

**Commonwealth of Dominica**



**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

**To:** All Ship owners, Operators, Masters and Officer of Merchant Ships, and Recognized Organizations

**Subject:** Guidance on Issuance of International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance

**Applicability:** All Ship owners, Operators, Masters and Officer of Merchant Ships, Agents and Recognized Organizations.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all concerned parties guidance on the issuance of the International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The Ballast Water Management Convention (“BWM Convention”) enters into force on 8 September 2017. On or before that date, existing ships to which the BWM Convention applies shall have an approved Ballast Water Management (“BWM”) Plan, Ballast Water (“BW”) Record Book and carry on board a valid International Ballast Water Management (IBWM) Statement of Compliance. Ships to which the Convention applies are required to either implement the ballast water exchange (“BWE”) standard in regulation D-1 or the ballast water performance standard in regulation D-2.

The Convention allows no phase-in compliance period for ships constructed prior to the entry into force of the Convention. In the interest of ensuring Dominica flagged vessels are in full compliance on or before 8 September 2017 and for consistency, the Administration has decided it will take the required action to approve BWM Plans and issue IBWM Statements of Compliance.

The Dominica Administration is taking an active role in ensuring timely review and approval of BWM Plans and issuance of IBWM Statements of Compliance for existing ships prior to 8 September 2017. Dominica is providing owners and operators of existing ships which are not yet required to implement the ballast water performance standard in regulation D-2, an expedited means of verifying compliance with the BWM Convention that will not require a separate initial on-board BWM survey.

The Administration or an authorized Recognized Organization (“ROs”) may review and approve all BWM Plans and issue IBWM Statements of Compliance for existing Dominica flagged ships implementing only the BWE standard in regulation D-1.

Owners and operators of existing ships that have installed ballast water management systems (“BWMS”) and intend to voluntarily implement the ballast water performance standard in regulation D-2 ahead of the enforcement date, should contact the Administration or an authorized RO for the relevant survey and certification.

With effect from the date of this Circular, owners and operators requiring approval of BWM Plans and IBWM Statements of Compliance for existing Dominica flagged ships, implementing only the BWE standard in regulation D-1 by the Administration and not an authorized RO, shall provide the following information to the Administration at [technical@dominica-registry.com](mailto:technical@dominica-registry.com):

- i) Verification that the BWM Plan required by regulation B-1 comply fully with the requirements of the BWM Convention;
- ii) Verification that the approved BWM Plan and record book are on-board and being implemented;
- iii) Company attests that no modifications or conditions on-board affecting ballast operations and ballast water exchange have been made since last periodical survey;
- iv) Declaration from the ship’s Master that the BWM Plan; BW Record Book; and notification or communication with coastal States is being implemented and that the BWM officer has been designated and the crew have been provided with the necessary training and familiarization; and
- v) A copy of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate.
- vi) Item iii) and implementation of item iv) will be verified at the next attendance of the flag State inspector.

IBWM Statements of Compliance already issued by an authorized RO will continue to remain valid until they expire or the ship implements the ballast water performance standard in regulation D- 2, whichever is earlier.

BWM Plans already approved by the Administration, or an authorized RO, in accordance with Assembly Resolution 868(20) or MEPC Resolution 127(53), will remain valid until the plan requires revision due to the implementation of the ballast water performance standard in regulation D-2.

BWM Plans may be submitted to the Administration or an authorized RO for review and approval.

Upon receiving a BWM Plan for review and approval, the Administration or an authorized RO may issue a statement when the plan was received, thereby allowing the ship to trade for three months with an unapproved BWM Plan on board.

For more information on obtaining an IBWM Certificate, please contact the Administration's Technical Department at [technical@dominica-registry.com](mailto:technical@dominica-registry.com) or telephone +1 508 992 7120.

**Any general questions can be directed to:**

**Technical Department**

Tel: + 1 508 992 7170

E-mail: [technical@dominica-registry.com](mailto:technical@dominica-registry.com)

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