

First edition  
2020-04

Corrected version  
2020-09

---

---

## Installation and equipment for liquefied natural gas — Design of floating LNG installations —

### Part 1: General requirements

*Installations et équipements de gaz naturel liquéfié — Conception des  
installations flottantes de GNL —*

*Partie 1: Exigences générales*



Reference number  
ISO 20257-1:2020(E)

© ISO 2020

This document is a preview generated by EKO



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>viii</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>3</b>
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	3
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	8
<b>4 Basis of design</b> .....	<b>11</b>
4.1 Site and meteocean conditions.....	11
4.1.1 Site study.....	11
4.1.2 Earthquake.....	13
4.1.3 Location.....	13
4.1.4 Other studies.....	14
4.2 Design criteria.....	14
4.2.1 General.....	14
4.2.2 Topsides.....	15
4.2.3 Transfer systems.....	16
4.2.4 Hull.....	20
4.2.5 LNG storage.....	22
4.2.6 Mooring.....	23
4.2.7 Pipe-work.....	25
<b>5 Health, safety and the environment</b> .....	<b>26</b>
5.1 General.....	26
5.1.1 Main objectives.....	26
5.1.2 Main principles.....	27
5.2 Identification of safety and environmental barriers and design requirements.....	27
5.2.1 General.....	27
5.2.2 Purpose.....	28
5.2.3 Safety and environmental barriers.....	28
5.2.4 Generic barriers.....	29
5.2.5 Safety and environmental barriers identification process.....	29
5.2.6 Safety and environmental barriers design requirements.....	30
5.2.7 Safety and environmental barriers design requirements certification.....	31
5.3 Environmental considerations.....	31
5.3.1 General.....	31
5.3.2 Floating LNG installations specificities.....	31
5.3.3 Environmental aspects identification.....	32
5.3.4 Environmental design review.....	32
5.3.5 Environmental design requirements.....	32
5.4 Safety considerations.....	39
5.4.1 General.....	39
5.4.2 Safety strategies and philosophies.....	40
5.4.3 Safety reviews.....	40
5.4.4 Qualitative risk assessment, QRA and specific safety studies.....	43
5.4.5 Risk prevention measures (typical list).....	47
5.4.6 Emergency response.....	60
5.5 Occupational health and industrial hygiene considerations.....	62
5.5.1 Occupational health and industrial hygiene aspects identification.....	62
5.5.2 Chemical exposure.....	62
5.5.3 Biological factor.....	63
5.5.4 Legionella.....	64
5.5.5 Thermal stress.....	64

5.5.6	Hot/cold surfaces.....	65
5.5.7	Support functions to operators - Project with permanent operators on-board or in the facility.....	65
5.5.8	Lighting.....	65
5.5.9	Water availability and quality intended for human consumption.....	66
5.5.10	Noise and vibration.....	66
5.6	Ergonomics and human factor.....	68
<b>6</b>	<b>Mooring and stationkeeping.....</b>	<b>68</b>
6.1	General.....	68
6.2	Permanent stationkeeping in open waters.....	69
6.2.1	Stationkeeping concepts.....	69
6.2.2	Design requirements.....	70
6.3	Permanent stationkeeping in nearshore or docked conditions.....	70
6.3.1	Stationkeeping concepts.....	70
6.3.2	Design requirements.....	71
6.3.3	Emergency departure of floating LNG installation.....	72
6.4	Mooring systems for special project design conditions.....	72
6.4.1	Disconnectable mooring.....	72
6.4.2	Permanent mooring for a limited project life.....	73
6.5	Short-duration mooring of a visiting LNGC for loading/unloading.....	73
6.5.1	General.....	73
6.5.2	Ship-to-ship mooring in open waters.....	74
6.5.3	Mooring in docked or nearshore conditions.....	74
6.5.4	Mooring to an SPM terminal.....	74
6.5.5	Design requirements.....	74
6.6	Infrastructure design for jetty moorings.....	75
6.6.1	General.....	75
6.6.2	Jetty elevation.....	75
6.6.3	Corrosion protection of the marine infrastructure.....	75
6.6.4	LNG spillage containment.....	76
6.6.5	Power supply from/to jetty to the FSRU/FLNG.....	76
6.6.6	Navigation aids.....	76
6.6.7	Emergency response and evacuation route.....	76
6.7	Transfer of material and personnel.....	76
<b>7</b>	<b>Hull design.....</b>	<b>77</b>
7.1	Hull structural design.....	77
7.1.1	Design philosophy.....	77
7.1.2	Design methods.....	77
7.1.3	Codes and standards.....	77
7.1.4	Limit states for floating structures.....	78
7.1.5	Design situations for ULS.....	78
7.1.6	Design situations for SLS.....	78
7.1.7	Design situations for FLS.....	79
7.1.8	Design situations for ALS.....	79
7.1.9	Site-specific design.....	79
7.1.10	Cargo containment loads.....	80
7.1.11	Fatigue.....	80
7.1.12	Slamming.....	80
7.1.13	Green water.....	80
7.1.14	Topsides and external loads.....	81
7.1.15	Accidental loads.....	81
7.2	Stability and watertight integrity.....	81
7.2.1	General.....	81
7.2.2	Stability.....	81
7.2.3	Watertight and weathertight integrity.....	82
<b>8</b>	<b>LNG storage.....</b>	<b>82</b>
8.1	General.....	82

