



Maritime Circular No.36

To:
Ship – Owners / Managers / Operators, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Organisations (ROs)

Subject:
Ballast Water Management BWM Policy

Date:
29th June 2023

References:
SLMARAD Maritime Circular No.3
SLMARAD Maritime Circular No.4
SLMARAD Maritime Circular No.35
BWM Convention
Resolution MEPC.127(53)
Resolution MEPC.174(58)
Resolution MEPC.279(70)
Resolution MEPC.300(72)
MEPC 71/WP.11/Rev.1
BWMS Code
IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.40

Purpose

To provide guidelines for compliance with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004 (BWM Convention).

Application

1. The BWM Convention enters into force on 8 September 2017.
2. BWM Convention applies to all Sierra Leonean ships irrespective of type, including submersibles, floating craft, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs.
3. BWM Convention shall not apply to ships included in Article 3, Reg.2 of the convention.
4. Commencing 8 September 2017, all Sierra Leonean vessels, shall comply with the following requirements, as applicable:
 - a. Vessels of <400GT, designed / constructed to carry ballast water:
 - i. Carry onboard a Ballast Water Management Plan, approved by an authorised RO (§9) on behalf of this Administration, in accordance with Regulation B-1. Additional guidelines for the BWM Plans are given in IMO Resolution MEPC.127(53);

- ii. Carry onboard a Ballast Water Record Book, in accordance with Regulation B-2;
 - iii. Manage their ballast water on every voyage by performing ballast water exchange, or by treating water utilising a type approved ballast water treatment system;
- b. Vessels of ≥ 400 GT
- i. Undertake surveys in accordance with Regulation E-1, and carry onboard the IBWM Certificate (excludes floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs);
 - ii. Carry onboard a Ballast Water Management Plan, approved by an authorised RO (§9) on behalf of this Administration, in accordance with Regulation B-1. Additional guidelines for the BWM Plans are given in IMO Resolution MEPC.127(53);
 - iii. Carry onboard a Ballast Water Record Book, in accordance with Regulation B-2;
 - iv. Manage their ballast water on every voyage by performing ballast water exchange, or by treating water utilising a type approved ballast water treatment system;

Note: Recognized Organizations (§9) may issue an International Ballast Water Management Certificate prior entry into force of the Convention, provided that it is annotated to state that the validity begins as from 08 September 2017(ref. BWM.2/Circ.40).

5. Ships are required to comply with the discharge standards (Annex, Section D), as follows:
- a. Existing ships are required to comply with regulation D-1 (the Ballast Water Exchange Standard) no later than 08 September 2017;
 - b. Existing ships will have to comply with regulation D-2 (the Ballast Water Performance Standard):
 - i. **on the first IOPP renewal survey** (MARPOL Annex I) after 08 September 2017 if:
 - the IOPP renewal survey is completed on or after 08 September 2019.
 - the IOPP renewal survey is completed on or after 08 September 2014 but prior to 08 September 2017.
 - ii. **on the second IOPP renewal survey** (MARPOL Annex I) after 08 September 2017 if the first renewal survey following the date of entry into force of the convention is completed prior to 08 September 2019 and if conditions of paragraph b(i) are not met.

Note: a ship which is due for an IOPP renewal survey (MARPOL Annex I) after entry into force of the convention and prior to 08 September 2019 cannot decouple its IOPP survey for a second renewal before 08 September 2019 without then having to comply with the D-2 standard.

- c. Ships constructed before the entry into force of the Convention and delivered after 08 September 2017, having also completed the Initial IOPP survey shall comply with the D-2 standard at the first IOPP renewal survey after delivery.
 - d. Ships with a keel laying date after 08 September 2017 are required to comply with regulation D-2 upon delivery.
 - e. Oil tankers of less than 150GT, and every other ship of less than 400GT, to which MARPOL Annex I (IOPP survey) does not apply, shall conduct Ballast Water Management that at least meets the standard described in regulation D-2 no later than 08 September 2024.
6. Exceptions, Exemptions and Equivalentents are taken into consideration only as referred in Regulations A-3, A-4 & A-5 respectively. No deviation from these regulations is allowed. For the evaluation of an exemption request, the following shall be submitted:
 - a. SLMARAD Application Form “TE-DOC-23 – Application for Exemption, Dispensation, Equivalentent” duly filled and signed;
 - b. Official letter from the shipowner/ISM declaring the ports/ locations in accordance with Regulation A-4.1.1 of the convention;
 - c. Risk assessment, in accordance with Regulation A-4.1.1 of the convention.
7. Reporting of the IBMW Certificate and BWM Plan approval to be done by the RO performing survey/ approval duties, in accordance with Maritime Circular No.4.
8. Vessels granted authorisation by this Administration, in accordance with *Maritime Circular No. 35 – “Early renewal survey of IOPP prior entry into force of BWM Convention”*, shall comply with the requirements of this Maritime Circular and with the provisions of the Convention as prescribed in paragraph 5.
9. Recognised Organisations authorised to approve BWM plans and perform surveys in accordance with BWM Convention can be found in Maritime Circular No.3.
10. BWM systems type approved by other Administrations will be accepted on ships under Sierra Leone flag, only if the approval has been carried out in accordance with Resolution MEPC.174(58), Resolution MEPC.279(70) or Resolution MEPC.300(72) as applicable. For such systems to be accepted, a type approval certificate of the BWM system shall be issued by this Administration. The required documents that need to be submitted are all existing Type Approval Certificates and Type Approval Reports (including their entire contents and all annexes, appendices or other attachments), (ref. Draft BWMS Code Annex, part 7).
11. Vessels calling US ports or US jurisdictional waters, shall be fitted with Ballast Water Management Systems accepted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) according to the timeline set by that Administration.

For additional information please contact SLMARAD at info@slmarad.com

Revision Status

Date	Revision	Comments – Changes
15/06/2017	0	Initial – Adopted
06/07/2017	1	Updated list of approved ROs (Para 9 & 10)
19/07/2017	2	Updated list of approved ROs (Para 9 & 10)
29/08/2017	3	Amended to align with MEPC71 decisions regarding compliance with D-2 standard. Updated list of approved ROs (Para 9 & 10)
01/09/2017	4	Correction to Note of paragraph 4b
24/10/2018	5	Amended paragraphs 9 & 10
29/06/2023	6	Amended paragraph 10