

CIRCULAR 19-021

AMENDMENTS OF 2018 TO BWM CONVENTION, 2004 ADOPTION OF BWMS CODE

NOTICE TO: ALL MBA SURVEYORS & OFFICES / SHIP OWNERS / OPERATORS

APPLICABLE TO: All ships subject to BWM convention.

DATE IN FORCE: On or after 13 October 2019.

SUBJECT: Adoption of the BWMS Code, Amendments of 2018 to Regulation A 1 & D-3 of the Ballast Water Management Convention, 2004 – to make the provisions of the Code for Approval of ballast water management systems mandatory.

Dear All,

As you all are aware that the proper control and management of ships' ballast water has been a major environmental challenge for IMO and the global shipping industry for a long time. At its seventy-second session in April 2018, MEPC adopted amendments to the Convention, which will enter into force in October 2019.

SUMMARY

This circular is to bring attention to the MEPC resolutions referring to the adoption of BWMS code and the Amendment to regulations A-1 and D-3 of the BWM Convention making the BWMS Code mandatory, and their enforcement dates.

By MEPC Resolution 300(72) the Guidelines (G8) under the BWM Convention were made mandatory in the form of a code for approval of ballast water management systems.

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By resolution MEPC.296(72), it adopted amendments to regulations A-1 and D-3 of the BWM Convention to make the provisions of the Code for Approval of Ballast Water Management Systems referred to above mandatory.

IMPLICATION

There is no change in the technical content, therefore no practical impact but the approval requirements change as follows:

- BWMS installed on or after 28 October 2020 shall be approved in accordance with the BWMS code, as maybe amended, and
- BWMS installed before 28 October 2020, shall be approved taking into account the guidelines developed by the organisation or the BWMS code, as maybe amended.

APPLICATION

All ships subject to the BWM Convention and to be applied on a mandatory basis from 13 October 2019.

ATTACHMENTS

1. MEPC 296(72)
2. MEPC 300(72)