



Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INFLOW OF POSSIBLE RADIOACTIVE BALLAST WATER INTO KOREAN AND CHINESE WATERS

No: **MMN-07/2023**

1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to communicate to all Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representative of Panama Flag Vessels about the radioactivity prevention measures taken by Korea and China Governments as a result of the release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean, which led to widespread protests. These measures aim to prevent the inflow of possible radioactive ballast water into Korean and Chinese waters.

This notification is to inform vessels entering the ports of the Republic of Korea after taking on ballast water from six Eastern ports in Japan (Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima, Miyagi, Ibaraki and Chiba) about the requirements and measures implemented by Korean authorities in response to the release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

2. Measures to prevent radioactive ballast water.

- 2.1.** In order to prevent the inflow of possible radioactive ballast water into Korean waters arising from discharge of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear powerplant as of August 24, 2023, the following measures are to be implemented.
- 2.2.** Vessels planning to enter Korean ports should submit a ballast water reporting form 24 hours prior to entering the Korean port. Including details related to the management of ballast water, such as the uptake, treatment and discharge, etc.
- 2.3.** Vessels planning to discharge ballast water in Korean waters should exchange their Ballast water outside of Korean jurisdictional waters* before entering the Korean port.
- 2.4.** The exchange operation must take place between the passage of Tsugaru Strait and 135°30'E when sailing northward, such as passing Tsugaru Strait. When the vessel sails southward, such as through the Kanmon Strait, the exchange must be made between 34°35'N and 132°30'E.



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- 2.5.** Vessels without a plan to discharge ballast water into Korean waters should submit data proving non-discharge of ballast water, to the person in charge of the relevant Regional Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office via email at least an hour before departure.

Documental proof includes the Ballast Water record book, log book, BWMS operation record, Ballast Water tank capacity (photos), etc.

- 2.6.** This administration is aware of the recent notification that China initiated a specialized inspection process targeting the ballast water on vessels coming from Japanese ports to assess radioactivity levels. This rigorous testing procedure is conducted at crucial ports, particularly on cargo ships arriving from Japan. The primary objective is to thoroughly examine radiation levels and ensure the safe discharge of treated radioactive water originating from the Fukushima nuclear powerplant.

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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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