8.2	Sloshing loads	83
8.2.1	Intermediate filling levels: Operating conditions of FSRU/FLNG	83
8.2.2	Intermediate filling levels: Operating conditions of cargo transfers (STS)	84
8.3	Boil-off gas management	84
8.4	Rollover prevention management	84
8.4.1	Background	84
8.4.2	Detection and prevention	85
8.5	Vent systems for LNG storage	85
8.5.1	General	85
8.5.2	Pressure relief systems	85
8.5.3	Vacuum relief systems	86
<b>9</b>	<b>LNG transfer system</b>	<b>87</b>
9.1	Functional requirements	87
9.2	Design of transfer systems	88
9.2.1	Operating envelope	88
9.2.2	Transfer system design	89
<b>10</b>	<b>Boil-off gas handling and recovery</b>	<b>91</b>
10.1	General	91
10.2	BOG collection system	91
10.3	System of gas return to LNGC or to FLNG facility	92
10.4	Boil-off gas recovery	92
10.5	Gas compressor	92
10.6	Flare/vent	92
<b>11</b>	<b>Low temperature pipework</b>	<b>92</b>
11.1	General	92
11.2	Piping components	93
11.2.1	General	93
11.3	Pipe	93
11.3.1	General	93
11.3.2	Pipe joints	93
11.3.3	Pipe supports	94
11.3.4	Compensation of contractions due to cold	94
11.3.5	Differential displacement between offshore structures	94
11.4	Valves	94
11.4.1	Relief valves	95
11.5	Thermal insulation	95
11.5.1	General	95
11.5.2	Piping insulation	96
11.5.3	Fire behaviour	96
11.5.4	Gas absorption	96
11.5.5	Moisture resistance	96
11.5.6	Differential movements	97
11.5.7	Thickness determination	97
11.6	Prevention of zinc contamination of austenitic steel	97
<b>12</b>	<b>Utilities systems</b>	<b>97</b>
12.1	Classification of systems	97
12.1.1	Essential services	97
12.1.2	Emergency services	98
12.2	Electrical	98
12.2.1	Design and engineering principles	98
12.2.2	Electrical system design	99
12.2.3	Design and selection of equipment and cables	102
12.3	Instrument air system	103
12.4	Hydraulic systems	103
<b>13</b>	<b>Process and safety control and monitoring systems</b>	<b>103</b>
13.1	General description	103

