



CIRCULAR

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Decoupling ship's IOPP certificates from the Harmonised System of Survey and Certification

The Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) will enter into force on 08.09.2017. It means that all ships of 400GT or more engaged on international voyages must be fitted with a ballast water management system. A ballast water management system must be installed into a ship by the first renewal of its IOPP certificate following the entry into force of the BWM Convention.

Ships are inspected and their certificates issued according to IMO resolution A.1104 (29) on the Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC). The IOPP certificate has been included in this harmonised system.

Estonian Maritime Administration accepts a deviation of IOPP certificate from the harmonised system. Any exception will be valid until the next renewal following entry into force of the BWM Convention, after which the IOPP certificate will be reintroduced into the harmonised system.

Classification societies are, under EU Regulation 391/2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations, obliged to follow the harmonised system. Estonian Maritime Administrations requirement is that the validity date of an IOPP certificate decoupled from the harmonised system must be linked to the anniversary date. Another requirement is that the ship has permission from the classification society to decouple from the harmonised system.

Once the decoupling from the harmonised system is over, the ship's surveys and the validity date that are the prerequisites for the IOPP certificate and ballast water certificate will be re-harmonised.

Sincerely

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