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15 August 2025

To: Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Ship Masters

Dear Sir/Madam,

Concentrated Inspection Campaign on Ballast Water Management
From 1 September to 30 November 2025
In Tokyo and Paris MOU regions

The Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding (Tokyo MOU) region in conjunction with the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (Paris MOU) region will launch a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management (BWM) from 1 September to 30 November 2025.

The purpose of this CIC is to:

- 1) verify that the ship complies with BWM requirements under the BWM Convention, including proper certification, approval and update of Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP), Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) and Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB), proper records of BWRB including exemption if any being granted, and documentation of any valid exemptions or dispensations on board; and
- 2) verify the BWMS to be operational, the familiarity of crew with the BWMS, implementation according to BWMP, the conditions of exemption being granted (if any) and the relevant requirements of ballast water sediment management.

The CIC will be conducted in conjunction with regular port state control inspections. Each ship will be subjected to only one inspection under this CIC (from each MOU) during the period of the campaign. Non-compliance with the issues highlighted in the CIC will lead to the issuance of deficiencies and in severe cases, detention of the vessel. The results of the campaign will be analysed, and findings will be presented to the governing bodies of the MOUs for submission to the IMO.

Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) will use a list of 10 questions to assess that BWMS comply with BWM Convention, that the master and crew members are familiar with their duties in the implementation of the BWMP. The questionnaire¹ has been published on the website (<http://www.tokyo-mou.org>) of the Tokyo MOU.

In order to facilitate the masters, managers and owners of Hong Kong registered ships in preparation for the upcoming CIC, Guidance to Hong Kong Registered Ships for preparation of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign on BWM is enclosed in Annex 1 for your reference. You are advised to distribute this circular letter and the guidance to your respective vessels and ensure that all the shipboard staffs are fully aware of the campaign.

Should you have any queries, please contact Senior Surveyor of the Cargo Ships Safety Section as follows:

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Fax: (852) 2545 0556
E-mail: ss_css@mardep.gov.hk

Yours faithfully,

No signature on website copy

(H.F. YUE)

Senior Surveyor of Ships / Cargo Ships Safety Section
for Director of Marine

Encl.: Annex 1

¹ For the details of questionnaire, please refer to the Latest News by Tokyo MOU
(<https://www.tokyo-mou.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/Press-release-on-2025-CIC-BWM-final.pdf>)