

Marine Notice No. 47 of 2011

*Notice to all Shipowners, Shipmanagers, Drilling Rig or FSU / FPSO operators,
Harbourmasters, Repair Facilities, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers,
Fishermen and Seafarers*

Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention

The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at a Diplomatic Conference held in London on 13th February 2004. The Convention will enter into force 12 months after ratification by a minimum of 30 States, representing 35% of world merchant shipping tonnage.

It is likely that the entry into force criteria will be reached during the next 12 months and, consequently, the provisions of the Convention will apply to all international shipping 12 months after that. Ireland's maritime administration is at present preparing the legislation that is required, and intends to ratify the Convention when this process is complete.

There are fixed retrospective dates in the Convention for applicability of Regulations (BWM Section B – Management and Control Requirements for Ships). All shipowners and managers are strongly advised to study the Convention text to determine applicability of regulations to their ships.

The BWM Convention regulations also make numerous references to satisfy criteria set out in Guidelines. These Guidelines, known as G1 – G14, are also very important in understanding the full requirements of the Convention.

The Convention has requirements for the survey and certification of vessels, fitting of treatment equipment, training of officers and crew and the operation of a ballast water management plan. Additionally, there will be port entry requirements to be fulfilled for compliance with the Convention. The Convention also requires the facility for the retention and treatment of ballast tank sediment in defined circumstances.

Further details can be found at the website: www.imo.org following the path: *Our Work – Marine Environment – Ballast Water Management – BWM Convention*, where it is also possible to purchase the texts of the BWM Convention and Guidelines.

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