



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 722 of 6th March 2022

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ballast Water Treatment Technology
Reference	Ballast Water Management

Ballast Water Treatment Technology 2022

IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) first discussed ballast water treatment in 1991.

2022 could see a record number of ballast water treatment system retrofit installations.

2022 will see a new alternative for vessels beyond USCG compliance dates to be compliant.

IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) first discussed ballast water treatment in 1991, and debate it set to continue at MEPC78 in June 2022-and beyond.

In June 2022, biological efficacy commissioning testing will become mandatory for installed ballast water treatment systems. This has been confused with type- approval of ballast water treatment systems by IMO or the US Coast Guard (USCG) and seen as a tick box exercise.

2022 will likely see some high profile failures and delays (a 3month extension can be granted} while crews are trained for properly understand how to operate the systems and respond to alarms.

One positive outcome of MEPC 77 was clear up the language around the date of testing. If a ballast water treatment systems is installed in conjunction with an initial or additional survey on or after June 1st, 2022, commissioning testing should be conducted.

2022 could see a record number of ballast water treatment system retrofit installations- in fact this will have to happen in 2022, 2023 and 2023 if the shipping industry is to achieve the dead line for compliance with IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention on 8 September 2024.

In December 2021, it has become apparent that at the current rate of progress, there will be a huge shortfall in vessels fitted with ballast water treatment systems. The issue is compounded by experience owners and operators are having with the systems already installed.

Ships are having to halt cargo loading due to clogging filters or lack of crew familiar with the

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systems.

REFERENCES:

- BWM systems

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

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