

Commonwealth of Dominica



Office of the Maritime Administrator

**To:** All Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships, and Recognized Organizations

**Subject:** Decoupling of the IOPP certificate in relation to the Ballast Water Management Convention Amendments

**INTRODUCTION**

This Circular provides the Commonwealth of Dominica Maritime Administration (the DMA) requirements with respect to the amendments to the Ballast Water Management Convention, Regulation E-1, and Regulation 2.

Amendments to the Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) will come into force 08 September 2017

All vessels from 400 gross tons and above on international voyages have to carry an International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWM Certificate) Ships less than 400 gross tons are not required certificate but must comply with the BWMC with reduced obligations

**APPLICABILITY**

This Circular applies to all Dominica-flagged vessels including Floating platforms, FSUs, and FPSO, except pleasure yachts, beginning 8. September 2017

In accordance with BMWC Regulation E-1 and regulation 2 the Administration has determined that all vessels greater than 400 gross tons shall be surveyed and certified.

- .1 Compliance with the requirements for pleasure craft shall be determined on a case by case basis taking into consideration IMO Resolution MEPC. 123(53), *Guidelines for Ballast Water Management Equivalent Compliance as appropriate.*
- .2 Survey and certification of offshore support vessels shall follow section E of the BWMC taking into consideration IMO circulars BWM.2/Circ.44, *Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels in accordance with the BWMC and BWM.2/Circ. 52, Guidance on entry and re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within*

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*waters under jurisdiction of a single Party*

- .3 Vessels that are not pleasure craft or support vessels may also apply for the optional methods laid out in BWM.2/Circ. 44 and shall undergo survey and certification following regulation E of the BWMC Floating platforms, FSU's, and FPSO Units
- .4 Floating platforms, FSUs, and FPSOs are included in the BWMC. Therefore, they will require an IBWM certificate after a successful survey in accordance to BWMC regulation E-1 and E-2 unless covered by the exclusions, exemptions, exceptions, or equivalencies set out respectively in Article 3 – *Application*, Regulation A-3 – *Exceptions*, Regulation A- 4 *Exemptions* and Regulation A-5 – *equivalent compliance*.
- .5 Floating Platforms, FSUs, and FPSO Units may not require certification because they operate in a single location however BWMC shall be considered with repositioning or dry docking voyages of these ship types
- .6 Classed pleasure craft to which the convention applies must be surveyed and certified by a classification society. Unclassed pleasure craft of any size to which the BWMC applies must be surveyed by an Appointed Surveyor
- .7 Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs) including Mobile Offshore Drilling units (MODUs) may not need certification as they operate in a single location. See IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.52 *Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party*, shall be applied to these ships

DMA's policy is that regardless of gross tonnage, if the ship requires an IBWMC then this may only be issued after a survey has been satisfactorily completed. For guidance see also IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ. 7, *Interim Survey Guidelines for the purpose of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' ballast Water and Sediments under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification*.

### **IOPP RENEWAL SURVEY**

DMA allows for early renewal and decoupling of the IOPP renewal survey from other statutory surveys and certificates covered in IMO Assembly Resolution A. 883(21) No special authorization from the Administration is required to carry out an early IOPP renewal survey, or the issue the new certificate.

In line with the International Convention of the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) I regulation 10 paragraph 7, the administration authorizes Recognized Organizations (ROs) to issue certificates that are not dated from the date of expiry of the existing certificate. In all cases the new certificate shall be valid to a date not exceeding five (5) years from the date of completion of the renewal survey.

### **IN CASES OF EARLY RENEWAL OF THE IOPP CERTIFICATE, ROs ARE INSTRUCTED TO:**

Follow IMO Assembly Resolution A.1104 (29), *Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)*, 2015, and in particular, Annex 3, Section 1, contains the detailed requirements for MARPOL

Apply MARPOL I, regulations (*Form of certificate*) and 10 (*Duration and validity of certificate*)

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The IOPP certificate expiry date can be recoupled with other certificates by performing a further renewal survey and assigning a validity date to the new certificate which aligns with the other certificates. In all cases, the new certificate shall be valid to a date not exceeding five (5) years from the date of completion of the IOPP renewal survey. In order for the IOPP renewal survey to not trigger BWM Convention D-2 compliance, then the renewal survey must be completed before 08 September 2017

**ISSUANCE OF THE IBWM CERTIFICATE PRIOR TO 08 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Noting that the BWMC will enter into effect on 08 September 2017, ROs are instructed upon completion of the required survey, to issue an IBWMC taking into account the provisions of IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.40, *Issuance of Ballast Water Management Certificates prior to entry into the force of the BWMC and Ballast Water Management Plans approved according to Resolution A. 868(20)*

The validity of such certificates shall commence upon the date of entry into force and remain valid for up to 5 years, subject to successful completion of the required periodical survey.

**Any questions can be directed to:**  
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