



United States News

Marine Safety Informative Bulletins Issued by USCG for Marine Transportation

USCG released a series of Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) based on managed risk, flexibility and restraint.

Ballast Water Management Extensions

The U.S. Coast Guard is adjusting its extension policy, as shown below, for those vessels impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with BWMS compliance dates before 1 April 2021, recognizing the impact of public health policies and the importance of a the continued flow of commerce in our Maritime Transportation System. In instances where the COVID-19 pandemic has rendered it impractical to perform necessary or scheduled work on a vessel, the following guidance regarding an extension is provided:

- The US Coast Guard will extend all compliance dates up to 12 months upon request. However, such an extension is not an interim extension, and additional time to accommodate operational or regulatory schedules should not be expected. For ships that undergo a credit drydock but cannot complete the BWMS installation, owners are encouraged to complete as much work as possible during the credit drydock (e.g. main ballast lines valves) to avoid the need for future drydock availability.
- In those instances where an extension of more than 12 months is needed, the extension request should include a BWMS purchasing agreement and plans for installation, along with proof that the installation could not occur because of COVID-19 restrictions
- In instances where arrangements were made to convert an Alternate Management System (AMS) to a Coast Guard type approved system, but the conversion was not completed due to the pandemic, an extension may be requested to continue operating the AMS under 33 CFR 151.2026(c) until the conversion can be accomplished. As noted above, requests for an extension longer than 12 months should provide details and third-party verification(s) that the arrangements for bringing a vessel into compliance were previously made but not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information or specific details on the extension guidelines go to [COVID-19: Ballast Water Management \(BWM\) Extensions](#)

Listed below is the series of MSIBs released by USCG related to COVID-19:

[COVID-19 CH3](#)

[COVID-19 Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness or Death](#)

[COVID-19 Port and Facility Operations](#)

[COVID-19 Mariner Credentials](#)

[COVID-19 Vessel Inspections, Exams, and Documentation](#)

[COVID-19: Guidance for Maritime Operations on Compliance with Federal Drug Testing](#)

[COVID-19: Requirements Maintaining Maritime Commerce and Identification of Essential Maritime Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)

[COVID-19 - Vessel and Facility Response Plans](#)

[COVID 19 - Transportation Worker Identification Credential \(TWIC®\) Operations](#)

VIDA Update

In accordance with the provisions of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), the US Coast Guard invited representatives from 55 US states and territories to participate in a conference call that took place on 4 December 2019. During this call, the US Coast Guard has established a working group to address issues related to US state access to federal vessel arrival data, ballast water management reporting data and enforcement data for commercial vessels operating in the US. In spring 2020, the working group is expected to have another call to continue discussing how the working group will address key provisions of VIDA. Read about those provisions and the working group [here](#).

IMO PPR 7 Meeting Summary

A [recap of the 7th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response](#) (PPR) from the perspective of the USCG has been posted to the USCG Maritime Commons blog. It includes guidance on BWMS commission testing, which is intended to validate the installation by demonstrating that its mechanical, physical, chemical and biological processes are working properly.

2019 Port State Control Annual Report

The [2019 US Port State Control Annual Report](#) has been issued by the USCG. The report indicates that during 2019, the USCG issued 10 Type Approval Certificates for ballast water treatment systems. Deficiencies related to ballast water management were not specifically noted in the report.

Navigable Waters Protection Rule to Define WOTUS

On January 23, 2020, the US EPA and Department of the Army finalized the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define "Waters of the United States", commonly referred to as "WOTUS". This was Step 2 in a two-step process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS, which for the first time, streamlines the definition to include 4 simple categories of jurisdictional waters:

- The territorial seas and traditional navigable waters,
- Perennial and intermittent tributaries to those waters,
- Certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments, and
- Wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters.

Read the pre-publication version of the final Navigable Waters Protection Rule [here](#).

Ballast Water Management System Type Approvals

The USCG has received the following new BWMS type approval applications:

- [Microfade II BWMS](#) manufactured by Kuraray, Co., Ltd.
- [ATPS-BLUEsys BWMS](#) manufactured by Panasonic Environmental Systems & Engineering Co., Ltd.

The USCG has issued Type Approval Certificates for the following treatment systems:

- [BAWAT BWMS MK2](#) manufactured by BAWAT A/S (26th Type Approval)
- [GloEn - Patrol 2.0](#) manufactured by Panasia Co., Ltd. (27th Type Approval)
- [NK-O3 BlueBallast II and NK-O3 BlueBallast II Plus](#) manufactured by NK Co. Ltd. (28th and 29th Type Approvals)

The USCG has continued to maintain a [current list](#) of approved BWMS and the status of Type Approval applications.

