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Date : 22.08.2017

**To,**

OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES,  
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS

**SUBJET: POLICY ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION 2004**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all parties concerned about the procedures which shall be followed when a vessel which flies the flag of Comoros is surveyed according to the requirements of "Ballast Water Management Convention 2004".
- 1.2. The Convention will enter into force on 08 September 2017 and all vessels flying the flag of Comoros shall comply with its requirements.

### **2. Application**

- 2.1. This Circular applies to all ships, including submersibles, floating crafts, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs

### **3. Requirements**

- 3.1. On the date which the Convention enters into force, all Comorian vessels with dedicated ballast water tanks or spaces shall comply with the following requirements:
  - 1.1.1. Ballast Water Management Plan approved by a Recognized Organization;
  - 1.1.2. Ballast Water Record Book.
- 3.2. Vessels of 400 GT and above flying the flag of Comoros shall carry on-board the following:
  - 3.2.1 International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance (IBWMSoC), (excluding Floating Platforms, FSUs and FPSOs at the location of operation);
  - 3.2.2 Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) approved by a Recognized Organization;
  - 3.2.3 Ballast Water Record Book.
- 3.3. As per IMO documents related to the implementation of the Convention BWM.2/Circ.46 - Application of the BWM Convention to Mobile Offshore Units and BWM.2/Circ.52 - Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party, Mobile offshore units including Mobile Offshore Drilling Units should be surveyed and issued with an International Ballast



Water Management Certificate, according to regulations E-1 and E-2 of the Convention, as applicable.

#### **4. Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS)**

- 4.1 Ballast Water Management Systems Type approved by other Administrations are accepted on ships flying the flag of Comoros, provided they have been approved in accordance with the Guidelines on the Type Approval process for BWMS (Resolution MEPC.174(58) or Resolution MEPC.279(70) as applicable).
- 4.2 Ships involved in activities that include ports in the United States of America or its jurisdictional waters, shall be fitted with Ballast Water Management Systems accepted by the United State Coast Guard (USCG) according to the timeline set by that Administration.

#### **5. Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP)**

- 5.1. Ballast Water Management Plans shall be submitted from the Shipowner/Manager to a Recognized Organization in order to be evaluated, revised and approved in accordance with the requirements of Regulation B-1 of the Ballast Water Management Convention. BWMPs shall take into account the guidelines of IMO Resolution MEPC.127 (53) - Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4).
- 5.2. All submitted BWMPs will be approved by an approved Recognized Organization and copy of the Approval shall be made available to the applicant in order to be placed on-board the vessel and be available for inspection at all times.
- 5.3. Ships not fitted with a BWMS or ships fitted with a BWMS which has been subject to modification should review and update their BWMP accordingly. In these cases BWMP should be submitted to the Recognized Organization for re-approval in accordance with paragraph 4.1 & 4.2 of this Circular.
- 5.4. Ballast Water Management Plans, previously approved in accordance with Resolution A.868 (20), will remain valid until the plan requires revision due to the installation of a BWMS.
- 5.5. The fees which shall be remitted by the Recognized Organizations to the Government of Union of Comoros for each approval of a BWMP are the following:
  - 5.5.1. First time Evaluation or major amendments such as procedures, calculations, Equipment changes or replacements, etc.: USD 500.00;
  - 5.5.2. Amendments due to change of ship's name, gross tonnage, etc.: USD 200.00.

#### **6. International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance (IBWMSoC)**

- 6.1 Ships of 400 GT and above subject to the surveys required by the Convention (Regulation E-1) shall be issued after satisfactory completion of the surveys,



- with the corresponding International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance (Regulation E-2) from a Recognized Organization.
- 6.2 Recognized Organizations authorized to perform such surveys shall issue a Short Term (Provisional) IBWMSoC valid for a period of maximum five (5) months, after satisfactory completion of the relevant initial or renewal survey.
- 6.3 Initial Survey may be performed prior the entry into force of the Convention and Short Term (Provisional) Statements of Compliance can be issued by the approved Recognized Organizations valid for a period of not more than five (5) months at the date of convention's entry into force.
- 6.4 Full Term IBWM Statement of Compliance will be issued from the Maritime Administration of Comoros upon receipt of the following items:
- 6.4.1 Approved BWMP;
  - 6.4.2 Short Term (Provisional) Statement of Compliance issued by the Recognized Organization;
  - 6.4.3 Survey Report.
- 6.5 The fees for the issuance of the Full Term IBWMSoC are USD 100.00.
- 6.6 Endorsement of corresponding Annual or Intermediate Surveys shall be carried out by the Recognized Organization duly approved to do so, after satisfactory completion of the same, as it is required by Regulation E-1 of the Convention.

Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

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We take this opportunity to reassure that human life, marine environment and property are always considered as a priority for the Maritime Administration of Comoros which is committed to the safety of the maritime industry and the users around the world.

**Maritime Affairs Department**



**Said Salim**  
**Registrar**