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**FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 111518.GEN**

**15 November 2018**

Applicable to: This FLEET / SAFETY LETTER supersedes FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 2017-January-17 dated 17 January 2017 and should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

***Ballast Water Management***

1. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (IBWMC) came into force on 8 September 2017.
2. The amendments to regulation B-3 "**Ballast water management for ships**" have been adopted as Resolution MEPC.297(72). Although these amendments enter into force on 13 October 2019, they have been implemented by IMO member States immediately after entry into force of the IBWMC as described in Resolution MEPC.287(71).
3. Accordingly, a ship constructed on or after 8 September 2017 (i.e. new ship) must comply with the standard described in regulation D-2 at delivery. Existing ships must comply with the standard described in regulation D-2 after the completion of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPPC) renewal survey as per regulation B-3/10:
  - A) the first IOPPC renewal survey on or after 8 September 2017 if:
    - .1 this survey is completed on or after 8 September 2019; or
    - .2 a renewal survey is completed on or after 8 September 2014 but prior to 8 September 2017; and
  - B) the second IOPPC renewal survey on or after 8 September 2017 if the first renewal survey on or after 8 September 2017 is completed prior to 8 September 2019, provided that the conditions of paragraph 3.A.2 are not met.
4. The Code for Approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS Code) was adopted as Resolution MEPC.300(72). The amendments to regulation D-3 "**Approval requirements for ballast water management systems**" contain the application dates of this Code:
  - A) ballast water management systems installed\* on or after 28 October 2020 shall be approved in accordance with the BWMS Code, as may be amended; and,
  - B) ballast water management systems installed\* before 28 October 2020 shall be approved taking into account the guidelines\*\* developed by the Organization or the BWMS Code, as may be amended.

\* *Installed* means the contractual date of delivery of the ballast water management system to the ship. In the absence of such a date, the actual date of delivery of the BMS system to the ship.

\*\* Refer to resolutions MEPC.125(53), MEPC.174(58) or MEPC.279(70), as appropriate.

4. Recognized Organizations (ROs) currently authorized by this Administration to approve Ballast Water Management Systems can also approve systems under the provisions of the BWMS Code.

5. Additionally, ROs are authorized to issue Statements/Documents of Compliance with the IBWMC until the Administration ratifies the Convention upon satisfactory completion of the engineering review and satisfactory completion of the relevant survey. Upon ratification of the Convention, the Statements/Documents of Compliance will be converted to Certificates.

6. United States Information

A) U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center maintains a page dedicated to Ballast Water Management. The page contains [Approved BWMS and Status of Applications](#), and [Frequently Asked Questions](#), among other information.

B) Be reminded that an Alternate Management System (AMS) is not the same as a type approval. AMS is an interim measure that allows foreign administration approved BWMS, installed prior to the availability of Coast Guard type approved BWMS and before the vessel's compliance date (see table below), to be used on a vessel for up to five years after the vessel would otherwise be required to comply with the discharge standard. Under the US regulations, an AMS may not be installed if a type approved system is available.

Table 151.2035(b)			
	Vessel's ballast water capacity	Date constructed	Vessel's compliance date
New vessels	All	On or after December 1, 2013	On delivery
Existing vessels	Less than 1500	Before December 1, 2013	First scheduled drydocking* after January 1, 2016
	1500-5000	Before December 1, 2013	First scheduled drydocking* after January 1, 2014
	Greater than 5000	Before December 1, 2013	First scheduled drydocking* after January 1, 2016

\*Drydocking means hauling out of a vessel or placing a vessel in a drydock or slipway for an examination of all accessible parts of the vessel's underwater body and all through-hull fittings – 46 CFR 71.50-1.




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by the direction of the  
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