

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

International Ballast Water Management Certificates (IBWMC) updating

No: **MMN- 11/2022**

1. Through this Merchant Marine Notice the Panama Maritime Authority inform that due to recent deficiencies noted by Port State Control Authorities, it would be necessary to accelerate updating of the International Ballast Water Management Certificates (IBWMC) given the approval by the IMO of a new consolidated text of unified interpretations to the BWM Convention during MEPC 78 session - BWM.2/Circ.66/Rev.3 dated June 24, 2022.
2. Considering that IMO Resolution 325(75), amend regulation E-1 and appendix I of the Convention. Therefore, the format of the certificate had changed since 1 June 2022 (entry in force of the said amendments). In consequence, with the purpose to implement the IMO guidance of the timing of replacement of existing certificates by the Certificates issued after the entry into force of amendments to Certificates in IMO instruments (MSC-MEPC.5/Circ.6, 6 August 2009) this Administration decided to implement the IBWMC update at the first opportunity (Refer to MMC.345 point 7.11 second paragraph).
3. In addition to the new description of ***the principal ballast water management method(s) employed on this ship*** to the International Ballast Water Management Certificate, new unified interpretations of the IBWM Convention were approved on 24 June 2022 (BWM.2/Circ.66/Rev.3).
4. Therefore, even if the ship is also using other ballast water management methods as contingency measures, the ships fitted with a BWMS will be certified in accordance with the D-2 standard as the principal ballast water management method employed on the ship.
5. However, if additional methods are reflected on the IBWMC this might cause a deficiency to those ships already complying with the standard D-2.
6. Despite the instruction given before in our MMC No.345, *that the Certificates already issued will be updated at the opportunity of the next survey endorsement reported to this Administration to align the IBWMC to the unified*

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interpretations, and to ensure compliance with the amendment to appendix I – form of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate (Resolution MEPC.325(75) adopted through Resolution No.107-OMI-247-DGMM dated 14 December 2021). We encourage our fleet to review that ships subject to standard D-2 request the updating of the Certificate as soon as possible.

7. Also, note that the contingency measures and other ballast water management methods used in addition to standard D-2 will only be reflected in the ship's Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP).
8. Recognized Organizations and Flag Safety Inspectors are instructed to verify that ships are holding the corresponding update to the International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC).
9. The certificate's validity and it's last endorsement are verifiable by scanning the QR Code in the IBWMC.
10. Please refer to MMC No. 345 for further information.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

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