



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

U.S. Coast Guard Final Rule on “Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters”

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators and Classification Societies

Summary

This Note draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers and operators on the publication of a Final Rule by USCG on “Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters” in the *Federal Register* (77 FR 17254). The Final Rule has been effective since 21 June 2012. It has provided a schedule for the installation of US approved ballast water management system on ships discharging ballast water in U.S. waters.

1. On 23 March 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard published a Final Rule titled “Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters” in the *Federal Register* at 77 FR 17254.
2. The Final Rule requires all vessels, with certain exemptions, to install and operate an approved ballast water management system (“BWMS”) to discharge ballast water in U.S. waters. It also provides requirements for acceptance of Alternate Management Systems (AMS); for acceptance of Independent Laboratories (IL); for type approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS); and set out the following implementation schedule for the ballast water management discharge standards and for approved ballast water management systems.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE			
Types of Vessels	Vessel’s ballast water capacity	Date constructed	Vessel’s compliance date
New vessels	All	On or after 1 December 2013	On delivery
Existing vessels	Less than 1500 m ³	Before 1 December 2013	First scheduled drydocking after 1 January 2016.
	1500–5000 m ³	Before 1 December 2013	First scheduled drydocking after 1 January 2014.
	Greater than 5000 m ³	Before 1 December 2013	First scheduled drydocking after 1 January 2016.

3. A copy of the Final Rule can be found on USCG Ballast Water Management webpage at “ <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg522/cg5224/bwm.asp> ”.

4. Shipowners, ship managers and operators with ships calling US ports and intending to discharge ballast are advised to ensure that the ballast water management system onboard are complied with the USCG requirements. You are also encouraged to obtain frequent updates from your US agents and the above-mentioned USCG’s webpage for any information and guidance.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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