



Technical Circular

No.: 060/2017

Date: 10th May 2017

To whomsoever it may concern

Subject: Republic of Liberia Marine Operation note re. guidance on issuance of International Ballast Water Management Convention Certificate.

- On or before 8 September 2017, vessels to which BWM convention applies are required to have approved Ballast Water management plan, ballast water record book and carry International Ballast Water Management (IBWM) certificate onboard.
- Republic of Liberia has issued marine operations note 02/2017 providing guidance on issuance of the IBWM Convention Certificate.
- Salient points of the notice are as follows:
 1. From 22 April 2017, Administration itself will carry out approval of BWM plan and issuance of certificate for vessels implementing the D-1 standard.
 2. Owners and operators that have installed ballast water management systems (BWMS) and intended to implement regulation D-2 standards voluntarily before enforcement date are advised by administration to contact authorized RO for the relevant survey and certification towards D-2 standard.
 3. Ballast water management plan approved by RO in accordance with A.868 (20) or MEPC 127(53) will be acceptable, till plan requires revision due to fitment of BWMS to D-2 standard.
 4. The certificate issued by RO prior to 22 April 2017 will continue to remain valid until expired or ship implement the BWMS to D-2 standard, whichever is earlier.
 5. Statement of Compliance (SOC) issued to existing ships for D-1 standard will be replaced to IBWM certificate by the administration.
 6. For getting approval of BWM plans and IBWM certificate, owners and operators of existing vessels implementing only D-1 standard are required to provide below information to administration at technical@liscr.com:
 - a. Verification that the BWM Plan required by regulation B-1 comply fully with the requirements of the BWM Convention;
 - b. Verification that the approved BWM Plan and record book are on-board and being implemented;

- c. Company attests that no modifications or conditions on-board affecting ballast operations and ballast water exchange have been made since last periodical survey;
 - d. Declaration from the ship's Master that the BWM Plan; BW Record Book; and notification or communication with coastal States is being implemented and that the BWM officer has been designated and the crew have been provided with the necessary training and familiarization; and
 - e. A copy of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate.
- 7. Verification of Item c) and implementation of item d) will be done by the flag state inspector at the next attendance.
 - 8. Upon receiving a BWM Plan for review and approval, the Administration will issue a statement when the plan was received, thereby allowing the ship to trade for three months with an unapproved BWM Plan on board.
- Ship owners/ operators and masters are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

- 1. Republic of Liberia Marine Operation Note 02/2017.

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