

MINISTERUL TRANSPORTURILOR  
SI INFRASTRUCTURII  
DRUMURILOR ALREPUBLICII  
MOLDOVA  
INSTITUȚIA PUBLICĂ CĂPITĂNIA  
PORTULUI GIURGIULEȘTI



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND  
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE OF  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
PUBLIC INSTITUTION HARBOUR  
MASTER GIURGIULEȘTI

Bd. Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt, 134  
MD-2012 Chișinău  
Tel/Fax: +37322735345  
e-mail [info@maradmoldova.md](mailto:info@maradmoldova.md)

Bd. Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt, 134  
MD-2012 Chișinău  
Tel/Fax: +37322735345  
e-mail [info@maradmoldova.md](mailto:info@maradmoldova.md)

## CIRCULAR LETTER

No: 218 from 31 March 2017

**To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Moldavian Flagged Vessels, and Recognized Organizations (ROs).**

**Subject: Entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention IOPP Certificate.**

### Background

Following Finland's ratification, the Ballast Water Management Convention will enter into force on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The IMO has approved draft amendments to the Convention's implementation scheme (attached in Annex 4 and Annex 5 to document MEPC 69/21/Add.1) and if adopted at MEPC 70, in October 2016, then approved ballast water treatment systems meeting the D-2 biological standard will need to be installed :

- on existing ships : not later than the first MARPOL IOPP Renewal Survey carried out on or after 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017;
- on all new ships constructed on or after 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Republic of Moldova is signatory to the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols; these Protocols recommend that surveys are carried out under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) Guidelines, resolution A.1104(29), as may be amended.

### Possibility of de-harmonization of the IOPP survey

As many doubts have been expressed by various related actors regarding the performance, availability and available resources (i.e. dry docks slots) to install the BWM systems on board, it seems appropriate to find a way to extend the deadline foreseen in the Convention.

The Maritime Administration of the Republic of Moldova has carefully studied the possibility to "de-harmonize" the MARPOL IOPP surveys from other statutory surveys covered by the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) Guidelines. Adjustment of the IOPP Renewal Survey can extend the date for D-2 compliance under the approved draft amendments to the Convention's implementation scheme.

It is our understanding that there is no prohibition under MARPOL or the HSSC Guidelines (recommended under the 1988 Protocols) to adjust the MARPOL Annex I survey window nor does it appear to be any obligation to keep it harmonized with the other surveys.

Republic of Moldova is not a part of BWMC , but MARAD strongly encourages owners to fulfill the requirements of the BWMC as early as possible. However, in light of the above, **MARAD will not object to the principle of the IOPP Renewal Survey to be adjusted so that it is “de-harmonized” with the other renewal surveys carried out under the HSSC Guidelines.**

Owners wanting to take advantage of this possibility must introduce a special request with a well-founded and documented justification for a case by case examination by the vessel's RO.

On the basis of the RO's positive report, MARAD will confirm its principle agreement and authorize the RO to perform a renewal survey for IOPP for the vessel and to issue a new full term IOPP certificate with a 5 year validity upon satisfactory completion of the said survey.

**Owners should be aware that this decision does not supersede in any way coastal States' prerogative to implement more stringent requirements.**

Owners are invited to reintegrate the IOPP survey into the HSSC at the earliest opportunity.

The above will enter into effect as of 31 March 2017.

Harbour Master Giurgiulesti  
Victor ANDRUȘCA

