



INTERNATIONAL SHIP CLASSIFICATION

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TEMPORARY STORAGE OF TREATED SEWAGE AND GREY WATER IN BALLAST WATER TANK

(ISC Circular No.6.R0)

Notice

Attention to all Ship Owners / Managers / Operators / Agents/Ship's Officers

Purpose

This Circular is issued to advise and provide a procedure for the temporary storage of treated sewage and/or grey water (TS/GW) in a ballast water tank as per **BWM.2/Circ.82**.

Application and general matters

Temporary storage of TS/GW in Ballast water tanks should only be used as an opinion in specific ports and areas which restrict the discharge of TS/GW and where the ship does not have dedicated tanks with adequate storage capacity of TS/GW.

Mixing Ballast water and TS/GW in a ballast tank should be avoided.

In case a ship stores TS/GW temporarily in its ballast water tanks, the ship should make periodic inspections for those ballast water tanks' coatings and take measures to prevent impacts.

Contents

The guidance indicates that in exceptional cases, due to coastal State regulations or lack of adequate reception facilities at ports, dry-docks, and terminals, it may be necessary to store treated sewage and/or grey water in ballast water tanks.

The guidance includes:

1. Definitions
2. General application matters
3. General Guidance

Key points to highlight are:

Temporary storage of treated sewage/grey water (TS/GW) in ballast tanks should only be considered in specific ports and areas that restrict TS/GW discharge and where the ship lacks dedicated tanks with adequate storage capacity.

Avoid mixing ballast water and TS/GW in a ballast tank.

When a ship stores TS/GW temporarily in its ballast tanks:

1. Periodic inspections of the tanks' coatings should be made, and measures should be taken to prevent impacts.



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2. Appropriate measures should be taken to prevent contamination of the ballast system by TS/GW and to prevent accidental discharge of TS/GW within restricted waters. This includes:
 - Closing the valves or using blanks, spectacle flanges, and pipeline blinds
 - Using an isolated pump and pipeline, dedicated portable hose, and/or a lockout/tagout system
3. The tank should be fully emptied, including removal of any residual ballast water, as far as practicable, through the BWMS. The removal and disposal of sediments should be carried out as far as practicable and in line with paragraph 1.3 of part A of Guidelines (G4) (resolution MEPC.127(53) as amended).

When a tank is converted back to ballast water storage after being used for TS/GW storage, the following procedures should be followed:

1. After discharging TS/GW, the tank, pipes, and dual-purpose pumps should be flushed with the normal maximum volume of the tank.
2. Water used to flush the tanks should not be discharged through the BWMS.
3. After discharging and flushing, the ballast water tank should be reconnected to the ballast system and flushed once more with treated ballast water to replace the residual water.

It must be ensured that the unavailability of a BW tank due to the storage of TS/GW does not impact the hull strength and stability of the ship, including its safety and operational performance.

The discharge of ballast water and TS/GW should comply with:

1. The BWM Convention
2. MARPOL Annex IV
3. Any local authority TS/GW discharge requirements

The ship's Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) should include a ship-specific change-over procedure from ballast water storage to TS/GW storage and back, including pump and piping associated with the dual-purpose BW tanks, with specific details on how the flushing is conducted. The BW tanks to be used for temporary storage of TS/GW should be identified in the BWMP.

An entry should be made in the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB) under the appropriate code related to additional operational procedures and general remarks containing the details as mentioned in examples **BWM.2/Circ.80**.



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Action

Ship Owners / Managers / Operators / Agents/Ship's Master/Ship's Officer should be guided to comply with Coastal State regulations or when the ship sail to ports where inadequate reception facilities, dry-docks and terminals where it may become necessary to store treated sewage and/or grey water in ballast water tanks.

Reference

BWM.2/Circ.82: Guidance for the temporary storage of treated sewage and/or grey water in ballast water tanks

Resolution MEPC.127(53): Guideline for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4).

BWM.2/Circ. 80: Guidance on ballast water record-keeping and reporting.

MARPOL Annex IV: Regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships.

For further assistance or information, please visit our website or contact us at enquiry@isclass.com.