13.2	Process control system .....	104
13.2.1	Principle .....	104
13.2.2	Process control system design .....	104
13.3	Marine control system .....	104
13.4	Interfaces floating LNG installation/onshore .....	104
13.5	Safety control system (safety instrumented and F&G control systems) .....	105
13.5.1	Principle .....	105
13.5.2	ESD and safety actions .....	105
13.5.3	System capabilities .....	106
13.6	Closed circuit TV .....	106
13.7	Metering .....	106
13.7.1	Background .....	106
13.7.2	Cargo metering .....	107
13.8	Communications .....	107
13.9	Environmental monitoring and control .....	107
<b>14</b>	<b>Security management .....</b>	<b>108</b>
14.1	General .....	108
14.2	Offshore access .....	108
14.3	Onshore access .....	108
<b>15</b>	<b>Commissioning .....</b>	<b>109</b>
15.1	General .....	109
15.2	Systemization and schedule .....	109
15.3	Implementation .....	109
15.4	Safety .....	110
15.5	Organization .....	111
15.6	Handover .....	111
15.7	Start-up and performance test .....	111
<b>16</b>	<b>Inspection and maintenance .....</b>	<b>111</b>
16.1	General .....	111
16.2	Specific requirements for floating LNG installations .....	112
16.2.1	Cargo tank .....	112
16.2.2	Mooring .....	112
16.2.3	Process piping systems .....	112
16.2.4	Transfer systems .....	112
<b>17</b>	<b>Preservation and corrosion protection .....</b>	<b>112</b>
17.1	Specific requirements for non-seagoing vessels .....	112
17.2	Painting and coating .....	112
17.3	Cathodic protection .....	113
17.4	Impact of use of seawater as heating medium and active fire protection .....	113
<b>18</b>	<b>Preparation for operations .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Specific requirements for conversion of existing installations to floating LNG installations .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(informative) Risk-based analysis .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(informative) Safety studies .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(normative) Definition of reference flow rates for LNG boil-off calculations .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Annex D</b>	<b>(normative) Design basis and criteria of an LNG transfer system .....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Annex E</b>	<b>(informative) Seismic classification .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Annex F</b>	<b>(informative) Assessment of novel technology .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Annex G</b>	<b>(informative) Environmental, occupational health and industrial hygiene aspects .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>153</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Liquefied natural gas installations and equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 282, *Installation and equipment for LNG*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

A list of all parts in the ISO 20257 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

This corrected version of ISO 20257-1:2020 incorporates the following corrections:

- the broken links in References [50] and [51] were updated;
- the missing content in 5.1.2, 5.4.3.2.3, and 5.5.10.2 was added;
- editorial corrections in 12.2.2.2, G.1.2.1, G.2.1 and in the bibliography.

## Introduction

This document provides a non-exhaustive list of potential concepts. When a novel concept is proposed, the general principles in this document can be applied as far as applicable. Such design will result in a concept with equivalent level of safety and environmental friendliness to those currently considered as standard solutions. Guidance on the assessment of novel technology is provided in [Annex F](#).

In case a part of the installation, such as hull, vessel or structure, is already covered by another International Standard, including IMO, this document will only complement that applicable standard where necessary in order to ensure global safety, stability and integrity of the overall floating LNG installation.

This document assumes that a floating LNG installation is also designed to meet IMO and classification society requirements. It is not intended to preclude the use of a 'barge' solution. This document neither specifies the shape of the installation nor specifies the need for propulsion or an installation to fall within a particular regulatory regime. A barge can either be subject to exactly the same considerations as a unit designed as a non-propelled ship or not. This will depend on aspects such as whether a barge is located offshore or at shore, how it is transported, whether it stores LNG or not, the level of manning, the regulatory regime imposed on it. In this respect, the user of this document is expected to take hull structure design, means of external communications, and evacuation, escape and rescue arrangements, etc. into consideration.

Additional requirements by the Flag process, Shelf or Coastal Regulations can be applicable, that will vary depending on the type of floating LNG installation.

LNG as fuel bunkering applications is covered in ISO 20519 and in publications by the Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel.



# Installation and equipment for liquefied natural gas — Design of floating LNG installations —

## Part 1: General requirements

### 1 Scope

This document provides requirements and guidance for the design and operation of floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) installations, including installations for the liquefaction, storage, vaporisation, transfer and handling of LNG, in order to have a safe and environmentally acceptable design and operation of floating LNG installations.

This document is applicable to:

- floating LNG liquefaction installations (plant) — FLNG;
- floating LNG regasification installations (plant) — FSRU;
- floating storage units — FSU.

This document is applicable to offshore, near-shore or docked floating LNG installations.

This document includes any jetty in the scope in case of docked floating LNG installations with regards to the mooring. This document briefly describes floating LNG mooring concepts.

This document is applicable to both newbuilt and converted floating LNG installations, and addresses specific requirements.

This document is not applicable to:

- onshore LNG storage, liquefaction and/or regasification installations/plants, except for docked FSRU and/or FLNG installations;
- offshore LNG plants based on non-floating structure (such as gravity based structure [GBS] principle); and
- support onshore based facilities (such as support vessels, tugs, etc.).

