



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 680 of 4th May 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ballast Water Management-Monitoring devices
Reference	MEPC 74

Verification of Ballast Water Compliance Monitor Devices

As an important issue identified during the “Experience-Building Phase of the implementation of the BWM Convention, the Sub-Committee opened discussion regarding standards for verifying the effectiveness and accuracy of ballast water *compliance monitoring devices* (CMDs).

CMD may be used during BWMS commissioning testing, compliance testing by Port State Control authorities, data-gathering during the Experience-Building Phase, or self-monitoring by shipowners. These devices are typically used for indicative analysis, which is relative quick but less precise than detailed analysis. Despite this varies used of CMDs, and the various water conditions in which they may use there is no widely accepted protocol for validating such devices. At MEPC 74 and PPR 6, a group of Member States has proposed verification parameters of accuracy, precision, and detection limits of CMDs, while varying the salinity and the size of microbes of the laboratory-prepared challenge water.

There are disagreements on an early proposition that verification testing of CMDs should include onboard testing. Some Flag Administrations argue that laboratory testing was preferable because microorganism concentrations in the challenge water could be controlled and varied in the laboratory environment. Other argued that laboratory testing of such a device could not simulate the challenging and varying conditions seen in ballast water treatment onboard ships.

The current draft of the protocol for verifying ballast water CMDs suggests using laboratory and onboard tests.

There was also some disagreement on wherever the IMO should pursue development of a verification standard since the ISO (International Organization of Standardization) was also pursuing development of a similar standard. However, most Flag Administration agreed that because use of CMDs is center to enforcement efforts of the BWM Convention, the Sub-Committee should continue to pursue development of this standard.

CONARINA Head Office

*5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9th. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126*

Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,

Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,

Joel@conarinagroup.com

REFERENCES:

- BWM Convention-Standard for verification of Ballast Water Compliance monitoring devices.

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

CONARINA Technical Office

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*5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126*

Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,

Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,

Joel@conarinagroup.com