



New IMO Ballast Water Management Convention

A new Ballast Water Convention was adopted and will enter into force when 30 States representing 35% of the world's gross tonnage become signatory.

All ships including submersibles, floating craft/platforms, FSUs and FPSOs) are to manage their ballast water in accordance with an approved Ballast Water Management Plan and record such management in a Ballast Water Record Book in accordance with the provisions of the Convention based on the following implementation schedule:

Ballast Capacity (m ³)	Construction Date	First Intermediate or Renewal Survey, which ever occurs first after anniversary date of delivery in the year indicated below									
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
<1500	<2009	D1 or D2									D2
	≥2009	D2									
≥ 1500 < 5000	<2009	D1 or D2						D2			
	≥2009	D2									
> 5000	<2012	D1 or D2								D2	
	≥2012	D2									

D1 = Ballast Water Exchange (95% volumetric exchange) or pumping through three time the volume of each tank.

D2 = Ballast Water Treatment systems approved by the Administration which treat ballast water to an efficacy of:

- not more than 10 viable organisms per m³ ≥50 micrometers in minimum dimension, and
- not more than 10 viable organisms per millilitre < 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and ≥10 micrometers in minimum dimension.

Indicator Microbe concentrations shall not exceed:

- a) toxicogenic vibrio cholerae: 1 colony forming unit (cfu) per 100 millilitre or 1 cfu per gram of zooplankton samples;
- b) Escherichia coli: 250 cfu per 100 millilitre
- c) Intestinal Enterococci: 100 cfu per 100 millilitre

Construction Date (CD) = keel laying date;

50 tons or 1% of structural material – whichever is less; or major conversion.

Major Conversion = change of ballast capacity of 15%;
change of ship type;
projected life is extended by 10 years; or
ballast system modification except for replacement-in-kind or modifications needed to meet ballast water exchange

Ballast Water Exchange is to take place as follows:

- 1) at least 200 nm from the nearest land and in 200 m water depth;
- 2) at least 50 nm from the nearest land and in 200 m water depth; or
- 3) in the event throughout the intended route the sea area does not afford the above characteristics, in a sea area designated by the port State.

All ships ≥ 400gt (except floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs) are to be surveyed (initial, annual intermediate, and renewal) and certificated (not exceeding 5 years).

States may establish additional ballast water management measures for ships to meet based on Guidelines, which remain to be developed.

The MEPC shall undertake a review of the Ballast Water Standards no later than 2006 and is to include an assessment of the technologies available that achieve the standard.