

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

March 23, 2006

No. 07/2006

STATUTORY ALERT California introduces new ballast water management regulations

APPLICABILITY All owners and operators of ships trading to Californian waters

INFORMATION The state of California has announced new ballast water management regulations, which are already in force. A summary of the requirements follows.

Vessels arriving at a California port or place **from another port or place within the Pacific Coast region** must employ at least one of the following practices:

- exchange the vessel's ballast water in near-coastal waters, before entering the waters of the state, if that ballast water has been taken on in a port or place or within the Pacific Coast region
- retain all ballast water onboard the vessel
- use an alternative, environmentally sound method of ballast water management that, before the vessel begins the voyage, has been approved by the State Lands Commission (SLC) or the United States Coast Guard (USCG) as being at least as effective as exchange, using mid-ocean waters, in removing or killing non-indigenous species
- discharge the ballast water to a reception facility approved by the SLC
- under extraordinary circumstances, perform a ballast water exchange within an area agreed to by the SLC in consultation with the USCG at or before the time of the request.

For the purposes of the above:

- "near-coastal waters" means waters that are more than 50 nautical miles (nm) from land and at least 200 metres (656 feet or 109 fathoms) deep
- ports and places in the San Francisco Bay area east of the Golden Gate Bridge, including the ports of Stockton and Sacramento, are considered the same "California port or place"
- the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and the El Segundo marine terminal shall be considered the same "California port or place"
- the "Pacific Coast region" is defined as all coastal waters (within 200 nm of land) on the Pacific Coast of North America east of 154°W longitude (approximately equal to Cooks Inlet, Alaska) and north of 25°N latitude (Baja California, Mexico), exclusive of the Gulf of California.

Vessels arriving at a California port or place **from a port or place outside the Pacific Coast region** must continue to exchange ballast water in mid-ocean waters, or retain all ballast water on board.

All vessels are required to develop and maintain a vessel-specific ballast water management plan, develop and maintain a ballast water log, submit a completed and signed ballast water reporting form, and remit the required fee to the Board of Equalization.

Further information can be found at <http://www.slc.ca.gov>.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you are an owner or operator and require further assistance, 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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