



PORT STATE CONTROL CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT

Merchant Shipping Notice 197

*Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to a port State control Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) that will be launched jointly by the Paris MoU and the Tokyo MoU on Ballast Water Management. The Campaign will commence on 1 September 2025 and end on 30 November 2025.

The CIC is intended to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the BWM Convention and to determine if ships meet the mandatory requirements for Ballast Water Management (BWM) as prescribed in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention). To determine if ships meet the requirements of the Convention, the following areas will be verified during inspections:

- Proper certification for BWM Convention; - Approval and update of the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP);
- Crew familiarisation in the implementation of the BWMP;
- Ballast Water Management System approval and its operation;
- Records of Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB);
- Ballast water sediment management; and
- Valid exemptions, if any.

Port State Control Officers will use a pre-defined [questionnaire](#) to assess that the BWM requirements in the respective areas are met. Should any non-conformities be found, actions by the port State may vary from recording a deficiency and instructing the Master to rectify it within a certain period of time, to detaining the ship until the serious deficiencies have been rectified. Inspection results will be published on the websites of the Tokyo and Paris MoU.

Although the CIC questionnaire has no specific questions related to the Safety Management System (SMS), it is important to note that any deficiency related to BWM can affect the on-board and company SMS system.

The cooperation of all parties concerned is hereby solicited.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

11 August 2025

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



Merchant Shipping Directorate
ISO 9001:2015 certified