

Circular 150 / 2017

To: Masters, Managers, and Owners

Subject: Ballast Water Management Convention Implementation

Date: xx March 2017

In Brief

This circular aims to provide a brief summary of the –

- (i) The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments 2004 (BWMC);
- (ii) Instructions on decoupling the IOPP renewal date.

The Ballast Water Management Convention

BWMC will enter into force on 8 September 2017.

BWMC applies to all ships including submersibles, floating craft, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs. However, **BWMC does not apply to:**

- Ships not carrying ballast water,
- Domestic ships,
- Ships that only operate in waters under the jurisdiction of one party and not on the high seas,
- Warships, naval auxiliary or other ships owned or operated by a state, or
- Permanent ballast water in sealed tanks on ships, which is not subject to discharge

By 8 September 2017, **all ships** to which the BWMC applies, **will be required to:**

- Have an approved ballast water management plan on board (BWMC Annex, Section B-1),
- **Maintain a ballast water record book** (BWMC Annex, Section B-2),
- **Manage their ballast water on every voyage** by performing ballast water exchange (or by treating it using an approved ballast water treatment system), and
- Undertake an initial survey and be issued with an International BWM Certificate (for ships of 400 gross tonnage and above to which BWMC applies, excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs).

Discharge standards for ballast water are specified in, BWMC Annex, Section D:

- Regulation D-1 sets the Ballast Water Exchange Standard;
- Regulation D-2 sets the Ballast Water Performance Standard.

Compliance with the regulation D-2 discharge standard will generally require the **installation of an approved ballast water management system.**

Ships are required to **comply with these discharge standards as follows:**

- **Existing ships** are required to comply with regulation D-1 (the Ballast Water Exchange Standard) no later than 08 September 2017;
- **Existing ships** will also have to comply with regulation D-2 (the Ballast Water Performance Standard) no later than the first IOPP renewal survey (MARPOL Annex I) after 08 September 2017.
- **Ships with a keel laying date after 08 September 2017** are required to comply with regulation D-2 upon delivery.

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) also draws the attention of ship-owners and managers to **ensure officers and crew are familiar with their duties** related to the implementation of BWM, particular to the ship on which they serve; In particular crew shall have a sound understanding of the following -

- The BWMC
- The implementation of the ship specific BWMP;
- **Ballast water exchange procedures, sediment management procedures;** and
- The Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB), and reporting functions.

Decoupling IOPP Renewal Date

Maritime Cook Islands, similar to other leading flags has received several requests from ship-owners for an early renewal of the IOPP certificate to be conducted prior to 08 September 2017; Maritime Cook Islands has **no objection to such practice**. Ship-owners who **wish to have the IOPP renewal carried out prior to 8 September must notify this Administration in advance**. All notifications shall made in writing to technical@maritimecookislands.com.

Where early renewal of the IOPP Certificate is carried out, flag surveyors and ROs will be instructed to:

1. **Follow IMO Assembly Resolution A.1104 (29), Survey Guidelines Under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2015**, and in particular, Annex 3, Section 1 which contains the detailed requirements for MARPOL Annex 1 surveys; and
2. **Apply MARPOL I, regulations 9 (Form of certificate) and 10 (Duration and validity of certificate).**

MCI requires that the IOPP Certificate **must be re-harmonized** with the remaining renewal surveys at the earliest possible opportunity and **not further than the next IOPP renewal survey**. Re-harmonization shall be carried following the indications at point 1 & 2 above.

In Summary

Ship owners are required by 8 September to –

1. Have on board an approved BWMP
2. Have on board a BW Record Book
3. Have all crew familiarised
4. Be surveyed and certified in accordance with the BWMC, if over 400GT, excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs

Ship owners are requested to contact their Cook Islands authorised Recognised Organisation to make the necessary arrangements as soon as practicable.

For further inquiries related the applicability of the BWMC to any specific vessel please contact Maritime Cook Islands Technical Department at technical@maritimecookislands.com