



Marine Notice Nr. 05- 2025, 30/09/2025

Subject: “ Joint Paris and Tokyo MoUs Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management (BWM)”

Ref. :

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

b. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly Resolution A.1185(33), Procedures for Port State Control 2023.

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties.

Summary: The Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU have announced a joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management (BWM), which commenced on 1 September 2025 and is running through 30 November 2025. The purpose of the campaign is to verify ships' compliance with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention). Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) will focus on the implementation of Ballast Water Management, including certification, system operation, recordkeeping, and crew familiarization. Ships and their equipment should always be maintained to ensure safe and compliant ballast water operations.

1. Purpose

1.1 This Marine Notice serves to inform shipowners, operators, masters, and seafarers that the member Authorities of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (Paris MoU) and the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding (Tokyo MoU) on Port State Control are conducting a **joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management (BWM)**, which commenced on the 1st September to **30 November 2025**. The main objective of this campaign is to verify that ships comply with the mandatory requirements of the BWM Convention and to promote its effective and consistent implementation across the maritime industry.

2. Scope of Inspections

2.1 During the campaign, Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) will use a **pre-defined questionnaire** (see attached) to assess compliance. Each ship will be subject to **only one CIC inspection** during the campaign period.

2.2 The inspections will focus on the following areas:

- a. Valid International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC);
- b. Approved and updated Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP);
- c. Familiarization of officers and crew with the BWMP;



- d. Approval and operational status of the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS);
- e. Proper completion of the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB), including exemptions where applicable;
- f. Ballast water sediment management in accordance with the BWMP;
- g. Conditions and implementation of exemptions, if granted.

3. Possible Outcomes of Inspections

- 3.1 Non-compliance will be handled according to its severity:
 - a. **Minor deficiencies** (e.g., incomplete records) – recorded as deficiencies with instructions to rectify within a set timeframe.
 - b. **Serious deficiencies** (e.g., missing certification, non-operational BWMS, or lack of crew familiarization) – may result in detention of the vessel until rectified.

4. Documentation Required on Board

- 4.1 Masters and operators are reminded to ensure that the following documents are valid, up to date, and readily available on board:
 - a. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC);
 - b. Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP);
 - c. Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB);
 - d. Type Approval Certificate for the BWMS;
 - e. Crew training and familiarization records;
 - f. Sediment management records;
 - g. Exemption certificates (if applicable);

5. Results and Reporting

- 5.1 After completion of the campaign, the inspection results will be compiled and published jointly by the Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU Secretariats. The final report will provide analysis of inspection outcomes, deficiencies identified, and overall compliance levels within the industry.

6. References and Attachments

- 6.1 For further guidance, the following documents are attached to this Marine Notice:
 - a. **Attachment 1:** Paris/Tokyo MoU Joint Press Release on the 2025 BWM CIC
 - b. **Attachment 2:** CIC Questionnaire on Ballast Water Management

7. Recommendations and Requirements

- 7.1 G-B I.S.R. Invites all parties involved to review the questions of the established checklist attached to this Circular, along with the standards of compliance with the BWM Convention.
- 7.2 This Administration invites Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Ship Operators to familiarize themselves with the CIC criteria and take the necessary steps in ensuring that their vessels and crews are prepared for the campaign inspections, namely that Ballast Water Management documentation onboard their vessels is in good order and available for PSC inspection, systems are operational, and crews are well familiarized with their duties in this regard.



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7.3 G-B I.S.R. Flag State Inspectors are requested to complete the established checklist during Flag State Inspections and forward a completed copy to the Administration, as may be deemed appropriate during respective inspections.

7.4 Shipowners, operators, and Masters are urged to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the BWM Convention during this CIC.

8. Inquires

8.1. Any inquiries relating to this Marine Notice may be addressed to the G-B I.S.R – Operation Department (Email: ops@gbi-lb.org, Tel.: +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194).

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:



Office of the General Ships Registrar

Attached in Electronic Form

- a. Paris/Tokyo MoU Joint Press Release on the 2025 BWM CIC
- b. CIC Questionnaire on Ballast Water Management