

	<b>Information Notice 2016-003 (rev.7)</b>
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)
	<b>Ballast Water Management</b>

## 1. Scope

The purpose of this Information Notice is to provide to all ADOMS Clients and Stakeholders with information on the intentions, planning, expectations and requirements of the Administration in respect of the Implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM).

This latest revision is following the outcomes of IMO MEPC.74, and will be updated, if required, after MEPC.75. [April 2020]

**Note: U.S. legislation is standing separately from & not affected by the aforementioned!**  
***Vessels trading, or planning to trade, in the United States of America shall ensure their compliance with the specific U.S. ballast water management and treatment requirements. (see below, No. 6)***

## 2. Legal Basis

- The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM), 2004

Antigua and Barbuda acceded to this Convention on 19. December, 2008. The Convention has come into force on 8. September 2017. A list of further relevant regulations can be found in the Annex of this notice.

The Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act of 2014 is the relevant primary legislation which facilitates bringing the BWM Convention into force; this will be supported by any necessary secondary legislation afterwards.

## 3. Implementation and Deadlines

There are two implementation levels (Standards) to be aware of:

- **D-1 Standard:** An approved ballast water management plan (BWMP) and a BWM Certificate, or Statement/Certificate of Compliance, must be on board any convention subjected vessel since latest 8. September 2017.

Starting from that date, all vessels subject to the convention, shall conduct ballast water exchange in accordance with a class approved ballast water management plan and must have aboard an International BWM Certificate, until compliance with the later D-2 regulation becomes mandatory.

Consequently the plan to be approved had to be submitted and the corresponding initial survey carried out in due time, before 8. September 2017. (see also No. 4)

Note: Specific local/regional regulations that restrict ballast water exchange (e.g. in the North- and Baltic Sea) must be considered in the passage planning of the vessel.

- **D-2 Standard:** The deadlines for installation of an approved technical ballast water treatment system are related to the IOPP renewal survey(s) as follows:
  1. Vessel constructed (keel-laid) on or after 8. September 2017 need to comply with the D-2 standard upon delivery.
  2. For existing ships, D-2 compliance depends on their IOPP renewal survey date:

- a. If the completion date of the vessel's last IOPP renewal survey was between 8. September 2014 and 7 September 2017 the treatment system installation is required at the next IOPP renewal survey, on or after 8. September 2017.
- b. If the completion date of the last IOPP renewal survey was between 8. September 2012 and 7 September 2014 the treatment system installation is required at the second IOPP renewal survey, on or after 8. September 2017.

Note: Vessels not subject to an IOPP renewal survey (generally vessels below 400 GT) shall be D-2 compliant not later than 8. September 2024.

#### 4. Certification and Approvals

In the past ADOMS had implemented a procedure for the early renewal of IOPP Certification, with de-coupling the IOPP Certification from the range of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC). A corresponding reporting system for RO's having conducted such de-coupling was established.

#### ***Since 8. Sept. 2017 it is no longer possible to de-couple (de-harmonize) the IOPP Certification***

All International Ballast Water Management Certificates (IBWMC) are issued with dates harmonized with the HSSC in order to facilitate easy resumption of full harmonization of the ship's certification by suitable planning to resume full harmonization of certification at the earliest possible time.

For the **re-harmonization** of the IOPP certificate, the vessel's Classification Society will determine the applicable scenario. Owners/operators will be guided by the ROs through the process of re-instating the original IOPP Certificate. There is no separate authorization required from ADOMS.

- **D-1 Standard: Ballast Water Management Plan Approvals**

As to date, all Ballast Water Management Plans (BWMP) for any Antigua and Barbuda registered vessels must have been approved by the respective RO, as the corresponding survey deadline as mentioned in BWM.2/Circ.40 - 3 months - has expired. All BWMPs approved in accordance with resolution A.868 (20) will remain valid until compliance with the D-2 Standard requires also a corresponding revision of the BWMP.

- **D-2 Standard: Ballast Water Treatment Systems Approvals**

ADOMS accepts all ballast water treatment systems for installation on board Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships that have been approved to the G8 MEPC.174 (58) or G9 MEPC.169 (57) guidelines by one of ADOMS Recognized Organizations. ADOMS will also accept systems that have been approved to the G8 or G9 guidelines by any other Administration that has acceded to the convention.

#### 5. Exemptions

The Ballast Water Management Convention stipulates that an exemption can only become valid by agreement of all Port and Coastal State Administrations concerned. A vessel once exempted from Convention requirements is subject to strict limitations on the operational area until the time it is fitted in compliance with Convention requirements. A vessel granted specific port exemptions will still be subject to general compliance with respect to certification and practical management. Exemptions from BWM Compliance (D-1 or D-2) will be considered on a case-by-case basis by ADOMS Technical Division but not before all Port and Coastal State Administrations concerned have granted their explicit agreement. It shall be noted that it is not a prerogative of the Flag State Administration to exempt vessels from Convention requirements, but that the exemption will be an endorsement of the agreement of all Port and Coastal State Administrations concerned, only.

