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To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Guidelines for the Use of Electronic BWRB</b>
Reference	BWM Convention. MEPC 80

**Guidelines for the Use of Electronic BWRB**

The use of electronic BWRBs is permitted in accordance with Regulation B-2 of the BWM Convention. MEPC 80 adopted guidelines for the use of electronic BWRB. These guidelines are set out in resolution MEPC.372(80) and prescribe the required system specifications:

- The use and output presentation of electronic BWRBs must satisfy the requirements of the BWM Convention.
- Where possible, automated logging technology should be leveraged, and measures should be implemented to prevent attempts at data manipulation or falsification.
- The electronic BWRBs should be capable of retaining all records made for the minimum period specified in the BWM Convention.
- Updates to the electronic BWRBs should ensure that pertinent BWM Convention amendments are incorporated without the loss of existing records.
- To maintain the security and accountability of electronic BWRBs, the system should implement Role Based Access Control, Audit Logging and measures against unauthorized changes to records and entries.
- The master of the ship should be provided with the additional capability to verify a single or series of saved entries.
- Regarding the storage of data, electronic BWRBs should be part of the Information Technology Business Continuity Plan, which includes having a method for backing up and recovering data.
- The electronic BWRB should be backed up automatically to offline storage in an appropriate format, and an alternate power supply to the BWRB should be considered.

These guidelines establish consistent technical specifications and criteria to standardize the

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approval process. The electronic BWRB should undergo an assessment by the flag State or an authorized Recognized Organization (RO) to ensure compliance with the established guidelines. Following the assessment, if the specified requirements of the conventions and the guidelines are met, the Declaration of BWM Convention Electronic Record Book is issued.

A copy of the declaration should be carried on board for regulatory surveys or inspections.

Additionally, the guidelines specify relevant inspection requirements.

An electronic BWRB should be capable of meeting company verification and audit requirements, including integration with the ship's safety management system as per the International Safety Management Code.

Furthermore, the electronic BWRB should comply with all flag State and survey requirements and adhere to the control provisions set out in the BWM Convention. It should also meet the general requirements established in the Procedures for Port State Control, 2021 (resolution A.1155(32)), as amended, and support the detection of violations and enforcement of the Convention as described in Article 10 of the BWM Convention. The use of electronic BWRBs does not relieve shipowners of their obligation to accurately maintain and produce records during inspections, as mandated by the BWM Convention. If a ship is unable to present the electronic BWRB or a declaration provided by the flag Administration during a Port State Control (PSC) inspection, the PSC officer may request an alternative verified copy of the records or a hard copy record book for verification.

REFERENCES:

- Regulation B-2 of the BWM Convention. MEPC 80

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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