuel cell power systems and reformer	Sec 10
H2 related equipment	Deletion of requirement related to H2 components (see NR678)	Sec 10