



Merchant Shipping Directorate



UNIFIED INTERPRETATION RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION

Technical Notice BWM.4

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters, Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations

The Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the Unified Interpretation [BWM.2/Circ.66/Rev.2](#) issued on 13 December 2021.

Amendments to Regulations E-1.1.1 and E-1.1.5 of the BWM Convention were adopted in November 2020, specifying the requirements to conduct the commissioning test of Ballast Water Management System (BWMS), including sampling and analysis. It is to be noted that these amendments shall enter into force on 1 June 2022.

Furthermore, in November 2021, IMO approved a Unified Interpretation to clarify that the commissioning testing of individual BWMS should be conducted if the initial or additional survey is completed on or after 1 June 2022. In the case of new ships, it should be noted this requirement applies to ships for which the date of delivery is on or after 1 June 2022.

Reference is also being made to the 2020 Guidance for the commissioning testing of ballast water management systems ([BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1](#)) as amended.

Finally, the attention of all concerned is also drawn to the Guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis for trial use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2) contained in [BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.2](#), with the inclusion of two new indicative methods, along with a reference made to the method of MPN Dilution Culture & Motility.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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