

**VANUATU INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTRY**  
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**2 DECEMBER 2025**

**IBWMC Entry into Force for Vanuatu – Conversion of SOC/DOC to Certificates**

Applicable to: This FLEET SAFETY LETTER should be brought to the attention of Recognized Organizations, ship-owners, ship managers, operators and Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships

Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) hereby informs all authorized Recognized Organizations (ROs), shipowners, managers and other concerned parties that the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (IBWMC) will enter into force for the Republic of Vanuatu on **16 January 2026**.

Reference is made to the Administration's Fleet/Safety Letter 111518.GEN dated 15 November 2018, in particular paragraph 5, which states that ROs are authorized to issue Statements/Documents of Compliance with the IBWMC until the Convention enters into force for Vanuatu and that, upon entry into force, such Statements/Documents of Compliance will be converted to Certificates.

Accordingly, all authorized ROs are requested to proceed with the conversion of any previously issued IBWMC Statements/Documents of Compliance (SOC/DOC) into the corresponding International Ballast Water Management Certificate, as applicable, in accordance with the Convention and relevant IMO requirements.

The conversion may be carried out without conducting a shipboard inspection, at an appropriate time on or after the Convention's entry into force for Vanuatu (16 January 2026), ensuring that this will be done at the next Annual Survey at the latest.

For further questions or requests regarding this announcement, please reach out to [info@register-vu.com](mailto:info@register-vu.com).

  
Berke Avazli  
Executive Vice President  
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The Republic of Vanuatu

