



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 307 of 5th December 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	BWM Convention Implementation
Reference:	BWM Convention

BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT

Ratification Status

With the recent ratification by Georgia in January, 2015, the Ballast Water Management Convention has now been ratified by a total of 44 States having 32.86% GT of the world fleet. Conditions for entry into force have been met for the threshold of 30 States, but an additional 2.14% tonnage is still needed to meet the 35% GT of the world fleet threshold.

BW Management Convention Implementation

Anticipating the eventual entry into force of the BWM Convention, and taking into account work underway to revise the G8 Guidelines, the Committee agreed to develop measures to facilitate the implementation of the Convention using an agreed “Roadmap” which includes: Development of guidance on contingency measures, such as tank stripping and sediment management and consideration of the role of the ballast water management plan.

Expanded trial period associated with the Guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis (BWM.2/Circ.42) so as to provide for an experience-building period to collect information on type-approved treatment systems that have, subsequent to approval, not been found to meet the D-2 standard, the exceedance amount and reasons for the exceedance.

Non-Penalization of ships fitted with treatment systems type approved under the current G8 Guidelines (MEPC.174(58)) – the so-called *early movers*. Specifically:

- systems approved in accordance with the current G8 Guidelines should not be required to be replaced when the revision of the G8 Guidelines occurs or due to occasional lack of efficacy for reasons beyond the control of the shipowner; and
- *early movers* operating ships with properly installed, maintained and operated systems that are approved in accordance with the current G8 Guidelines should not be penalized (sanctioned, warned, detained or excluded) solely due to an occasional exceedance of the D-2 standard on the condition that the self-monitoring system indicates that the treatment process is working properly.

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It is noted, however, that the rather reasonable approach described above does not govern over the control actions that remain available to port States. The Committee invited submissions to MEPC 69 (April 2016) for further consideration of any outstanding issues identified in the Roadmap, with a view to finalizing any further guidance by MEPC 70 (October 2016).

Trial Sampling/Analysis Circular

The Committee approved Circular BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.1 containing revisions to the general recommendations on methodologies and approaches to sampling and analysis to test for compliance with standards D-1 (ballast water exchange) and D-2 (biological standard for treatment systems) of the Convention. Testing for compliance is performed in two steps using representative samples of the whole discharge of the ballast water from any single tank or any combination of tanks being discharged:

- an indicative analysis - a relatively quick

indirect or direct measurement of parameters (e.g. dissolved oxygen levels and residual chlorine levels) that are comparable to that used to assess compliance with the D-2 standard; and

- a detailed analysis - a more complex compliance test that directly measures the concentration of viable organisms of a representative ballast water sample.

REFERENCES:

- BWM Convention

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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