International News

Summary of PPR 7

IMO's Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) held its 7th session 17-21 February 2020. Just a few of the topics discussed were prohibition of heavy fuel oil, IMO 2020 sulfur limit, revised guidelines on exhaust gas cleaning systems, reducing Arctic impacts from black carbon emissions, anti-fouling systems, biofouling guidelines and marine plastic litter. With respect to ballast water, the Sub-Committee agreed to revised guidance on BWMS commissioning testing, subject to approval at MEPC 75." Click [here](#) for a summary of the PPR 7 meeting from IMO.

List of IMO Postponed Meetings

As a result of COVID-19, many IMO meetings have been postponed. The [IMO website maintains an updated list](#) of affected meetings as things continue to develop. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) was scheduled to hold its 75th session 30 March - 3 April 2020; this meeting was posted to a currently unknown future date. Currently, all IMO meetings scheduled through June are postponed.

1. The IMO has published [Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5](#) containing guidance relating to the certification of seafarers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Circular Letter contains recommendations for national authorities and governments to support keeping shipping and supply chains open, and to grant travel exemptions to seafarers.

Other Updates

A variety of resources related to COVID-19 have been developed by a wide range of organizations. Below are a few that may be of interest.

1. Seagull Maritime and Videotel have released an awareness video: ["Coronavirus - How to Beat it"](#)

2. INTERTANKO has developed several resources for their Members and also provides general updates and information available to the public [here](#).
3. The International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) has produced a [video](#) aimed at seafarers for managing mental health during COVID-19.



Ballast Water Management Report April 2020

Steve Candito, CEO of Ecochlor, speaks about the impact of COVID-19 and the new USCG MSIB on extensions for Ballast Water Management due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ecochlor in the News

Please contact Ecochlor at sales@ecochlor.com to learn how the Ecochlor® BWMS can help your vessels achieve and maintain compliance with U.S. and international ballast water regulations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ARTICLES

John Dzioba to Manage Ecochlor's QMS Program

As Quality Management System (QMS) Manager, Mr. Dzioba will manage the monitoring, measurement, and review of all internal processes; the scope of which includes all of Ecochlor and is supported fully by the leadership team. The QMS Manager also ensures that the quality control programs conform to customer, internal and regulatory/legal requirements. This quality control includes the monitoring of the manufacturing vendor's quality systems as well as all equipment being produced for Ecochlor.

[Professional Mariner](#), March 2020

Ecochlor partners with Horizon Air Freight to expand shipping services

Justin Knight, Director of Operations at Ecochlor explains that the relationship between the two teams will only enhance the already existing high standard set by his project management group. "[Horizon](#) has been in the maritime industry for over 50 years and is trusted to get our shipments on-deck and on-time. We will also be able to offer our customers added services in shipping that will allow them to focus on other immediate concerns related to their retrofits. We are very excited to bring on additional support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in our efforts to provide superior support to owners."

[Dry Bulk](#), February 2020



Michael Madely joins Ecochlor as Vice President

Ecochlor announced the addition of [Michael "Mick" Madely](#) to fill a newly created position of Vice President of Global Service.

Madely has had a full career in the global maritime industry with over 25 years of experience in senior management positions in both Commercial and Technical roles.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND PRESENTATIONS

SMM

September 8 - 11, 2020
Hamburg Messe und Congress - Hamburg, Germany
Stand Hall A1 #305

Workshop Presentation: *2020 Update on the Best Practices for the Installation and Operation of a Ballast Water Management System*

CMA Shipping 2020

Postponed to June 29 - July 1, 2020
Stamford Hilton - Connecticut, USA
Stand # 29

Ecochlor Hosted Event: NAMEPA announcement on the launch of a new CSR/ESG tool for the marine industry.

Posidonia

Postponed to October 26 - 30, 2020
Metropolitan Expo - Athens, Greece
Stand Hall 1 #115

Workshop Presentation: *Looking Beyond the Commissioning to Operational Compliance for Ballast Water Management Systems*

Workshop Presentation: *NanoVapor Gas-Freeing Technology: A Carnival Cruise Line Case Study*

Ecochlor will demonstrate the [Ecochlor BWMS](#) and [NanoVapor Gas-Freeing Tank Technology](#) at **SMM** and **Posidonia**. To schedule a media interview or receive additional information please contact, [Kathie Clark](#), Director of Corporate Communications.



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