Inquiry: With the low rate of problem identification through the visual examination process, can the visual examination interval allowed in Table ISTD-4252-1 of the OM Code, Subsection ISTD, be extended?

Reply: Yes, provided that the following additional service life monitoring requirements are met.

1 APPLICABILITY

This Code Case establishes specific requirements that must be met in order to allow extension of the visual examination interval beyond the maximum interval allowed in Table ISTD-4252-1 for mechanical and hydraulic snubbers. See the Applicability Index for applicable Editions/Addenda. A correlation table (Table 1) is provided for the 1995 Edition. This Code Case supersedes the previously published version.

2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements shall be implemented in order to extend the visual examination interval beyond the maximum interval allowed in Table ISTD-4252-1:

(a) These requirements are in addition to the service life monitoring requirements in section ISTD-6000.

(b) The requirements of this Code Case shall be implemented after the requirements of paras. ISTD-4251 and ISTD-4252 have been satisfied and the previous examination per Table ISTD-4252-1 was performed at a maximum interval of two fuel cycles.

(c) Demonstrate that the requirements of paras. 3.1 through 3.6 of this Code Case have been met for one interval prior to extending the examination interval.

2.1 Service Life Evaluations

The data and information gathered under this Code Case shall be utilized to reevaluate service life as described in section ISTD-6000.

2.2 Testing for This Code Case

Snubbers tested specifically for this Code Case shall be dispositioned per para. ISTD-6500.

3 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Examination for Indications of Degradation or Severe Operating Environments

Examinations per paras. ISTD-4210, ISTD-4220, ISTD-4230, and ISTD-4240 shall include examination for indications of degradation and severe operating environments.

3.2 Examination Prior to Maintenance or Testing

All snubbers shall be examined in accordance with the requirements of paras. ISTD-4210, ISTD-4220, ISTD-4230, and ISTD-4240 and para. 3.1 of this Code Case prior to conducting any maintenance, stroking, or testing, and prior to removal, for any reason, from their installed location.

3.3 Monitoring of Reservoir Fluid Level

Fluid level in hydraulic snubber reservoirs shall be sufficient to ensure that the snubber is acceptable for continued service to the next examination interval.

3.4 Review of Operational Readiness Test Data

All inservice test data acquired since implementation of the requirements of this Code Case shall be evaluated for indications of snubber degradation or other anomalies. This includes a review of test traces, where available. The results of this evaluation shall be used

(a) to identify snubbers that are subject to progressive degradation

(b) to identify severe operating environments not previously identified
Where applicable, data gathered prior to implementation of this Code Case shall also be evaluated.

3.5 Examination During Disassembly
Snubbers and snubber parts shall be examined for indications of degradation and severe operating environments during disassembly (e.g., during failure evaluation, refurbishment).

3.6 Transient Dynamic Event
The service life evaluation required by para. 2.1 of this Code Case shall include any transient dynamic event and actions taken under para. ISTD-1750.

3.7 Frequency of Examinations
(a) All snubbers within the scope of Subsection ISTD shall be examined and evaluated per this Code Case at least once every 10 yr.
(b) If at any time during an examination interval the cumulative number of unacceptable snubbers exceeds the applicable value from Column B in Table ISTD-4252-1, the current examination interval shall end, and all remaining examinations must be completed within the current fuel cycle. The duration of the subsequent examination interval shall be reduced in accordance with Table ISTD-4252-1, using the examination interval prior to implementing the code case as the base interval. The beginning of the subsequent fuel cycle shall be the starting date for the new examination interval.

3.8 Examination Corrective Action
The following actions shall be taken for snubbers that do not meet examination requirements:
(a) An evaluation shall be conducted to determine the cause of the unacceptability.
(b) Unacceptable snubbers shall be adjusted, repaired, modified, or replaced.