



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 031 of 03rd November 2011

To:	All Surveyors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	2010 Guidelines for the control and management of ship's Bio Fouling
Reference:	POLLUTION-BWM Convention

As stated in IMO Guidelines *“studies have shown that bio-fouling can also be significant vector for the transfer of invasive aquatic species. Biofouling on ships entering the water of states may result in the establishment of invasive aquatic species which may pose threats to human, animal and plant life, economic and cultural activities and the aquatic environment”*.

Through **MEPC.207(69)**, involved parties may find guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling in an attempt to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species by shipping.

The guidelines include measures to minimize the risks of transferring invasive aquatic species from biofouling on ships.

Added to the above, the guidelines provide guidance on the development of biofouling management plan which is intended to provide effective procedures for biofouling management. A format of the plan is included in the guidelines (please refer to Appendix 1).

The biofouling management plan shall be ship specific and shall also include a training program for ships' crew.

Nevertheless, it is recommended to maintain a biofouling record book onboard. The information recorded shall include details of the anti-fouling systems and operational practices used, dates and location of drydocking/slippings, date and location of in-water inspections and dates and details of inspection and maintenance of internal seawater cooling systems.

An example of the biofouling record book is included in the guidelines (please refer to Appendix 2).

APPLICABILITY

The Guidelines are applicable to all type of ships irrespective of year of built. However, these guidelines are not mandatory and therefore do not require any surveys, certification or plan approval.

REFERENCES:

BWM Convention

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

Kindest Regards,
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