



Marine Circular

Marine Circular Nr. 08/ 2022, 28/09/2022

Subject: " Certification under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) - Application Procedure for Granting Authorization for the Issuance of a Conditional International Ballast Water Management Certificate Pending Installation of the Ballast Water Treatment System "

Ref.: International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, (BWM 2004).

To: Deputy Registrars, Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, and ROs

Scope: The current MAR. CIR. aims to inform all interested parties on the procedure and requirements for the issuance of Conditional International Ballast Water Management Certificate by the competent ROs pending installation of the Ballast Water Treatment System.

Applicability

1. The current MAR.CIR. applies to all vessels to which the BWM Convention applies (all ships with ballast water capacity and active in international trade, except ships mentioned in Article 3 of the Convention).

Background

2. The Ballast Water Management Convention, adopted in 2004, aims to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another, by establishing standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments. Under the Convention, all ships in international traffic are required to manage their ballast water and sediments to a certain standard, according to a ship-specific ballast water management plan. All ships will also have to carry a ballast water record book and an international ballast water management certificate.

International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)

3. All ships of 400 gross tonnages and above to which the BWM Convention applies (except floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs) are required to carry an International Ballast Water Management Certificate.¹

Application Procedure for the Authorization for the Issuance of a Conditional International Ballast Water Management Certificate pending installation of the Ballast Water Treatment System

4. In cases other than those mentioned in the regulation A-4 (Exceptions) of BWMC and paragraph 9 of [BWM.2/Circ.52/Rev.1](#), when vessels for exceptional circumstances are not able to comply with the D2

¹ An International Ballast Water Management Certificate, is issued for ships of 400 gt and above, by or on behalf of the Administration (flag State) and certifies that the ship carries out ballast water management in accordance with the BWM Convention and also specifies which standard the ship is complying with, as well as the date of expiry of the Certificate.



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standards, an attestation letter can be given by this Administration as may be deemed necessary, to temporarily operate with a Ballast Water Management System in compliance with D-1 Standards². :

5. In order to issue the attestation, the shipowner will have to submit to the G-B I.S.R. / Technical Department the following documentation:

- .1 A letter from the manufacturer stating that the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) has been ordered, the date of the order, the exact reasons for the delay and the expected date for the installation of the equipment.
- .2 A letter from the competent Recognized Organization (R.O.) stating if installation drawings have been submitted for approval and the submission date.
- .3 A copy of the present International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate issued in accordance with Annex I of the MARPOL Convention (IOPP), and the International Ballast Water Management Certificate, if applicable.
- .4 The updated survey status of the vessel issued by the competent R.O.
- .5 Respective application form filled, signed, and stamped, as appropriate.
- .6 An undertaking letter by the shipowner committing that the vessel will be in compliance with the D2 standards ((treatment) regulations) on a concrete scheduled date.

6. In exceptional circumstances, an incidental exception can be provided by the G-B I.S.R. for a period to be evaluated by this Administration on an ad-hoc basis.

Application Form Submission

7. The respective Application Form is appended to the end of this Marine Circular, and it is also available online at the following link: <https://gbisr.com/application-forms/>. The Application Form has to be submitted via E-message as described above, along with the required documents to the G-B I.S.R. / Technical Department (E-mail: tech@gbi-lb.org) and respective contact details of the person in charge. The competent services of the G.B. ISR will revert upon the conclusion of the case evaluation.

8. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, and ship masters of vessels registered under the G-B I.S.R. and R.O.s are requested to take note of the information stated above and act accordingly.

Effective Date

9. The current Maritime Circular has immediate effect as per the day of issuance.

² The D-1 standard requires ships to exchange their ballast water in open seas, away from coastal areas. Ideally, this means at least 200 nautical miles from land and in water at least 200 metres deep. By doing this, fewer organisms will survive and so ships will be less likely to introduce potentially harmful species when they release the ballast water. Regulation D-1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard - Ships performing Ballast Water exchange shall do so with an efficiency of 95 per cent volumetric exchange of Ballast Water.



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10. Any queries on this Notice may be submitted to G-B I.S.R. / Technical Department (E-mail: tech@gbi-lb.org, Tel.: +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537914).

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

A. Amstutz

Office of the General Ships Registrar



Attached

[Application Form for granting Exemption/Waiver/Extension \(p.1\)](#)

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FORM CODE: 1131518-MAR-CIR Issue 01 Rev 01

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