

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



Ballast Water Management Convention to Enter Into Force 8th September 2017

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The International Maritime Organisation has announced that the ratification threshold for the entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention has been reached and the Convention will enter into force on 8th September 2017. The threshold was reached due to Finland's ratification which brought the combined tonnage of ratifying states to 35.14%, 0.14% over the threshold prescribed in Article 18 of the Convention.

The Convention is designed to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species to vulnerable ecosystems by regulating the discharge of ballast water. The Convention requires ships to treat or manage their ballast water in accordance with a ship specific ballast water management plan that meets the requirements of the Convention. In particular, Shipowners will need to be aware of the following requirements for ships to which the Convention applies:

- Existing vessels will have to comply with regulation D-1 (Ballast Exchange) requirements by 8th September 2017
- Existing vessels will have to comply with regulation D-2 (Discharge Performance Standard) by the date of the vessel's first IOPP renewal survey after 8th September 2017
- Vessels with a keel laying date after 8th September 2017 will have to comply with regulation D-2 upon delivery

Shipowners are urged to contact their Classification Societies to discuss steps towards compliance. It should be noted that since the Convention has not yet been extended to the Isle of Man, Classification Societies have been instructed to issue a Statement of Compliance of behalf of the Isle of Man Government. All ships to which the Convention applies will require a relevant Statement of Compliance by 8th September 2017 (even if a ship is only required to comply with Regulation D-1 at that time) for inspection by port State control.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

