



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 054 of 22nd April 2012

To: All Surveyors/Auditor

Applicable to flag: All Flags

Subject: **Ballast Water Management Surveys**

Reference: SAFETY – Ballast Water Management Convention

Introduction

The assigned Surveyor holds primary responsibility for carrying out BWM surveys in accordance with this procedure and other listed references.

General

Ships of 400 gross tonnage and above, excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs, are subject to survey and certification under the Convention. Although fixed or floating platforms, MODUs, FSUs and FPSOs are excluded from the Survey and certification requirements of the Convention (unless a Flag or Coastal State requires so), they are required to comply with the Convention.

The Convention does not apply to:

- 1) Ships that are not designed or constructed to carry ballast water.
- 2) Permanent ballast water in sealed tanks on ships that is not subject to discharge.
- 3) Ships that only operate in the coastal waters of one State, or the coastal waters of one State and the high seas. (This is provided that the State has determined that the discharge of ballast water will not impair or damage the environment, human health, property or resources, of the State or those of an adjacent State(s).)
- 4) Any warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by a State and used only on government non-commercial service.

Ballast water is defined as the water with its suspended matter taken on board a ship to control trim, list, draught, stability or stresses of the ship.

Ballast Water Management means the mechanical, physical, chemical, and biological processes, either singularly or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens within ballast water and sediments.

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Ballast Water Management Plan

A ship shall have on board, and implement, a BWM plan, approved by the Administration. In this regard, CONARINA has been authorized by various Administrations to approve the BWM plan.

The Ballast Water Management plan shall be specific to each ship and shall contain at least the requirements contained in Regulation B-1 of the Annex to the Convention.

Until such time that Ballast Water Management systems, approved by Administrations, become available, Ballast Water Exchange, by means of sequential, flow-through or dilution methods, will be the principle means for achieving the objectives of, and compliance with, the Convention. The procedures for Ballast Water Exchange should be incorporated into the Ballast Water Management plan.

Ballast Water Record Book

A ship shall have on board a Ballast Water record book that may be an electronic record system or that may be integrated into another record book or system, which shall contain information as specified in Appendix II of the Convention. Ballast Water record book entries shall be maintained on board the ship for a minimum period of two years after the last entry has been made, and thereafter in the Company's control for a minimum period of three years. Any exemptions granted to BWM regulations are to be recorded in the Ballast Water record book.

Certification

Until the Convention enters into force, after satisfactory completion of the surveys outlined below, a BWM Statement of Compliance (SOC) is to be issued on behalf of the Administration (if so authorized), or, if at the request of the ship's owner, a BWM Statement of Voluntary Compliance (SOVC) is to be issued. The SOC or SOVC is valid for 5 years from the date of the completion of the initial survey.

The list of countries that have delegated statutory survey authority to CONARINA is available at CONARINA Head Office.

Upon entry into force, IBWM certificates may be issued for parties to the Convention. (SO(V)Cs are still to be issued to parties that are not signatory to the Convention.)

Surveys

Surveys comprise initial, annual, intermediate and renewal surveys.

Check to confirm that the ship has an approved BWM plan onboard, which is to be specific to each ship. Also, any associated structure, equipment, systems, fitting, arrangements and material and/or processes, as specified in the BWM plan, should be checked that it fully complies with the requirements of the Convention and have been maintained and in good working order.

For the initial survey and commissioning of a Ballast Water Management System, refer to below.

Check to confirm that the ship has a BW record book, or alternative record keeping system, onboard that contains the information specified in Appendix II of the Convention, in a place readily available for inspection, that it has been filled-out and that records are available

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onboard for the last two years (or from the start of BWM onboard the ship, if this is less than two years.) The records should show that each operation concerning BW has been fully and promptly recorded and signed by the officer in charge of the operation, and each completed page signed by the master.

Ballast Water record of entries shall be maintained onboard the ship for a minimum period of two years after the last entry has been made, (or from the start of BWM onboard the ship, if this is less than two years.) and thereafter in the Companies control for a minimum period of three years. In the case of an unmanned ship under tow, it may be kept on the towing ship.

Ballast Water Exchange

At this time, Ballast Water Exchange will be the most likely method of BWM onboard a ship.. Any piping, venting, interconnecting pipe/trunk arrangements or other structural/equipment arrangements provided specifically for or to facilitate Ballast Water Exchange is to be surveyed to ensure it is in satisfactory condition.

The arrangement and procedures for safely conducting Ballast Water Exchange may be found in the Ballast Water Management plan.

Ballast Water Management System

If there is a Ballast Water Management System (BWMS), it is to be type approved. Check for appropriate type approval by the Administration (or its designated body), and for a "Type Approval Certificate of the Ballast Water Management System", based on the IMO guidelines. BWM systems that make use of chemicals, active substances, etc., are to be approved.

In addition, the following documents are to be provided for any newly installed BWMS:

- 1) Evidence that the electrical and electronic components of the BWMS have been type-tested in accordance with the environmental testing requirements contained in the IMO guidelines.
- 2) Equipment manuals for the major components of the BWMS.
 - Where a BWM system makes use of chemicals/active substances, such substances shall also be type approved by IMO.
 - Refer to Attachment A, "Ballast Water Management Systems - Approval Schemes", which provides a flow chart of the type approval and initial installation process for treatment systems. In this regard it is important to note that equipment/systems which are subject to type approval require testing ashore and onboard the vessel. For type approval, surveys of such equipment fall outside the scope of this work instruction.
- 3) An operations and technical manual for the BWMS specific to the ship and approved by the Administration, containing a technical description of the BWMS, operational and maintenance procedures, and backup procedures in case of equipment malfunction.
- 4) Installation specifications, installation commissioning procedures, and initial calibration procedures.

The initial installation survey is to verify that:

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- 1) The BWMS installation has been carried out in accordance with the technical installation specification.
- 2) The BWMS is in conformity with the Type Approval Certificate of BWMS issued by the Administration. Where a BWM system makes use of chemicals/active substances, such substances shall also be type approved by IMO.
- 3) The installation of the complete BWMS has been carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's equipment specification.
- 4) Any operational inlets and outlets are located in the positions indicated on the drawing of the pumping and piping arrangements.
- 5) The workmanship of the installation is satisfactory and, in particular, that any bulkhead penetrations or penetrations of the ballast system piping are to the relevant approved standards.
- 6) The Control and Monitoring Equipment operates correctly

Other treatment technologies may be used onboard a ship under the "Prototype ballast water treatment technologies" provisions of the Convention.

Refer to Attachment A, "Ballast Water Management Systems - Approval Schemes", which provides a flow chart of the type approval and initial installation process for treatment systems. In this regard it is important to note that equipment/systems which are subject to type approval require testing ashore and onboard the vessel. Please see Technical Circular No. 055.

REFERENCES:

BWM Convention

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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