



# Technical Circular

No.: 026/2023

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Subject: South Korea on Ballast Water Management requirements in reaction to release of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear power plant.**

1. On 24 August 2023, the Japanese Government began releasing treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean, as approved by the International Atomic Energy Association.
2. To keep the treated radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant out of its jurisdiction, South Korea has implemented requirements for ballast water discharge and requires following:
  - a. Ship's that are entering the ports in the Republic of Korea after up taking ballast water in the ports belonging to Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Ibaragi Prefecture, and Chiba Prefecture in the eastern coast of Japan, must submit the ballast water reporting form to relevant regional maritime affairs and fisheries office at least 24 hours before entering port.
  - b. Ships that are planning to discharge ballast water into Korean waters after up taking ballast water from above mentioned six Eastern prefectures in Japan, must exchange their ballast water outside of Korea's jurisdictional waters and enter Korean straits with exchanged ballast water.

The exchange operation must take place between the passage of Tsugaru Strait and 135°30'E when sailing northward, such as passing Tsugaru Strait. When the vessel sails southward, such as through the Kanmon Strait, the exchange must be made between 34°35'N and 132°30'E.

- c. Ships that reported no plan to discharge ballast water into Korean waters after up taking ballast water from above mentioned six Eastern prefectures in Japan, will be required to submit the data that can prove the fact of non-discharge at least an hour before departure.

Documental proof includes the followings:

- Ballast water record book
- Log book
- BWMS operation record
- Ballast water tank capacity (photos)



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- d. Falsifying a ballast water reporting form or making a fraudulent entry in the BWMS operation record could lead to detention or fines for negligence in accordance with Ballast Water Management Act.
3. For details of the requirements, refer attached Spark International bulletin.
4. Other governments may also come up with requirements with respect to treated radioactive water as ballast.
5. In view of above, Owners/ Managers and Masters of vessels scheduled to call South Korean ports via Japanese ports are advised to ensure that details of ballasting operations are accurately recorded, so that they can be provided to the South Korean Port Authorities when preparing for port entry. Further, vessels transiting in these areas are advised to monitor the developments on a port-by-port basis through their vessel agents to ensure compliance to the requirements.

**Enclosure:**

1. Spark International Bulletin, dated 25 August 2023.

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## **Requirements implemented by Korean authorities on Ballast water management in reaction to release of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear power plant.**

25th August 2023

**In order to prevent the inflow of possible radioactive ballast water into Korean waters arising from discharge of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear powerplant, the following measures are to be implemented.**

Effective Date: From August 24, 2023, this measure will take effect without exception on weekends, nights and holidays.

The vessel subject to regulations: Vessels that are entering the ports of Republic of Korea after uptaking ballast water in the ports belong to Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Ibaragi Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture in the eastern coast of Japan.

### **1. Vessels planning to enter Korean ports after taking on ballast water from six Eastern ports in Japan. (Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima, Miyagi, Ibaraki, Chiba)**

**Action required:** Submission of a ballast water reporting form\* 24 hours prior to entering the Korean port. (\*Including details related to the management of ballast water, such as the uptake, treatment, and discharge, etc.). There will be guidance from the local agents when they request the vessel for the necessary documents for port clearance, and the details will be entered into PORT-MIS by the agent.

- Falsifying a ballast water reporting form or making a fraudulent entry in the BWMS operation record could lead to detention or fines for negligence in accordance with "Ballast Water Management Act."

### **2. Vessels planning to discharge ballast water in Korean waters after taking on ballast water from six Eastern prefectures in Japan.**

**Action required:** Exchange their Ballast water outside of Korean jurisdictional waters\* before entering the Korean port. (\*The exchange operation must take place between the passage of Tsugaru Strait and 135°30'E when sailing northward, such as passing Tsugaru Strait. When the vessel sails southward, such as through the Kanmon Strait, the exchange must be made between 34°35'N and 132°30'E.)

- The officers of Regional Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office will carry out on-board inspection to check whether the Ballast water has been exchanged or not. They will take one (1) liter sample of ballast water and conduct a test to check radioactivity using mobile radioactive measuring equipment. This test will take about an hour. Discharge

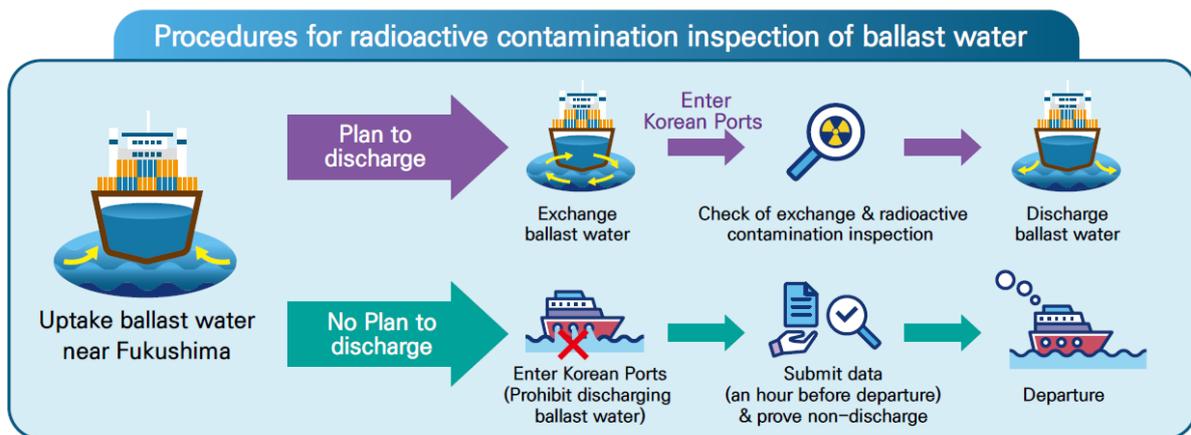
of ballast water allowed after passing of the test. If the Ballast water exchange has not been made, or if the test result is positive, the discharge of the Ballast water will be prohibited.

### 3. Vessels without a plan to discharge ballast water into Korean waters after taking on ballast water from six Eastern prefectures in Japan.

**Action required:** Submit data proving non-discharge of ballast water, to the person in charge of the relevant Regional Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office via email at least an hour before departure.

Documental proof includes the followings:

- Ballast water record book
- Log book
- BWMS operation record
- Ballast water tank capacity (photos).
- The relevant Regional Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office will review the submitted documents to verify non-discharge status prior to departure (onboard investigation may be conducted if necessary). Vessel departure is only permitted following verification of ballast water status.



\*\* Implementation No. 1 and 2 of the above are generally no different from the requirements for reporting ballast water and replacing the water in the open sea, already required for all vessels prior to the release of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear plant. However, there is an addition to implementation 2 which points out supplementary areas for the replacement of ballast water for vessels departing from six ports of eastern Japan.