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Circular Letter 003/2025

Date: 25.09.2025

Attn.: VRS Authorized Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship operator, Managing Companies

Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004

In accordance with IMO Resolution MEPC.383(81) "AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS", the Amendments to regulations A-1 and B-2 (Use of electronic record books) shall enter into the force from the 1st of October 2025, as prescribed below:

Regulation A-1

Definitions

A new paragraph 9 is inserted after existing paragraph 8, as follows:

9. *Electronic record book* means a device or system, approved by the Administration, used to electronically record the entries for each ballast water operation as required under this Convention in lieu of a hard copy record book.

Regulation B-2

Ballast Water Record Book

Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

1. Each ship shall have on board a Ballast Water Record Book, that may be an electronic record book, or that may be integrated into another record book or system, and which shall at least contain the information specified in Appendix II. Electronic record books shall be approved by the Administration taking into account the guidelines developed by the Organization*.

** Refer to the Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under the BWM Convention (resolution MEPC.372(80), as may be amended).*

Paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

5. Each operation concerning ballast water shall be fully recorded without delay in the Ballast Water Record Book. Each entry shall be signed by the officer in charge of the operation concerned and each completed page shall be signed by the Master or, in the case of a group of electronic entries, shall be verified by the Master in a timely manner. The entries in the Ballast Water Record Book shall be in a working language of the ship. If that language is not English, French or Spanish, the entries shall contain a translation into one of those languages. When entries in an official national language of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly are also used, these shall prevail in case of a dispute or discrepancy.

The amendments shall be implemented on board the vessel on/or after October 1, 2025.

Kindly be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Kristina Melikyan

Chief Executive Officer

