

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



Commissioning Tests for Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS)

Ref. 001-22
Issued 08 Feb 22

The Ship Registry wishes to make owners and operators aware of a forthcoming amendment to the Ballast Water Management Convention which requires commissioning tests for Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS). This amendment enters into force on the 1st June 2022 and applies to all ships over 400gt that are subject the BWM Convention.

From 1st June 2022, a commissioning test will be required as part of the Initial Survey, to be undertaken before a ship is put into service or before an International Ballast Water Management Certificate is issued for the first time, or when it is re-issued for D-2 compliance. BWMS installed prior to the new regulation entering into force will not be subject to a commissioning test unless the vessel is required to undertake an Additional Survey due to a change, replacement or significant repair of the BWMS or associated equipment.

The purpose of the commissioning test is to validate the installation of a BWMS by demonstrating that its mechanical, physical, chemical and biological processes are working properly. Commissioning testing is not intended to validate the design of type-approved BWMS that are approved by an Administration. The requirement for Type Approval remains and is distinct from the requirement for a Commissioning Test. The latest IMO list of type approved systems can be found [here](#).

The commissioning test shall be conducted in accordance with the IMO guidelines within BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1. In summary a sample of 1m² shall be taken from the ballast water discharge sampling point, and this will be analysed for the two size classes of organisms, $\geq 50 \mu\text{m}$ and $\geq 10 \mu\text{m}$ to $< 50 \mu\text{m}$, as specified in the D-2 standard using the methods listed in BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.2. Self-monitoring parameters (e.g. flow rate, pressure, TRO concentration, UV transmittance/intensity, etc.) of the BWMS will also be assessed.

The collection and analysis of the samples should be undertaken by an entity independent of the BWMS manufacturer or supplier and approved by the RO who will issue the ship's International Ballast Water Management Statement of Compliance.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

