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Marine Guidance (5 /2023)

**STANDARDS FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF
SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS**

Applicable to: Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters of Ships, Flag State Surveyors, Recognized Organizations and Port State Control Officers

Reference:

- (a) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, as amended;
- (b) Directive (2/2023) - Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.

Summary

This Marine Guidance serves to provide standards of ballast water management and development of ballast water management plan, standard of ballast water exchange, standard of commissioning testing of ballast water management system and guidelines for port State control inspection under the BWM Convention, 2004 for foreign ships entering Myanmar waters and all Myanmar ships.

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) issues this Marine Guidance relating to "Standards for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments" for the ships in order to comply with the requirements of the Directive (2/2023), issued by DMA on 2nd November 2023.
2. This Marine Guidance is to provide general guidance on the development of ship specific procedures for conducting ballast water exchange and to assist shipowners, ship operators and managers, masters of ships, flag State surveyors, Recognized Organizations and port State control officers, as well as other interested parties, in preventing, minimizing and ultimately eliminating the risk of introducing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from ships' ballast water and associated sediments while protecting ships' safety in applying the BWM Convention.
3. The application of processes and procedures concerning ballast water management are at the core of the solution to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens. Ballast water exchange offers a means, when used in conjunction with good ballast water management practices, to assist in achieving this solution.

4. Regulation A-2 of the BWM Convention requires that discharge of ballast water shall only be conducted through ballast water management and Regulation B-1 of the Annex to BWM Convention provides that each ship shall have on board and implement a ballast water management plan. Such ballast water management plan shall be approved by DMA or flag State Administration in accordance with the Resolution MEPC.127 (53), Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and the Development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4), and shipowners, ship operators and managers, and masters of ships are required to apply concerned Administration for the approval.
5. Flag State surveyors and Recognized Organizations are required to follow the Resolution MEPC.140 (54), Guidelines for Approval and Oversight of Prototype Ballast Water Treatment Technology Programmes (G10), to approve or reject proposed programmes and where approval is granted, to issue a Statement of Compliance under regulation D-4, responsibilities of the Administration in the oversight of the programme's execution, and uniform interpretation and application of regulation D-4.
6. Pleasure craft used solely for recreation or competition or craft used primarily for search and rescue less than 50 metres in overall length and within a maximum ballast water capacity of eight cubic metres requires to comply with the Resolution MEPC.123 (53), Guidelines for Ballast Water Management Equivalent Compliance (G3). Flag State surveyors and Recognized Organizations shall take these G3 guidelines into account in determining whether ships satisfy the requirements of equivalent compliance of the BWM Convention under regulation A-5 if ships not practicable to comply with the Convention.
7. DMA shall comply with the Resolution MEPC.151 (55), Guidelines on Designation of Areas for Ballast Water Exchange (G14), for the identification, assessment and designation of sea areas where ships may conduct ballast water exchange in accordance with the regulation B-4.2 of the BWM Convention.
8. Shipowners, ship operators and managers, and masters of ships shall comply with the Resolution MEPC.163 (56), Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area when the ship call there, however, these guidelines do not apply to uptake or discharge of ballast water and sediments for ensuring the safety of ship in emergency situation or saving life at sea in Antarctic waters.
9. Masters of ships, flag State surveyors and port State control officers are required to follow MEPC.173 (58), Guidelines for Ballast Water Sampling (G2), for technical and practical guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis for the determining whether the ship is in compliance with the BWM convention.

10. For the development of ship structures and equipment to minimize the uptake and undesirable entrapment of sediments, facilitate removal of sediments and provide safe access to allow for sediment removal and sampling and, thereby, reduce the possibility of introducing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens, shipowners, ship operators and managers shall comply with the Resolution MEPC.209 (63), 2012 Guidelines on Design and Construction to Facilitate Sediment Control on Ships (G12).

11. Port State control officers shall comply with MEPC.252 (67), Guidelines for Port State Control under the BWM Convention for the conduct of inspection to verify compliance with the requirements of the BWM Convention.

12. Shipowners, ship operators and managers, and masters of ships shall comply with MEPC.288 (71), Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange (G6) for the development of ships specific procedures for conducting ballast water exchange.

13. The above-mentioned guidelines under this Marine Guidance are annexed as follow and ships applicable under the Directive (2 / 2023) shall follow these annexed guidelines for the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments:

- Annex A - Resolution MEPC.127 (53), Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and Development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4);
- Annex B - MEPC.140 (54), Guidelines for Approval and Oversight of Prototype Ballast Water Treatment Technology Programmes (G10);
- Annex C - Resolution MEPC.123 (53), Guidelines for Ballast Water Management Equivalent Compliance (G3);
- Annex D - Resolution MEPC.151 (55), Guidelines on Designation of Areas for Ballast Water Exchange (G14);
- Annex E - Resolution MEPC.163 (56), Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area;
- Annex F - MEPC.173 (58), Guidelines for Ballast Water Sampling (G2);
- Annex G - Resolution MEPC.209 (63), 2012 Guidelines on Design and Construction to Facilitate Sediment Control on Ships (G12);
- Annex H - MEPC.252 (67), Guidelines for Port State Control under the BWM Convention;
- Annex I - MEPC.288 (71), 2017 Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange (G6)

14. This Marine Guidance shall enter into force on the date of issue.



Dr. Ko Ko Naing
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