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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
SHIPPING CIRCULAR**

*NO. 01 OF 2022*

**Who does this notice affect?**

Shipowners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Australian and foreign flagged ships  
and Recognised Organisations

**Advice to the international maritime industry – contingency measures for  
ships installed with ballast water management systems**

1. This circular is to inform the industry of Australia’s requirements regarding the use of contingency measures<sup>1</sup> for ships utilising a Ballast Water Management System (BWMS).
2. A contingency measure may only be used in the instance of a BWMS failure or similar unforeseen circumstance. These circumstances may include an inoperable BWMS where all reasonable steps have been undertaken to repair the BWMS prior to uptake or discharge of ballast water.
3. Ship-specific contingency measures, including the use of ballast water exchange where applicable, are required to be incorporated into the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) and be approved by the relevant Recognised Organisation<sup>2</sup>. The ship specific contingency measures can be approved as an appendix or an addendum to the BWMP. The complete BWMP need not be re-approved.
4. The contingency measures developed shall consider IMO BWM.2/Circ.62 on “Guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention”. Ship owners should include as many practical and safe contingency measures in the BWMP as possible, such that the Master can be guided accordingly in the event of a BWMS failure.

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<sup>1</sup> A contingency measure is a method of ballast water management that may be used when a determination has been made that ballast water to be discharged from a ship is unmanaged. A contingency measure should manage ballast water such to ensure that it does not pose any unacceptable risks to the environment, human health, property, and resources.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation B-1 of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention requires each ship to have on board and implement an approved Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP). Resolution MEPC.306(73), incorporate a new paragraph 4.3 which provides for contingency measures to be included in the BWMP.



5. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) must be notified of the intention to use a contingency measure as soon as reasonably practical and prior to the discharge of any ballast water which has been managed using a contingency measure.
  - a. Please contact the department via the National Maritime Centre, [maritimeNC@awe.gov.au](mailto:maritimeNC@awe.gov.au)
  - b. Where BWMS equipment remains defective the Australian Maritime Safety Authority must be informed as soon as reasonably practical via the [AMSA website](#).
6. Australia **does not permit** a ship to discharge unmanaged ballast water in Australian Territorial Seas as a contingency measure in the event of BWMS failure.

### Further information

Contact: [marinepests@awe.gov.au](mailto:marinepests@awe.gov.au)