

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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STATUTORY ALERT Canada introduces new mandatory ballast water regulations

APPLICABILITY Owners and operators of all ships trading to Canada

INFORMATION

Canada has introduced mandatory ballast water management regulations, replacing earlier voluntary guidelines. The following is a summary of the regulations, which are effective immediately.

All vessels arriving at Canadian ports, offshore terminals or anchorages carrying ballast water taken onboard the ship outside Canadian waters are required either:

- a) to exchange ballast water more than 200 nautical miles (nm) from land and in water where the depth is at least 2,000 metres, or
- b) if during its voyage they have not navigated to an area more than 200 nm from land where the water is at least 2,000 metres in depth, to exchange ballast in an area at least 50 nm from land where the water depth is at least 500 metres.

If exchanging ballast water as required by (a) or (b) above would be impractical or would compromise the stability or safety of the vessel or persons onboard, ballast may be exchanged in defined areas within Canadian waters. The boundaries of these areas are defined in the regulations.

The requirements do not apply to ships trading exclusively within Canadian waters, or to ships trading within the Great Lakes.

If a ship is unable to exchange ballast water, the master must advise the Canadian authorities at least 96 hours before entering Canadian waters; where it is not practical to give 96 hours' notice, the master must give notice as soon as is practical. The authorities will advise of any ballast water management measures that will be required, which may include retention onboard.

All ships will be required to have a ballast water management plan (BWMP) onboard by 8 December 2006. The plan does not need to be approved but, in the case of Canadian flag ships, should be submitted to Transport Canada.

All ships are required to complete a ballast water report form and submit it to the Canadian authorities on completion of ballast water exchange. Report forms must be retained onboard for at least two years. Reporting must be in accordance with TP 13617, which is currently being updated by Transport Canada and will be available at:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/menu.htm>

The ballast water report form will be available as an Annex to TP 13617.

A copy of the full regulations can be downloaded from:

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2006/20060628/pdf/g2-14013.pdf>

Lloyd's Register has developed a model BWMP that meets the latest guidelines from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as the requirements of its new International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water. The model BWMP can help ensure you meet the requirements of the Canadian regulations and will also help to prepare you for IMO's Convention, which is expected to enter into force in the near future.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you require further information on our BWMP approval services or on our model BWMP, please get in touch with your local Lloyd's Register Group office at the earliest opportunity and we will be happy to assist.

Further information

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