



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**  
Ministry of the Sea, Transport  
and Infrastructure  
Maritime Safety Directorate



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**Ref. Code: CIRC-MMPI-006**

**Title: Entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention)**

**Subject: Implementation of the BWM Convention**

**Reference: IMO documents: BWM/CONF/36, Res. A.1088(28), MEPC. 70/WP.12, BWM.2/Circ.40**

## **1. General**

The purpose of this Circular is to inform all interested parties about the intentions of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure (MSTI) with respect to implementation of the BWM Convention when it comes into force.

Croatia ratified this Convention on 29 June 2010. The Convention will enter into force on 8 September 2017.

All vessels on international voyages of 400 GT and above have to carry an International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWM Certificate).

## **2. Implementation date**

Ships to which the Convention applies, with keel-laying date on or after 8 September 2017 have to be equipped with an approved Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) on delivery.

At present, it is anticipated that once the Convention comes into force, amendments as per IMO Assembly Resolution A.1088(28) will be made, which will result in the implementation date for regulation D-2 (BWTS installation) for existing ships, being the first International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP) Certificate renewal survey date after that entry into force. However, this is subject to further discussion at IMO MEPC.71 in May 2017.

It is expected that MEPC.71 will debate two possible implementation scenarios:

- Compliance with D-2 at the first IOPP renewal survey after 8 September 2017, as above, or
- Compliance with D-2 at the first IOPP renewal survey completed after 8 September 2017, unless that survey is completed prior to 8 September 2019, in which case the compliance is at the first IOPP renewal survey completed after 8 September 2019.

### **3. De-harmonization of the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme**

As many doubts have been expressed by various related parties regarding the performance, availability of BWTSs, available resource for installation (i.e. dry docks), the MSTI will allow the companies to de-harmonize the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme (Res. A.1104(29) – HSSC Guidelines).

Until entry into force of the BWM Convention the IOPP certificates may be renewed before their regular renewal time window in order to have more time for retrofitting a BWTS during 5-year validity of the new IOPP.

### **4. IOPP renewal surveys**

- 4.1 Where the IOPP renewal survey is completed early and de-harmonised with the remaining renewal surveys, it is recommended that the IOPP renewal be re-harmonised with the remaining renewal surveys not later than their expiry dates after expiration of de-harmonized IOPP Certificate.
- 4.2 Where renewal surveys are completed more than 3 months before the expiry date of the existing statutory certificates, the new statutory certificates shall be valid for 5 years and harmonised with the date of completion of the last renewal survey to be completed.
- 4.3 In all cases where the company wishes to complete the IOPP renewal survey early, the Recognised Organisation (RO) shall advise the MSTI, who will decide as appropriate.

### **5. Required measures until the expiry of the IOPP Certificate**

In the transitional period from 8 September 2017 until the next IOPP Certificate renewal all ships of 400 GT and above have to fulfil the D-1 ballast water exchange standard confirmed by the International BWM Certificate. For the exchange of ballast water in deep seas during voyages between ports the following is necessary:

- Approved Ballast Water Management Plan for the exchange of ballast water
- Documentation of the ballast water exchange in the Ballast Water Record Book
- Initial survey for ballast water exchange on board.

Until the agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Italian Republic regarding the exemption from the BWM Convention will have been achieved, Croatian ships on voyages to and from the Italian Republic should maintain the current ballast water management practice.

### **6. Required measures after the renewal of the IOPP Certificate**

After the next IOPP renewal survey the ship has to be in compliance with the ballast water treatment standard D-2. The ballast water on board has to be treated by an approved BWTS. Existing ships, which do not yet have such an installation, will have to fit the installation (retrofit). In addition, the following is necessary:

- Approved BWM Plan modified for the treatment on board
- Approved technical documentation for a BWTS installation
- BWTS Operation Manual
- Documentation of ballast water treatment in the Ballast Water Record Book
- Initial survey for ballast water treatment on board.

### **7. Issuance of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)**

With reference to IMO circular BWM.2/Circ.40, in order to facilitate the smooth entry into force of the Convention's requirements, IBWMC can be issued prior to entry into force of the Convention and once the conditions for entry into force (EIF) have been met, which

will contain the following statement "The validity of this certificate begins from (EIF date)".

Where Statements of Compliance have been issued they will be replaced by IBWMC following the above process, provided no changes have occurred on board.

#### **8. Recommendations**

MSTI recommends all companies to contact the RO at the earliest opportunity in order:

- to finish the initial survey in due time before 8 September 2017 and
- to ensure (in case of retrofits of BWTS) that the existing ballast water piping system is suitable for the chosen BWTS Plant.

#### **9. USCG Requirements**

It is to be noted that the United States (U.S.) is not a Party to the BWM Convention. Up-to-date requirements for vessels operating in U.S. waters may be found on the Homeport section of the USCG website, link below:

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>



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