



## CIRCULAR MCO – 002/2017

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 16, 2017  
**FROM:** MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT  
**TO:** CLIENTS AND SURVEYORS.

**SUBJECT:** *BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT*

Dear Sir(s):

### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this MCO Circular is to inform that the Republic of Panama submitted to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, the accession of the Ballast Water Management Convention 2004, on 19 October 2016; and that the Convention will enter into force on 8 September 2017.

1.2 Furthermore, it provides guidance and instructions to ensure compliance with the Ballast Water Management Convention 2004 and IMO Assembly resolution A.1088(28), adopted by the Republic of Panama by Law No. 41 of 12 September 2016.

### 2. APPLICABILITY

2.1 In accordance with definition of a ship in Article 1.12, the Ballast Water Management Convention will apply to vessels of any type including submersibles, floating craft, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs.

2.2 Once the Ballast Water Management Convention has entered into force all Panamanian flagged ships with dedicated ballast water tanks or spaces, shall comply with the following requirements:

- a) Ballast Water Management Plan approved by this Administration.
- b) Ballast Water Record Book 2.3 Panamanian flagged ships of 400 gross tonnage (GT) and above, shall carry on board: a) International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWM Certificate), (excluding floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs at the location of operation) b) Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) approved by this Administration, and
- c) Ballast Water Record Book 2.4 As per IMO documents related to the implementation of the Convention BWM.2/Circ.46 - Application of the BWM Convention to Mobile Offshore Units and BWM.2/Circ.52 - Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party, Mobile offshore units including Mobile Offshore Drilling Units should be surveyed and issued with an International Ballast Water Management Certificate, according to regulations E-1 and E-2 of the Convention, as applicable.

### 3. BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (BWMS)

3.1 The Ballast Water Management Systems Type approved by other Administrations will be accepted on ships under Panama flag, provided it's been approved in accordance with the Guidelines on the Type Approval process for BWMS (Resolution MEPC.174 (58) or Resolution MEPC.279 (70) as applicable). Manufacturers interested to obtain approval for their Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) by the Panama Maritime Authority may request a Recognition Certificate for the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) through a legal representative located in Panama. This request is voluntary, and should be submitted to General Directorate of Merchant Marine with the following documents:

The list of system equipment limitations, if applicable;

- Certificate of type approval from other Administration;
- Additional supporting document, such as type approvals issued by Classification Societies;
- Test results carried out by the other Administration and/or Classification Society, and
- Official Payment Receipt

**\* If you are interest our legal department can quote and help you thru this process.**

3.2 Recognized Organizations (R.O.) should conduct an additional survey during sea trials of a Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) to confirm the operation and efficacy of the system.

3.3 Ships involved in voyages that include ports in the United States or its jurisdictional waters, shall be fitted with Ballast Water Management Systems accepted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) according to the timeline set by that Administration.

#### 4. BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (BWMP)

4.1 BWMP will be evaluated, revised and approved by Segumar Panama, in accordance with the requirement of Regulation B-1 of the Ballast Water Management Convention; the BWMP should take into account IMO Resolution MEPC.127 (53) - Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4).

4.2 The BWMP will be approved electronically and electronic copy should be placed on board, and available for inspection at all times.

4.3 From March 15, 2017, this Administration will issue an electronic BWMP Statement of Fact to the Company, valid for three (3) months, upon receipt of the BWMP for review and approval.

4.4 Ships not fitted with a BWMS or ships fitted with a BWMS which has been subject to modification should review and update their BWMP upon installation or modification. In these cases BWMP should be submitted to the Administration for re-approval

4.5 Ballast Water Management Plans, previously approved in accordance with Resolution A.868 (20), will remain valid until the plan requires revision due to the installation of a BWMS.

#### 5. INTERNATIONAL BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE (IBWMC)

5.1 Ships of 400 gross tonnage subject to the surveys required by the Convention (Regulation E-1) shall be issued after satisfactory completion, with the corresponding IBWMC (Regulation E-2).

5.2 Recognized Organizations authorized to perform such surveys shall issue a Short term or Provisional International Ballast Water Management Certificate valid for a period of maximum five (5) months, after satisfactory completion of the correspondent initial or renewal survey.

5.3 Initial Survey (in connection with Certificates issued for the first time), may be performed prior the entry into force of the Convention, and Provisional Certificates can be issued by the approved Recognized Organizations, to be valid from the date of entry into force of the Convention and valid for a period of maximum five (5) months.

5.4 The ship's survey to issue the IBWMC for the first time is allowed to be carried out in conjunction with the annual survey of the statutory certificates.

5.5 The IBWMC will be issued as an **electronic certificate** that can be printed by the user when needed

5.7 The Full term International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) will be issued by **Segumar Offices (including branch offices)** after receiving through the electronic system, copy of the following documents:

- 5.7.1 Short term or Provisional Certificate or Statement of Compliance **issued by the Recognized Organization;**
- 5.7.2 Survey Report; and
- 5.7.3 BWMP approval\*

\*At this stage, plan should be approved by **Segumar Panama Office,** therefore approval copy or the correspondent Statement of Fact issued by this Administration, should be available in our records.

## 7. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 This Administration, taking into account IMO Assembly Resolution A.1088(28), will authorize, on a case by case basis, the de-harmonization of the IOPP Certificate and Renewal of all certificates

7.1.1 In order to requests de-harmonization of the IOPP Certificate you shall to PMA the following documents:

- Class Status Report Copy.
- Confirmation from the RO, providing proposed date and place to carry out in advance the IOPP renewal survey

7.1.2 Advance renewal inspection of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate can be conducted afloat provided that all the applicable requirements of the renewal survey are complied with. An authorization request will not be required when the operator decides to renew in advance all statutory certificates.

7.2 A Statement of Compliance issued by Recognized Organizations at their own behalf and issued before the entry into force of the BWM Convention will be accepted by this Administration until the date of entry into force of the Convention; when it shall be replaced by the corresponding Provisional IBWM Certificate valid for five (5) months or by the correspondent International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) issued by the Administration.

7.3 Provisional Certificates are allowed to be issued by the Recognized Organization based on the inspection carried out previously for the issuance of the Statement of Compliance, provided that the inspection has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Convention (Regulation E-1.1.1).

Please confirm well receive and understanding of this circular.

Kindest Regards

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