



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 224 of 24th October 2014

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	BIMCO launches survey on bio-fouling
Reference:	Anti-fouling Convention

How current antifouling technologies are performing on various ship types

Biofouling means the attachment or association of marine organisms to the wetted portions of a vessel including sea chests, propellers, anchors, and other niche areas.

The ***International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention)*** prohibits the use of listed harmful substances in anti-fouling paints used on ships and establishes a mechanism to potentially prevent the future use of other substances in anti-fouling systems should they be classified as harmful.

While the AFS Convention addresses anti-fouling systems on ships, its focus is on the prevention of a direct adverse impact on the environment from the use of anti-fouling systems and the biocides they may contain, rather than preventing transfer of invasive aquatic species. Consequently IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) developed and adopted a set of Guidelines in July 2011 for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize transfer of invasive aquatic species.

The Guidelines can be found in Resolution MEPC.207 (62) entitled "*2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species*".

The aim of the Guidelines is to provide a globally consistent approach to managing biofouling reduction by providing useful recommendations on general measures to minimize risks associated with biofouling e.g. corrosion, clogging, and decrease in the efficiency of moving parts for all types of ships. Such reduction makes sense from an environmental protection point of view as well as a means to reduce oil consumption however, a number of countries have adopted unilateral

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regulation on hull husbandry prohibition thus making hull cleaning and in service anti-fouling maintenance very difficult or impossible.

REFERENCES:

- AFS Convention

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,

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