This document is not intended for design floating power generation facilities though relevant parts of this document can be used.

This document is not intended to cover LNG as fuel bunkering applications.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 834 (all parts), *Fire resistance tests — Elements of building construction*

ISO 1460, *Metallic coatings — Hot dip galvanized coatings on ferrous materials — Gravimetric determination of the mass per unit area*

ISO 1461, *Hot dip galvanized coatings on fabricated iron and steel articles — Specifications and test methods*

ISO 4126 (all parts), *Safety devices for protection against excessive pressure*

ISO 9606 (all parts), *Qualification testing of welders — Fusion welding*

ISO 9712, *Non-destructive testing — Qualification and certification of NDT personnel*

ISO 10497, *Testing of valves — Fire type-testing requirements*

ISO 12944 (all parts), *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems*

ISO 15614-1, *Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 1: Arc and gas welding of steels and arc welding of nickel and nickel alloys*

ISO 16903, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Characteristics of LNG, influencing the design, and material selection*

ISO 16904, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Design and testing of LNG marine transfer arms for conventional onshore terminals*

ISO 19900, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — General requirements for offshore structures*

ISO 19901-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures — Part 1: Metocean design and operating considerations*

ISO 19901-7, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures — Part 7: Stationkeeping systems for floating offshore structures and mobile offshore units*

ISO 19904-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Floating offshore structures — Part 1: Ship-shaped, semi-submersible, spar and shallow-draught cylindrical structures*

ISO 20088 (all parts), *Determination of the resistance to cryogenic spill of insulation materials*

ISO 22899 (all parts), *Determination of the resistance to jet fires of passive fire protection*

ISO 23251, *Petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries — Pressure-relieving and depressuring systems*

ISO 24409-1, *Ships and marine technology — Design, location and use of shipboard safety signs, fire control plan signs, safety notices and safety markings — Part 1: Design principles*

ISO 28460, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Installation and equipment for liquefied natural gas — Ship-to-shore interface and port operations*

IEC 60079 (all parts), *Explosive atmospheres*

IEC 60092-502, *Electrical installations in ships — Part 502: Tankers — Special features*

IEC 60331 (all parts), *Tests for electric cables under fire conditions — Circuit integrity*

IEC 61511 (all parts), *Functional safety — Safety instrumented systems for the process industry sector*

IEC 61892 (all parts), *Mobile and fixed offshore units — Electrical installations*

IEC 62305 (all parts), *Protection against lightning*

ISO/IEC 80079 (all parts), *Explosive atmospheres*

API RP 17B, *Recommended Practice for Flexible Pipe*

CAA CAP 437, *Standards for Offshore Helicopter Landing Areas*

EN 1127-1, *Explosive atmospheres — Explosion prevention and protection — Part 1: Basic concepts and methodology*

EN 1474-2, *Installation and equipment for liquefied natural gas — Design and testing of marine transfer systems — Part 2: Design and testing of transfer hoses*

EN 1474-3, *Installation and equipment for liquefied natural gas — Design and testing of marine transfer systems — Part 3: Offshore transfer systems*

IMO/IGC Code, International code for the construction and equipment for ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk (IGC Code)

International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, IMO

IMO/SOLAS, International convention for the safety of life at sea

IMO/MODU, Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units

MARPOL, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

Ship to ship transfer guide for petroleum chemicals and liquefied gases, OCIMF

WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality, World Health Organization

MOORING EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES OCIMF

### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

##### 3.1.1

##### **floating LNG installation**

installation typically comprising of hull structure, gas processing, vaporization and liquefaction, LNG storage, hydrocarbon *transfer* (3.1.53), mooring systems, and other systems

Note 1 to entry: The hull structure is also known as hull.

Note 2 to entry: The gas processing, vaporization and liquefaction, including flare, are also known as topsides. Topsides are not relevant for floating storage units applications.

Note 3 to entry: The LNG storage is also known cargo containment systems and cargo handling systems.

Note 4 to entry: The hydrocarbon transfer is also known as cargo transfer systems, including offloading equipment and systems (if applicable).

Note 5 to entry: Mooring systems include jetties and fendering (if applicable).

Note 6 to entry: Examples of other systems are utilities and accommodation.