



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° BWM 004

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS

**TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, MASTERS
AND SURVEYORS TO THE FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

APPLICABLE TO: ALL SHIPS TO WHICH THE CONVENTION APPLIES
EFFECTIVE AS FROM: 8th September 2017

5th December 2016

1. General

The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (the Ballast Water Management Convention) will be effective as from 8th September 2017. Most ships will have to install an on-board system to treat ballast water and eliminate unwanted organisms. More than 60 type-approved systems are already available.

2. Applicability of the Convention

On 8th September 2017, all St. Vincent and The Grenadines ships (i.e. vessels of any type operating in the aquatic environment, including submersibles, floating craft, floating platforms, floating storage units (FSUs) and floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) units) will be requested to:

- have an approved ballast water management plan on board;
- maintain a ballast water record book;
- manage their ballast water on every voyage by performing ballast water exchange (or by treating it using an approved ballast water treatment system); and
- undertake an initial survey and have a **Statement of Compliance with International Ballast Water Management Convention** issued (for ships of 400 gross tonnage and above to which the Convention applies, excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs).

The Convention does not normally apply to:

- ships not carrying ballast water;
- ships engaged in national voyages (refer to Circular GEN 016);
- ships that only operate in waters under the jurisdiction of one party and on high seas, subject to a written authorization of that Party for such exclusion;
- warships, naval auxiliary or other ships owned or operated by a State provided it is used only on government non-commercial service;
- ships with permanent ballast water in sealed tanks and therefore not subject to discharge at any time; or
- pleasure craft that are less than 50 m in overall length and that have a maximum ballast water capacity of 8 m³.

3. Requirements

All ships will be requested on the first **renewal survey** to have an International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP) after 8th September 2017 and to carry on board the following:

-“Ballast Water Management Plan” approved by the Recognized Organization on behalf of this Administration, according to a process developed by the IMO;

-“Ballast Water Record Book” for the recording of each operation concerning ballast water management; and

-“International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance” with a five (5) year validity and subject to annual, intermediate and renewal surveys.

4. International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance

All ships over 400 gt to which the Convention applies will be requested to be surveyed and issued with an **International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance** valid five (5) years, subject to annual and intermediate surveys.

When the Convention is ratified by St Vincent and The Grenadines any Statements of Compliance issued to St Vincent and The Grenadines’ ships by a Recognized Organizations should be replaced without survey with an International Ballast Water Management Certificate. The expiry date will correspond to the validity of the existing Statement of Compliance.

It will be possible to issue an International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance prior to entry into force of the Convention (8th September 2017) provided that it is annotated to state that the validity begins as from 8th September 2017. (Refer to IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.40)

5. Exemptions

Under regulation A-4 in waters under its jurisdiction, this Administration may grant exemptions in addition to exemptions contained elsewhere in the Convention but only where they are granted:

- to a ship(s) on a voyage(s) between specified ports or locations;
- to a ship which operates exclusively between specified ports or locations;
- to ships that do not mix ballast water or sediments other than between the specified ports or locations;
- any exemption granted should be based on the IMO G7 Guidelines on risk assessment and will not be valid for more than five (5) years. An exemption may be withdrawn at any time for breach of condition or in emergency situations.

6. IOPP renewal survey and harmonisation of statutory certification

In general, this Administration has no objection to de-harmonize the IOPP certificate, anticipate its renewal survey before the date of entry into force of the Convention and to re-align it to the other statutory certificates at the first opportunity, provided the request is justified.

Owners willing to use this possibility should complete a form in accordance with Circular GEN 001 with a documented justification for a case by case examination by the vessel's RO.

RO should forward the completed form to this Administration for further evaluation. The RO should clearly indicate their support or reservation of any aspect of the application, and if relevant, any recommendations or conditions that may be considered.

Subject to positive evaluation, this Administration will authorize the RO to perform a renewal survey for IOPP and to issue a new full term IOPP Certificate upon satisfactory completion of the said survey.

Owners are reminded that the above does not supersede requirements of the Coastal State where the vessel is/will be operating.

7. Ballast Water Management Plans

All ships of 400 gt and above will be requested to have on board an approved ship-specific Ballast Water Management Plan and a Ballast Water Record Book to comply with the BWM Convention. The Ballast Water Management Plan should:

- assist the ship in complying with international regulations to minimise the risk of the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water and associated sediments
- identify the ship's Ballast Water Management Officer

- consider ship safety elements, provide information to PSC Officers on the ship's ballast handling system and confirm that ballast water management can be effectively planned
- include training on BWM operational practices
- be written in the working language of the ship. If this language is not English, then a translation into English should be included.

