
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

BWM.2/Circ.44
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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

**Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels
in accordance with the BWM Convention**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (1 to 5 October 2012), instructed the BLG Sub-Committee to initiate the development of a circular on implementation of the BWM Convention for offshore support vessels.

2 MEPC 65 (13 to 17 May 2013) approved the Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels in accordance with the BWM Convention, agreed by BLG 17 (4 to 8 February 2013), as set out in the annex.

3 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

OPTIONS FOR BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT FOR OFFSHORE SUPPORT VESSELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BWM CONVENTION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 These procedures are intended to relate to the activities of Offshore Support Vessels. Operationally, these vessels differ from the operational models associated with deep-sea trading vessels by being designed to operate in near coastal waters characterized by carrying materials to facilities and vessels working in offshore energy fields.

1.2 The purpose of these procedures is to provide options available for complying with the requirements of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (the Convention).

1.3 Ballast water management should be consistent with the objectives of the Convention – "to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the risks to the environment, human health, property and resources arising from the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, as well as to avoid unwanted side effects from that control, and to encourage developments in related knowledge and technology". Depending on the option used, verification for approvals could differ from those specified in paragraph 1.7 of resolution MEPC.206(62), but keep the same level of protection.

1.4 Resolution MEPC.127(53) contains the *Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4)*, which includes part A, chapter 1, "Ship operational procedures".

1.5 The application of the current measures should be decided considering the principles of risk analysis and taking into account the operational condition of the ship.

2 APPLICATION

2.1 The methods of compliance contained in paragraph 3 below are intended to provide options for meeting the functional goals of the Ballast Water Management Convention for Offshore Support Vessels.

2.2 The Offshore Support Vessels' approved Ballast Water Management Plans should meet the requirements and follow the form set out by resolution MEPC.127(53). An Administration approved plan may address circumstances specific to operation in waters under the jurisdiction of another party subject to the authorization of that party with the functional premise describing the vessel and the operational model that the vessel is operating under and present viable methods of complying with the objectives of the Convention.

2.3 In line with the Convention, Administrations may allow other ship types to apply the optional methods identified in this document, if found appropriate.

3 METHODS OF COMPLIANCE

3.1 Generally the options for compliance for Offshore Support Vessels will be identified on the ships' International Ballast Water Management Certificate and in the Ballast Water Management Plan. The general understanding is that the options may include the following:

- .1 use of an "other method" of ballast water management as per regulation B-3.7 of the Convention following resolution MEPC.206(62);
- .2 exemption, as per regulation A-4 of the Convention, following the *Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 (G7)*;
- .3 use of ballast water determined by the coastal State as being sourced from the "same location" as the point of discharge (as per regulation A-3.5);
- .4 use of temporary ballast water management systems may be allowed for the purposes of undertaking activities outside those considered normal, routine support activities for compliance with the objectives of the Convention. If, or when available, a temporary BWMS appliance is installed, the unit should comply with the relevant approval processes promulgated by the flag Administration in accordance with the Convention and associated guidelines;
- .5 use of permanent or temporary BWMS installed aboard another vessel operating from the same port or locality as a local reception facility, with the approval of the flag Administration and the acceptance of the local coastal State Administration, for the treatment of unmanaged ballast water; and
- .6 meeting the regulation D-2 discharge standard through permanent installation of a Type Approved ballast water management system.

3.2 Drill water or water taken and stored on board for the purpose of protecting low flash point liquid (LFL) tanks, which is not discharged into the environment, is not subject to the requirements of the Convention.

4 SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Generally, the process of survey and certification follows section E of the Convention.
