

Circular 2017-14: Ballast Water Management USCG Updates

Overview

BWM is the International Convention for control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments. It aims to stop the spread of invasive aquatic species by requiring ships to put in place management plans and treatment systems that remove organisms, render them harmless, or prevent their discharge into the sea. Since **8 September 2017** ships of 400GT and above are required to have on board:

- **An approved Ballast Water Management Plan** (reg. B-1)
Existing ships, constructed before 8 September 2017, are required to comply with either
 - Regulation **D-1-Ballast Water Exchange**, until such time regulation D-2 shall be enforced or,
 - Regulation **D-2-Ballast Water Performance**, by installation of Ballast Water Management System (BWMS)
- **A Ballast Water Record Book** (reg. B-2)
- **An International Ballast Water Management Certificate**, for ships flying a flag which is party to the Convention (D-1 or D-2 Standard)

As per IMO [Res. 1088 \(28\)](#), existing ships will need to comply with regulation D-2 Ballast Water Management System by the first IOPP renewal survey following the entry into force of the Convention, i.e. 08 September 2017.

USCG Actions to address Ballast Water Management

The United States is **not** signatory to the International Ballast Water Management Convention, so ships need to follow specific methods when operating in the waters of the United States as per **Title 33 CFR 151 Subparts C and D**. The most important dates during 2017 in which USCG took considerable action to address BWM issues are presented in the following table:

#	Date	Action	Brief description
1.	30 June 2017	USCG published MSIB 007-17 on the Acceptable US BWM Methods	As US are not subject to IBWMC, USCG reminds to vessels that must use specific methods when operating in US waters
2.	26 July 2017	USCG published updated BWM FAQs	In order to keep all stakeholders informed, USCG address questions including compliance with Coast Guard regulations, type approval process for BWMS, and working with independent laboratories
3.	06 Sept. 2017	USCG published guidelines for voluntary compliance with the BWMC	Extra guidance has been provided to Coast Guard marine inspectors, ROs, Administrations and US flagged vessels regarding BWMC.
4.	06 Sept. 2017	USCG BW Homeport removed the extension status Excel file	Coast Guard units now should rely on MISLE entries and/or vessel documentation to show it has an active extension
5.	07 Sept. 2017	USCG updated its BWM FAQs for the 6 th time	The updated FAQs address further information upon 'bareboat' chartered vessels and revised guidance on inoperable BWMS

Ballast Water Management Systems

At the time being, only **five (5) BWMS** have been approved by Coast Guard and have received the BWMS type approval certificate. Operators should focus on implementation

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schedules, undertaking ballast water exchange, contingency measures in case BWMSs fail, etc. A closer look in the ballast market currently shows that the BWMS figures are:

Ballast Water Management Systems	Number of systems
Available in development	100+
Type Approval Certificate verifying compliance with MEPC. 174 (58)	69**
Type Approved BWMS – Explosion Proof	12
IMO Final Approval*	10
IMO Basic Approval*	19
USCG Approval	5
USCG Accepted Alternate Management System (AMS)	59 BWMS by 54 manufacturers

Notes:

- ** The number reflects verified type approvals for a BWMS manufacturer—not the number of specific models approved and excludes one (1) system removed from the market
- * Furthest stage of testing completed

An overview of the BWMS availability at present is depicted in the following table:

Category	All Type Approved BWMS	USCG Type Approved	USCG AMS
No. of BWMS	69*	5	59
Explosion Proof Models	13	3**	13
BWMS requiring treatment during intake and de-ballasting	62	4	57
BWMS using active substances	33	3	27
BWMS requiring storage of chemicals	30	3	25
BWMS with waste products	3	1	1
Maximum Capacity (m ³ /h)*	16,200	16,200	16,200

Notes:

- ** Only two (2) BWMS approved for installation area of a US-flagged vessel
- * Excludes one (1) BWMS no longer available

Actions required

Ship managers are advised to ensure that:

- A Ballast Water Management Plan is effective and properly implemented on board in accordance with D-1 and/or D-2 Standards.
- A Ballast Water Record Book and an International Ballast Water Management Certificate are available on board.
- Vessel’s Crew is properly trained in Ballast Water Operations through on board training.
- Master and Designated Ballast Water Management Officer are properly instructed regarding the US Ballast Water requirements amendments and guidelines.

Further information

SQEMARINE: [Ballast Water Management Plan](#)

GREEN4SEA: [Ballast Management updates for USCG](#)

GREEN4SEA: [USCG Guidelines for voluntary compliance with the BWMC](#)