8. Actions to be taken by Shipowners, Ship's Operators and Managers

Shipowners, Ship operators and Managers should conform to the following steps in order to comply with the Convention:

- To review the ship's plans and ballast systems to ensure compliance with the BWM convention;
- To develop a BWM plan;
- To install an approved ballast water treatment system as applicable;
- To submit the BWM plan for approval to the Recognized Organization responsible for statutory certification of the vessel on behalf of this Administration
- To arrange for an initial survey to be carried out by the Recognized Organization responsible for the vessel's statutory certification on behalf of this Administration and to obtain an International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance;
- To train the ship's staff in BWM operations; and
- To maintain records in the ballast water record book as per the BWM plan including sediment management.

Annex: Guidelines and guidance documents related to the implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

**GUIDELINES AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Table 1: List of Guidelines for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention

Resolution	Title
MEPC.152(55)	Guidelines for sediment reception facilities (G1)
MEPC.173(58)	Guidelines for ballast water sampling (G2)
MEPC.123(53)	Guidelines for ballast water management equivalent compliance (G3)
MEPC.127(53)	Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4)
MEPC.153(55)	Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities (G5)
MEPC.124(53)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange (G6)
MEPC.162(56)	Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM convention (G7)
MEPC.174(58)	Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8)
MEPC.169(57)	Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances (G9)
MEPC.140(54)	Guidelines for approval and oversight of prototype ballast water treatment technology programmes (G10)
MEPC.149(55)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction standards (G11)
MEPC.209(63)	2012 Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12)
MEPC.161(56)	Guidelines for additional measures regarding ballast water management including emergency situations (G13)
MEPC.151(55)	Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14)

Table 2: List of other resolutions and guidelines related to the implementation of the BWM Convention

Resolution	Title
MEPC.252(67)	Guidelines for port State control under the BWM Convention
MEPC.253(67)	Measures to be taken to facilitate entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
MEPC.228(65)	Information reporting on type approved ballast water management systems
MEPC.206(62)	Procedure for approving other methods of ballast water management in accordance with regulation B-3.7 of the BWM Convention
MEPC.188(60)	Installation of ballast water management systems on new ships in accordance with the application dates contained in the ballast water management convention (BWM Convention)
MEPC.175(58)	Information reporting on type approved ballast water management systems
MEPC.163(56)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange in the Antarctic treaty area
A.1088(28)	Application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

Table 3: List of BWM Circulars related to the implementation of the BWM Convention

Circular	Title
BWM.2/Circ.52	Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party
BWM.2/Circ.46	Application of the BWM Convention to Mobile Offshore Units
BWM.2/Circ.45	Clarification of "major conversion" as defined in regulation A-1.5 of the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.44	Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels in accordance with the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.43	Amendments to the Guidance for Administrations on the type approval process for ballast water management systems in accordance with Guidelines (G8) (BWM.2/Circ.28)
BWM.2/Circ.42/ Rev.1	Guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis for trial use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2)
BWM.2/Circ.40	Issuance of Ballast Water Management Certificates prior to entry into force of the BWM Convention and Ballast Water Management Plans approved according to resolution A.868(20)
BWM.2/Circ.37	Information that should be made available in proposals for approval of ballast water management systems in accordance with the Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9)
BWM.2/Circ.33	Guidance on scaling of ballast water management systems
BWM.2/Circ.32	Applicability of the Ballast Water Management Convention to hopper dredgers
BWM.2/Circ.29/ Rev.1	Clarification regarding the application dates contained in regulation B-3 of the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.27	Framework for determining when a Basic Approval granted to one ballast water management system may be applied to another system that uses the same Active Substance or Preparation
BWM.2/Circ.21	Engineering Questionnaire on Ballast Water Management Systems
BWM.2/Circ.20	Guidance to ensure safe handling and storage of chemicals and preparations used to treat ballast water and the development of safety procedures for risks to the ship and crew resulting from the treatment process
BWM.2/Circ.17	Guidance document on arrangements for responding to emergency situations involving ballast water operations
BWM.2/Circ.13/ Rev.3	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.13/ Rev.2	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.13/ Rev.1	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.8	Harmonized implementation of the Guidelines for approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (G8)
BWM.2/Circ.7	Interim Survey Guidelines for the purpose of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (resolution A.948(23))