

Instructions to class concerning the application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 and de-coupling of the IOPP certificate from the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)

Purpose

This Instruction to Class (IC) concerns ships which are subject to surveys required for the issuance or renewal of the IOPP certificate.

Application

This IC applies to ships registered in a Faroese ship register.

References

Class agreement from 2017 between RO and Faroese Maritime Authority (FMA)

Background

1. Entry into force of the convention and obligation to carry a certificate.

The Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) of the IMO will enter into force internationally on 8. September 2017. With the binding ratification by Finland on 8. September 2016, the signatory states had reached 35% of the world's gross tonnage.

All vessels on international voyages from 400 GT and above have to carry an International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWM Certificate). Ships below 400 GT need no certificate but have to comply with the BWMC with reduced obligations and are not exempted.

2. De-coupling of the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme.

New buildings have to be equipped with an approved Ballast Water Treatment Plant from 8. September 2017, at the entry into force of the convention. Existing ships have to be in compliance with the ballast water treatment after the entry into force latest until the next renewal of the IOPP certificate.

The Faroese flag allows the companies to de-couple the IOPP Certificate from the harmonized survey and certification scheme, until the entry into force of the BWMC.

The IOPP certificates may be renewed before their regular renewal time window, in order to have more time for retrofitting a ballast water treatment plant during the 5 years of validity of the new IOPP.

Owners/company can contact the Classification Society directly if you like to choose the option of de-coupling the IOPP certificate.

3. Required measures until the expiry of the IOPP certificate.

In the transitional period from 08.09.2017 until the next IOPP Certificate renewal all ships from 400 GT and above have to fulfill the D1 ballast water exchange standard confirmed by the International BWM Certificate. For the exchange of ballast water in deep seas during voyages between ports the following is necessary:

- Approved Ballast Water Management Plan for the exchange of ballast water
- Documentation of the ballast water exchange in the Ballast Water Record Book
- Initial survey for ballast water exchange on board.

4. Our recommendations.

We recommend all companies to contact the classification society at the earliest opportunity in order:

- to finish the initial survey in due time before 8. September 2017 and
- to ensure (in case of retrofits of BWT Plants) that the existing ballast water piping system is suitable for the chosen BWT Plant.

The classification societies are authorized to issue IBWM Certificate. The certificate may be issued before the entry into force on 8. September 2017.

The FMA suggest the re-cupling of the IOPP-Certificate follow the intention in the below image.