Vessels trading locally, in Antigua and Barbudan territorial waters, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by ADOMS Technical Division

## 6. United States of America

Up-to-date guidelines for vessels operating in U.S. waters can be found on the Marine Safety Center section of the USCG website, under the following link:

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Marine-Safety-Center-MSC/ballast-water/>

The following presentation also provides general information in brief:

[https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/408/BWM\\_101\\_07Jul2017.ppt](https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/408/BWM_101_07Jul2017.ppt)

Owner and operators are strongly advised to liaise with their respective U.S. contacts (ports, shippers, agents etc.) to ensure their vessels being compliant when entering U.S. waters. ADOMS bears no liability for any of the information given in this section.

### ANNEX 1

#### GUIDELINES AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004

**Table 1: List of Guidelines for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention**

Resolution	Title
MEPC.152(55)	Guidelines for sediment reception facilities (G1)
MEPC.173(58)	Guidelines for ballast water sampling (G2)
MEPC.123(53)	Guidelines for ballast water management equivalent compliance (G3)
MEPC.127(53)	Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4)
MEPC.153(55)	Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities (G5)
MEPC.124(53)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange (G6)
MEPC.162(56)	Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM convention (G7)
MEPC.174(58)	Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8)
MEPC.169(57)	Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances (G9)
MEPC.140(54)	Guidelines for approval and oversight of prototype ballast water treatment technology programmes (G10)
MEPC.149(55)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction standards (G11)
MEPC.209(63)	2012 Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12)
MEPC.161(56)	Guidelines for additional measures regarding ballast water management including emergency situations (G13)
MEPC.151(55)	Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14)

**Table 2: List of other resolutions and guidelines related to the implementation of the BWM Convention**

Resolution	Title
MEPC.252(67)	Guidelines for port State control under the BWM Convention
MEPC.253(67)	Measures to be taken to facilitate entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
MEPC.228(65)	Information reporting on type approved ballast water management systems

MEPC.206(62)	Procedure for approving other methods of ballast water management in accordance with regulation B-3.7 of the BWM Convention
MEPC.188(60)	Installation of ballast water management systems on new ships in accordance with the application dates contained in the ballast water management convention (BWM Convention)
MEPC.175(58)	Information reporting on type approved ballast water management systems
MEPC.163(56)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange in the Antarctic treaty area
MEPC.306(73)	Amendments to the Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and Development of Ballast Water Management Plans [G4] (Res. MEPC.127(53))
A.1088(28)	Application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

**Table 3: List of BWM Circulars related to the implementation of the BWM Convention**

<b>Circular</b>	<b>Title</b>
BWM.2/Circ.70	Guidance for the commissioning testing of ballast water management systems
BWM.2/Circ.67/Rev.1	Data gathering and analysis plan for the experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.52	Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party
BWM.2/Circ.46	Application of the BWM Convention to Mobile Offshore Units
BWM.2/Circ.45	Clarification of "major conversion" as defined in regulation A-1.5 of the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.44	Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels in accordance with the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.43	Amendments to the Guidance for Administrations on the type approval process for ballast water management systems in accordance with Guidelines (G8) (BWM.2/Circ.28)
BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.1	Guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis for trial use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2)
BWM.2/Circ.40	Issuance of Ballast Water Management Certificates prior to entry into force of the BWM Convention and Ballast Water Management Plans approved according to resolution A.868(20)
BWM.2/Circ.37	Information that should be made available in proposals for approval of ballast water management systems in accordance with the Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9)
BWM.2/Circ.33	Guidance on scaling of ballast water management systems
BWM.2/Circ.32	Applicability of the Ballast Water Management Convention to hopper dredgers
BWM.2/Circ.29/Rev.1	Clarification regarding the application dates contained in regulation B-3 of the BWM Convention
BWM.2/Circ.27	Framework for determining when a Basic Approval granted to one ballast water management system may be applied to another system that uses the same Active Substance or Preparation
BWM.2/Circ.21	Engineering Questionnaire on Ballast Water Management Systems
BWM.2/Circ.20	Guidance to ensure safe handling and storage of chemicals and preparations used to treat ballast water and the development of safety procedures for risks to the ship and crew resulting from the treatment process
BWM.2/Circ.17	Guidance document on arrangements for responding to emergency situations involving ballast water operations
BWM.2/Circ.13/Rev.3	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.13/Rev.2	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.13/Rev.1	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG
BWM.2/Circ.8	Harmonized implementation of the Guidelines for approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (G8)
BWM.2/Circ.7	Interim Survey Guidelines for the purpose of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (resolution A.948(23))