



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 308 of 6th December 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	<b>BWM Convention-Type Approval Guidelines</b>
Reference:	<b>BWM Convention</b>

### **BWM –Type Approval Guidelines**

#### **Type Approval Guidelines (G8)**

Pursuant to the initiative to revise the G8 Guidelines so as to be more robust so that equipment approved under the Guidelines provides treated water that complies with the D2 standard and with greater reliability, the Committee agreed to request IMO Member States and observers to submit information on 10 specific issues on the performance of type approved ballast water treatment systems.

These issues include:

- the effect of temperature in cold and tropical waters on treatment efficacy
- use of standard organisms and validated methods for testing BWM systems
- differences between type approval protocols,
- incorporation of control and monitoring equipment,
- enhanced information that could be included in type approval test reports (e.g., documentation related to scaling)
- verification of minimum storage times for ballast water, and any other issues deemed relevant.

The Committee agreed to re-establish the Correspondence Group that will discuss a number of issues including:

- increased transparency of treatment system's operating parameters in the Type Approval Certificate (e.g., salinity and temperature ranges).
- levels of suspended solids to be used in testing.
- enhanced reporting of operational parameters (e.g., power consumption, mechanical reliability and replacement of components and consumables).
- standardization of protocols for testing facility validation.
- identifying bypass arrangements and circumstances when treatment bypass may occur.

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- modification of specifications for monitoring of hazards and the safe operation of treatment systems.

Due to concerns raised that many Administrations are not allowing the discharge of treated ballast water from ships during the shipboard testing period under the G8 Guidelines, the Committee will consider developing an MEPC resolution which urges Administrations to allow such discharges.

### **Draft Amendments of BWM Convention**

In preparation for the entry into force of the Convention, the Committee noted, but did not conclude on draft amendments to regulation B-3 of the BWM Convention, which reflect the recommended relaxation of the B-3 implementation scheme adopted by the Assembly in resolution A.1088(28).

These will be further considered at MEPC 69. Additionally, an alternative, slightly simplified version of the amended regulation was developed. The Committee noted that the intended five year period for D-2 compliance (associated with the distribution of current IOPP certificate expiration dates) might reduce to as little as one year if there was a move to renew IOPP Certificates prematurely which could present significant implementation problems with respect to treatment system and yard availability for retrofit.

In this regard, the Committee also noted that referring to the IOPP certificate in the draft amendments to regulation B-3 was not consistent with correct treaty practice since it is a certificate of a different convention. This issue will be discussed at MEPC 69 in March 2016.

#### REFERENCES:

- BWM Convention

#### ATTACHMENTS: No.

kindest Regards,  
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