

Merchant Marine Notice MMN-25-007

Title: Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management

To: Ship Owners, ISM Operators, Ship Managers, Crew, Recognized Organizations, Deputy Registrars, Shipping Agents, Flag State Inspectors

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1. REFERENCE

- Paris and Tokyo MoU Press Release on joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management, dated 1 August 2025.
- Resolution A.1185(33): Procedures for Port State Control.
- IMO Resolution A.739(18): Guidelines for the Authorization of Recognized Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Administration.
- MMN-25-006: Requirements for Handling Port State Control Inspections and Detentions
- MMN-17-003r1: Survey and Certification for the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention)

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. FS – Flag State
- 2.2. RO – Recognized Organization
- 2.3. PSC – Port State Control
- 2.4. BWM Convention – International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
- 2.5. SoC-BWMC – Statement of Compliance-Ballast Water Management Certificate
- 2.6. BWM – Ballast Water Management
- 2.7. BWMP – Ballast Water Management Plan
- 2.8. BWMS – Ballast Water Management System
- 2.9. BWRB – Ballast Water Record Book
- 2.10. CIC – Concentrated Inspection Campaign
- 2.11. MMN – Merchant Marine Notice
- 2.12. MoU – Memorandum of Understanding

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The member Authorities of the **Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU** on Port State Control will conduct a **Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC)** on Ballast Water Management (BWM) from **1 September 2025 to 30 November 2025**. The official press release and CIC questionnaire are attached for your reference.

4. PURPOSE

- 4.1. The purpose of this MMN is to ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements of the **BWM Convention** during the CIC, focusing on the effective and consistent implementation of ballast water management systems and procedures on board Belize-flagged vessels, while also aiming to prevent detentions during the campaign.

5. APPLICATION

- 5.1. This Notice applies to all Belize-flagged vessels subject to the BWM Convention.

6. CONTENT/INSPECTION DETAILS

6.1. Key Areas of Focus

During the CIC, Port State Control Officers will assess the following during inspections:

- 6.1.1. Validity of the Statement of Compliance-Ballast Water Management Certificate (SoC-BWMC).
- 6.1.2. Approval and update of the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP).
- 6.1.3. Crew familiarization with the BWMP and its implementation.
- 6.1.4. Approval and operational status of the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS).
- 6.1.5. Proper maintenance/records of the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB).
- 6.1.6. Management of ballast water sediments.
- 6.1.7. Implementation of valid exemptions, if applicable.

6.2 Inspection Process

- 6.2.1. Each ship will be subject to only one inspection under this CIC during the campaign period.
- 6.2.2. A pre-defined questionnaire will be used to assess compliance.
- 6.2.3. Non-compliance may result in deficiencies or detention of the vessel by the PSC Authority until corrective action is taken.

6.3 Publication of Results

Inspection results will be published on the official websites of the Paris MoU (www.parismou.org) and Tokyo MoU (www.tokyo-mou.org). Findings will be reviewed by the MoU committees and may be submitted to the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Shipowners, ISM Operators, and Crew:

Shipowners and ISM Operators must ensure full compliance with the BWM Convention. Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the SoC-BWMC is valid and on board.
- Ensuring the BWMP is approved, up to date, and accurately implemented.
- Providing adequate training and familiarization for officers and crew.
- Ensuring the BWMS is approved and fully operational.
- Maintaining the BWRB properly, including any exemptions granted.
- Ensuring ballast water sediments are managed in accordance with the BWMP.
- Implementing the conditions of any granted exemptions.
- Ensuring overall compliance to avoid deficiencies or detentions.

The CIC Questionnaire, comprising of ten (10) standard questions jointly developed by the Paris and Tokyo MoUs, must be fully completed and submitted to IMMARBE Technical Department no later than 31 August 2025. Please send the completed questionnaire to both of the following email addresses: inspections@immarbe.com and technicalservices@immarbe.com.

7.2 Recognized Organizations (ROs)

ROs are expected to assist shipowners and operators in ensuring compliance. Responsibilities include:

- Issuing and verifying the SoC-BWMC.
- Reviewing and approving the BWMP to ensure it complies with the Convention's requirements.
- Certifying the BWMS in accordance with Convention or BWMS Code.
- Conducting inspections to verify compliance with the Convention, including proper record-keeping in the BWRB and sediment management practices.
- Ensuring that shipowners and operators provide adequate training and familiarization to crew members for implementing the BWMP effectively.
- Evaluating and documenting exemptions, ensuring correct implementation.

7.3 Flag State Inspectors

During the CIC, Flag State Inspectors must verify the following:

- Validity of the SoC-BWMC.
- Approval and up to date of the BWMP.
- Crew training and familiarization under the BWMP.
- Approval and operational readiness of the BWMS.
- Proper recordkeeping in the BWRB, including exemptions.
- Ballast water sediments are managed in accordance with the BWMP.
- Compliance with any exemptions granted.

The questionnaire may be used for this purpose, and any deficiencies found must be reported to IMMARBE immediately.



8. REQUIREMENTS

IMMARBE appreciates your attention to this important campaign and urges full compliance with the BWM Convention. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact IMMARBE's Technical Department.

This notice was issued in Belize City, Belize, on 05 August 2025.

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Director of Technical and Seafarer
Services
IMMARBE

For: Mr. Paul Gersok
Managing Director
IMMARBE

Any queries related to this Notice shall be directed to inspections@immarbe.com; technicalservices@immarbe.com