



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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Subject: Procedures for the use of e-BWRB under BWM Convention

MEPC 81 adopted the amendments to regulations A-1.9 and B-2.1 of the BWM Convention by resolution MEPC.383(81), allowing the use of an electronic record book (ERB) format for the Ballast Water Record Book. These amendments will enter into force on 1 October 2025.

This technical information provides the procedural requirements for the approval of electronic ballast water record books (e-BWRBs), as well as the issuance of Declarations following shipboard installation and functional verification.

Kind regards,

Executive Vice President / Statutory Division

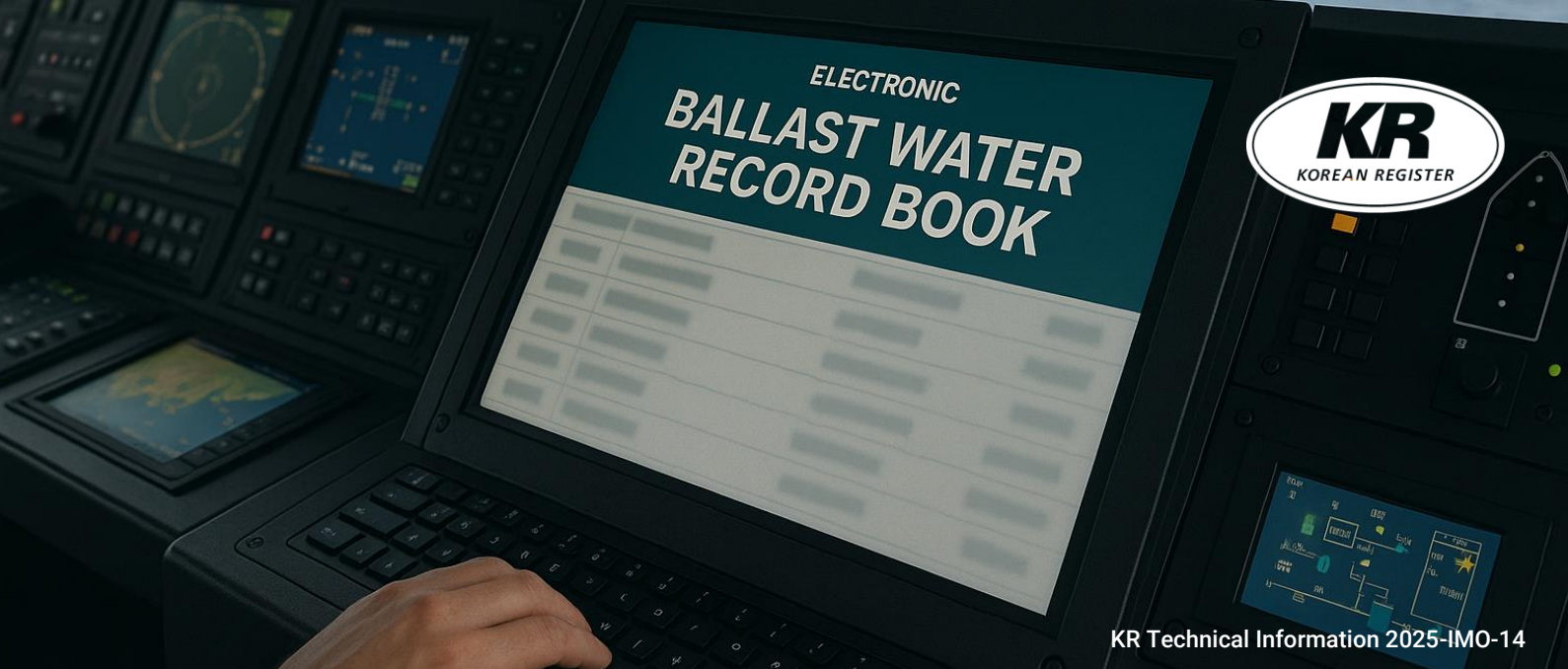
KOREAN REGISTER

Enclosure: Procedures for the use of e-BWRB under BWM Convention

(Distributions: KR surveyors, Ship owners, Manufacturers, Other relevant parties)

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Procedures for the use of e-BWRB under BWM Convention

Background

MEPC 81 adopted the amendments to regulations A-1.9 and B-2.1 of the BWM Convention by resolution MEPC.383(81), allowing the use of an electronic record book (ERB) format for the Ballast Water Record Book. These amendments will enter into force on 1 October 2025.

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General

(Definition of e-BWRB) Electronic Ballast Water 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.

(Application Date) Pursuant to the amendments to regulation B-2.1 of the BWM Convention (effective from 1 October 2025), the use of e-BWRBs is permitted. In accordance with the technical requirements as set out in resolution MEPC.372(80), approval by the flag Administration and issuance of a Declaration are required.

(Existing Hard Copy Record Book) An electronic record book may be used as the official record replacing hard copy record books only after the issuance of a Declaration.

In accordance with regulation B-2.2 of the BWM Convention, entries in the BWRB shall be retained on board the ship for a minimum period of two years after the last entry has been made, and thereafter kept under the Company's control for a minimum period of three years.

Approval of e-BWRBs

- (a) **Software requirements:** e-BWRBs should be approved by the flag Administration in accordance with resolutions MEPC.372(80). Where the flag Administration has delegated authority, **approval by Recognized Organizations (ROs) may be accepted**. Where no such approval exists, **KR type approval** may be obtained at the manufacturer's request (Dep't in charge: Marine & Ocean Equipment Team).
- (b) **Hardware requirements:** for the issuance of a Declaration, compliance with IEC 60092 and IEC 60533 (for computers and peripherals, and systems of e-BWRB) should be confirmed by relevant test reports or certificates. In the absence of such evidence, or at the manufacturer's request, KR type approval may be obtained (Dep't in charge: Marine & Ocean Equipment Team).

Functional Verification and Issuance of Declaration

- (a) Where the Electronic Ballast Water Record Books installed onboard comply with the requirements of resolutions MEPC.372(80), a Declaration issued by the flag Administration should be provided for each ship and retained onboard. Where such authority has been delegated by the Administration to the Society, **the Declaration can be issued after the compliance of the electronic record book installed onboard has been evaluated**.
- (b) The issuance of a Declaration should, in principle, be based on an occasional survey with the attendance of a surveyor for the installation and functional verification.
- (c) Where changes such as software version updates of the electronic record book occur, the modifications should be reviewed by the department responsible for approval to determine whether re-approval is required. If re-approval is granted, the Declaration should be reissued in accordance with paragraph (b) above.

Recommended actions for the use of e-BWRB

- (a) Ships that use an electronic BWRB are to be issued with a ship-specific declaration, either by the ship's flag Administration or by the Society if authorized by the flag Administration. Please apply for an onboard verification and a Declaration to the KR branch office.

- (b) A copy of the Declaration should be available on board. If, during regulatory surveys or inspections, etc., the electronic record book or a declaration provided by the Administration are not available, an alternative verified copy of the records or a hard copy record book may be requested for verification.
- (c) Entries made in the Ballast Water Record Book shall be retained on board the ship for a minimum period of two years after the last entry has been made, and thereafter kept under the Company's control for a minimum period of three years.
- (d) Should you have any further questions, please contact the KR Convention & Legislation Service Team at convention@krs.co.kr

Attachment: Resolution MEPC.372(80) - Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Record Books under the BWM Convention

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