

Marine Safety Circular:

MSC-21-012

## Survey and Certification for the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention)

**TO: REGISTRATION MANAGERS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS**

### INTRODUCTION

The Marine Environmental Protection Committee, at its 71<sup>st</sup> session (MEPC71), approved draft amendments to the International Water Management Convention (BWMC) where the implementation scheme for existing ships (Regulation B-3) was revised.

Approved modifications was adopted by MEPC 72 was held from 9 to 13 April 2018. Therefore, in order to avoid a dual treaty regime until the effective entry into force date of the amendments and provide certainty in the application of the Convention, MEPC 71 recommended that Maritime Administrations undertake an immediate application of the revised implementation scheme in lieu of the previous one, adopted by Res. A.1088(28).

### PURPOSE

The International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG) with the aim of providing Ship Owners and ISM Operators detailed information, guidance and IMSAG's position as BWM Convention is in force since 8 September 2017.

### APPLICATION

The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004 (BWM Convention) applies to **all vessels of any type** whatsoever operating in the aquatic environment and includes submersibles, floating crafts, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs in accordance with the definition of "Ship" in the Article 1.12 of this Convention, except for:

1. Ships not designed or constructed to carry Ballast Water;
2. Ships that only operate in Guyana National Waters;
3. Ships that only operate in waters under the jurisdiction of another Party and on the high seas, subject to the authorization of the Party for such exclusion;
4. Warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service; and
5. Ships with permanent Ballast Water in sealed tanks on ships, that is not subject to discharge.

## SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION

All Ships of 400 gross tonnage and above to which this Convention applies, excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs, shall be issued with an International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC), subject to surveys specified below:

1. An initial survey before the ship is put in service or before the IBWMC is issued for the first time.
2. A renewal survey at intervals not exceeding five years.
3. An intermediate survey within three months before or after the second anniversary date or within three months before or after the third anniversary date of the IBWMC.
4. An annual survey within three months before or after each anniversary date.
5. An additional survey either general or partial, according to the circumstances.

**The Republic of Guyana Government is in Accession of Convention and is in force since 20.05.2019;** therefore, all vessels registered with IMSAG to which this Convention applies shall be issued with Certificate of **International Ballast Water Management** which is required available onboard ship.

All vessels registered with IMSAG falling under the applicability of this convention will be requested to carry on board the following:

1. Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) approved by the Recognized Organization on behalf of IMSAG in accordance to Regulation B-1 of the BWM Convention and taking into account Guidelines developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
2. Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB) in accordance to Regulation B-2 of the BWM Convention.
3. International Ballast Water Management Certificate valid for five years and subject to annual, intermediate and renewal surveys in accordance to regulation E-1 of the BWM Convention.

## REQUIREMENTS

All vessels to which this Convention applies and Shipowners need to be aware of the following requirements:

1. IMSAG's registered vessels will have to comply with regulation D-1 (Ballast Water Exchange) requirements and shall hold a relevant International Ballast Water Management Certificate.
2. The Marine Environmental Protection Committee during its 71-session to ensure a smooth transition requested the implementation of the draft amended Regulation B-3 which was adopted by MEPC 72 and supersedes the resolution A.1088(28) of 4 December 2013.

Consequently, IMSAG's registered vessels in accordance with the above taking into consideration the date of construction shall be fitted with an approved Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) and to comply with regulation D-2 (Ballast Water Performance Standard) .

3. Vessels intended to be registered with IMSAG with a keel laying date after 8th September 2017 will have to comply with regulation D-2 upon delivery;
4. IMSAG's registered vessels of less than 400 gross tonnage and Oil Tankers of less than 150 gross tonnage constructed before 8 September 2017 and entitled to carry Ballast Water are required to carry the certificate of BWMS to comply with the standards described in Regulation D-2 (Ballast Water Performance Standard) not later than 8 September 2024.

### **BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BWMS)**

IMSAG will accept Ballast Water Management System Type approvals by a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) or issued by the approved RO.

The verification of that type for Approval of Ballast Water Management System ( adopted by MEPC 72) is delegated to the Recognized Organization in charge of the issuance of the Certificate of International Ballast Water Management Statement behalf of this Administration.