The BWM Certificate is not valid. Ships trading domestically (unless the coastal state within the ship’s flag has ratified the BWM Convention). Any warships, naval auxiliary or other ships owned or operated as non-commercial service may use ballast water for any purpose. The condition of the ship or its equipment does not correspond to the particulars in the certificate. Maintenance of records in the ballast water record book as per the BWM plan including sediment and other organic matter. Certification of compliance as per BWM.2/Circ.44 for intermediate and renewal surveys in accordance to the IMO’s standards.

WHAT IS THE BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT (BWM) CONVENTION?

The BWM Convention is an international treaty adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2004 to prevent the spread of invasive species and the transfer of harmful substances through ballast water. It aims to protect the aquatic ecosystem and in turn, impact the local economy and human health.

WHAT ARE THE SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BWM CONVENTION?

Survey and certification requirements are established to ensure that ships are compliant with the BWM Convention. Initial surveys are required for all ships, including those already in service, to assess their ballast water management systems.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BWM CONVENTION?

To be in compliance with the BWM Convention, ships must have appropriate ballast water management systems in place. This includes the ability to treat and process ballast water to remove invasive species and other harmful substances. Compliance with the convention can be assessed through surveys and certifications.

WHY IS BALLAST WATER TREATMENT ESSENTIAL?

Gliding organisms (non-native species) can cause a detrimental effect on the receiving ecosystem. As ballast water can include microscopic organisms, viruses, marine plants and marine animals, the transfer of these invasive non-native species can alter the ecological balance and economic sectors. To ensure protection from invasive species and harmful substances, compliance with the BWM Convention is essential.

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When will the BWM Convention enter into force?

It is envisaged that it will come into force in 2017. This date is subject to the ratification and implementation of the Convention by member states. The BWM Convention will enter into force 12 months after ratification by 30 states, the combined merchant fleets of which represent no less than 35% of the gross tonnage of world’s merchant shipping. The current status of the BWM convention can be found by following the link: www.shipownersclub.com/loss-prevention.

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What is the ballast water record book?

The ballast water record book is a document that records the ballast water management operations onboard a ship. It includes information such as ballast water treatment systems, sampling and analysis data, and the history of the ship’s ballast water operations. The purpose of the record book is to provide a record of the ship’s ballast water management practices and to facilitate enforcement of the BWM Convention.

How does the BWM Convention affect ships' ballast water treatment systems?

The BWM Convention requires that ships have appropriate ballast water management systems in place. This includes the ability to treat and process ballast water to remove invasive species and other harmful substances. Compliance with the convention can be assessed through surveys and certifications. Ships may be subject to sampling and analysis of their ballast water to ensure compliance with the Convention. The BWM Convention is enforced through international regimes and national authorities.

Is the BWM Convention applicable if the vessel carries fresh water? Yes. As per BWM.2/Circ.46 (Application of the Ballast Water Management Convention to Mobile Offshore Support Vessels), fresh water is considered as ballast water and would require ballast water treatment by an approved system in accordance with the BWM Convention.

Is the water in hopper dredgers considered as ballast? No. As per BWM.2/Circ.32 (Applicability of the Ballast Water Management Convention to Mobile Offshore Support Vessels), water in hopper dredgers are not considered as ballast water.