



Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
*Federal Republic of Germany*

Berufsgenossenschaft Verkehrswirtschaft Post-Logistik  
Telekommunikation  
Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit



## Circular 03/2016 (ISM)

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**Subject:** International entry into force of the  
**Ballast Water Management Convention**

**Reference:** ISM-Code 1.2.3, Ballast Water Management Convention

**Attachments:**

**Date:** 22.11.2016

### 1. Entry into force of the convention and obligation to carry a certificate

The Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) of the IMO will enter into force internationally on 8. September 2017. With the binding ratification by Finland on 8. September 2016, the signatory states had reached 35% of the world's gross tonnage.

All vessels on international voyages from 400 GT and above have to carry an International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWM Certificate). Ships below 400 GT need no certificate but have to comply with the BWMC with reduced obligations and are not exempted.

### 2. Decoupling of the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme

New buildings have to be equipped with an approved Ballast Water Treatment Plant from 8. September 2017, the entry into force of the convention. Existing ships have to be in compliance with the ballast water treatment after the entry into force latest until the next renewal of the IOPP certificate.

The German flag allows the companies (upon application) to decouple the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme. Until the entry into force of the BWMC, the IOPP certificates may be renewed before their regular renewal time window, in order to have more time for retrofitting a ballast water treatment plant during the 5 years of validity of the new IOPP.

Please contact the Ship Safety Division as well as your Classification Society if you like to choose the option of decoupling the IOPP certificate.

### 3. Required measures until the expiry of the IOPP certificate

In the transitional period from 08.09.2017 until the next IOPP Certificate renewal all ships from 400 GT and above have to fulfill the D1 ballast water exchange standard confirmed by the International BWM Certificate. For the exchange of ballast water in deep seas during voyages between ports the following is necessary:

- Approved Ballast Water Management Plan for the exchange of ballast water
- Documentation of the ballast water exchange in the Ballast Water Record Book
- Initial survey for ballast water exchange on board

#### **4. Required measures after the renewal of the IOPP certificate**

After the next IOPP renewal survey the ship has to be in compliance with the ballast water treatment standard D2. The ballast water on board has to be cleaned usually by an approved ballast water treatment plant. Existing ships, which do not yet have such an installation, will have to fit the installation (retrofit). In addition the following is necessary:

- Approved BWM Plan modified for the treatment on board
- Approved technical documentation for a BWTS installation
- BWTS Operation Manual
- Documentation of the ballast water treatment in the Ballast Water Record Book
- Initial survey for ballast water treatment on board

#### **5. Our recommendations**

**We recommend all companies to contact the classification society at the earliest opportunity in order:**

- to finish the initial survey in due time before 8. September 2017 and**
- to ensure (in case of retrofits of BWT Plants) that the existing ballast water piping system is suitable for the chosen BWT Plant.**

The classification societies are authorized to issue a short term IBWM Certificate. The certificate may be issued before the entry into force on 8. September 2017. The full term IBWM Certificate will be issued by the Ship Safety Division.

Further Information for ships under German Flag, especially for ships without class and ships in national trade as wells as for ships planning alternative methods to fulfill the requirements of the BWMC can be obtained from the Ship Safety Division of the BG for Transport and Traffic.

#### **Contact:**

Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit

BG-Verkehr

Referat Maschine

Telefon: +4940 36 137-217

Telefax: +4940 36 137-204

mail: [holger.steinbock@bg-verkehr.de](mailto:holger.steinbock@bg-verkehr.de)

[www.deutsche-flagge.de](http://www.deutsche-flagge.de)

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