



IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

Merchant Marine Notice **MMN-17-001**

Entry-into-force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004 (BWM Convention)

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

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INTRODUCTION

The IMO in its 28th Session adopted on 4 December 2013 the Resolution A.1088(28) regarding the application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004 (BWM Convention).

The criteria for the entry-into-force were met on 8 September 2016 and consequently the BWM Convention will enter into force on 8 September 2017. This will also serve as the date when all ships to which the BWM Convention applies are obligated to comply with its requirements. The outcome of compliance will result in the installation of an onboard system to treat ballast water and eliminate unwanted organisms on most vessels.

PURPOSE

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) with the aim of providing Ship Owners and ISM Operators a smooth transition for the implementation of BWM requirements and taking into consideration that neither the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol 1978 (MARPOL Convention), nor the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Surveys and Certification (HSSC) prohibits the renewal inspections in advance or the de-harmonization of the IOPP Certificates decided to accept that the IOPP Certificate is being de-harmonized from all others statutory certificates granting enough time to bring Belize Flag Vessels in compliance with this convention.

CONTENT

The de-harmonization of the IOPPC will be evaluated on case-by-case basis by the Technical Department of International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize. In order to obtain this authorization the following steps shall be followed:

1. The Ship Owner or ISM Operators shall contact the vessel's Recognized Organization (RO) to provide a notification of intention to de-harmonize the IOPP Certificate.

2. The vessel's RO shall apply to IMMARBE's Technical Department (technicalofficer@immarbe.com and technicalofficer2@immarbe.com) for the de-harmonization of the IOPP Certificate. The application shall contain the RO confirmation of agreement and the vessel's survey status.

As soon as the above steps are followed, IMMARBE will confirm its agreement and authorize the vessel's RO to perform a renewal IOPP survey. Upon satisfactory completion a new full term IOPP Certificate with a new 5 year validity should be issued.

Ship Owners and ISM Operators are encouraged to re-harmonize the IOPP Surveys and Certificate into the Harmonized System of Surveys and Certification (HSSC) in the future.

IMMARBE anticipates your cooperation and assistance.

Kind regards;



Eng. Eduardo Simon
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IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE

Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to:

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