



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 860 of 4th February 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ballast water record-keeping
Reference	MEPC – BWM Convention

Ballast Water Record-Keeping

At its 80th session, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted amendments to the BWRB form (Appendix II of the BWM Convention) as detailed in resolution MEPC.369(80). As of February 1, 2025, the BWRB must contain the information specified in the amended form. Until then, the existing form remains mandatory.

Shipowners may opt for the early implementation of the new form of BWRB before this due date, provided they obtain authorization from the vessel's flag Administration.

Guidance on Ballast Water Record-Keeping

MEPC 80 approved the Guidance on Ballast Water Record-Keeping and Reporting (BWM.2/Circ.80) to clarify when and how to record operations in the BWRB.

This guidance includes three parts:

1. Ballast Water Record Book: Includes standardized formats to facilitate efficient record-keeping and inspections, and instructions for storing records. Example entries in Appendix I of the guidance illustrate how various ballast water operations and circumstances should be recorded in the BWRB.
2. Ballast Water Reporting Form: Contains an example ballast water reporting form (BWRF) together with instructions for completion. A BWRF may be submitted before entry into a port State that requires specific information regarding the management of ballast water on ships bound for its ports, offshore terminals or anchorage areas.
3. Voluntary Tank-by-Tank Log: Explains how to maintain voluntary tank-by-tank records of ballast water operations that may facilitate the completion of a BWRF by allowing the crew to efficiently track the contents of each tank and hold that carries ballast water.

Furthermore, MEPC 82 approved the 2024 Guidance on Ballast Water Record-Keeping and Reporting (BWM.2/Circ.80/Rev.1), revoking BWM.2/Circ.80 in order to provide guidance on recording operational scenarios related to challenging water quality in the BWRB, in line with the

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Interim Guidance on the Application of the BWM Convention to Ships Operating in Challenging Water Quality Conditions (resolution MEPC.387(81)).

According to the Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and Development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4) set out in resolution MEPC.127(53) amended by resolution MEPC.306(73), the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) should contain guidance on the recording requirements as per the ship's BWRB provided for under the BWM Convention, including details of exemptions granted to the ship under Regulations B-3 or C-1.

Additionally, the BWMP should include provisions for crew training and familiarization with the BWRB, and the maintenance of records. MEPC 80 adopted amendments to these guidelines, set out in resolution MEPC.370(80), which provides that when recording ballast water operations and exemptions, the guidance provided in circular BWM.2/Circ.80/Rev.1 should be taken into account. Furthermore, where a port State requires specific information regarding the management of ballast water on a ship bound for a port, offshore terminal or anchorage area in that port State, a completed BWRB may be submitted before entry into that port State while the Tank-by-Tank Logs, although not mandatory, may facilitate the completion of a BWRB.

REFERENCES:

- MEPC.127(53) amended by resolution MEPC.306(73),

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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