UNION DES COMORES
Unité – Solidarité – Développement

ADMINISTRATION MARITIME



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Ref No. : **26/05140/COM**
Date : **05.10.2026**

To,
OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES,
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS

SUBJET: **POLICY ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION, 2004 (BWMC)**

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to establish the procedures to be followed for vessels flying the flag of the Union of Comoros in relation to surveys, certification and compliance with the requirements of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).

1.2. All vessels flying the flag of the Union of Comoros, to which the BWM Convention applies, shall comply with the applicable requirements of the Convention and relevant IMO instruments.

2. Application

2.1. This Circular applies to all ships, including submersibles, floating crafts, floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs, as applicable under the BWM Convention.

3. General Requirements

3.1. Ships subject to the BWM Convention shall maintain, as applicable:
- An approved Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP);
- A Ballast Water Record Book; and
- The applicable International Ballast Water Management Certificate or other document required under the Convention.

3.2. Ships of 400 GT and above to which the Convention applies shall carry on board the applicable International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC), together with the approved BWMP and Ballast Water Record Book.

3.3. Mobile offshore units, including Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, shall be surveyed and certified in accordance with the applicable requirements of Regulations E-1 and E-2 of the BWM Convention and relevant IMO circulars.



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4. Ballast Water Management Systems

4.1. Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS) type-approved by another Administration may be accepted for vessels flying the flag of the Union of Comoros, provided that the type approval complies with the applicable IMO requirements and resolutions.

4.2. Ships operating to ports or waters under the jurisdiction of the United States of America shall comply with the applicable requirements of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), including the applicable BWMS acceptance requirements.

5. Ballast Water Management Plan

5.1. The Ballast Water Management Plan shall be submitted by the Shipowner/Manager to a Recognized Organization (RO) authorized by the Administration for evaluation and approval in accordance with Regulation B-1 of the BWM Convention.

5.2. The RO shall approve the BWMP in accordance with the applicable Convention requirements and IMO guidelines. A copy of the approved BWMP shall be maintained on board the vessel and made available for inspection.

5.3. Where a vessel is fitted with a BWMS, or where an existing BWMS is modified or replaced, the BWMP shall be reviewed and amended as necessary and submitted to the RO for approval.

5.4. BWMPs previously approved in accordance with applicable IMO requirements shall remain valid unless revision is required due to changes to the vessel, BWMS or applicable requirements.

6. International Ballast Water Management Certificate

6.1. Ships of 400 GT and above subject to the survey requirements of the BWM Convention shall undergo the applicable surveys in accordance with Regulation E-1.

6.2. Following satisfactory completion of the applicable initial or renewal survey, the RO authorized by the Administration may issue a Short-Term Certificate in accordance with the applicable requirements and the authorization granted by the Administration.

6.3. The RO shall submit to the Administration the relevant survey report, approved BWMP and copy of the Short-Term Certificate for review and record.

6.4. Full-Term International Ballast Water Management Certificate

6.4.1. The RO may issue the Full-Term International Ballast Water Management Certificate on behalf of the Union of Comoros only after the Administration has acknowledged the relevant survey documentation and has provided its authorization to issue the Full-Term Certificate.

6.4.2. The RO shall ensure that the following documents are available before requesting authorization from the Administration:

- Approved Ballast Water Management Plan;
- Short-Term Certificate issued by the RO;
- Relevant survey report; and
- Any other documentation required by the Administration.

6.4.3. Upon receipt and review of the required documentation, the Administration shall provide the necessary acknowledgement and authorization to the RO for issuance of the Full-Term Certificate.

6.4.4. The RO shall not issue the Full-Term Certificate without the prior acknowledgement and authorization of the Administration.

6.4.5. The RO shall provide a copy of the issued Full-Term Certificate to the Administration for its records.

6.5. The applicable fee for the issuance of the Full-Term International Ballast Water Management Certificate shall be as determined by the Administration.

7. Annual and Intermediate Surveys

7.1. Annual and intermediate surveys required under the BWM Convention shall be carried out by the RO duly authorized by the Administration.

7.2. Following satisfactory completion of the applicable survey, the RO may endorse the Certificate in accordance with the BWM Convention and the authorization granted by the Administration.

8. Exemptions and Dispensations

8.1. Any exemption, dispensation, relaxation or deviation from the requirements of the BWM Convention shall be granted exclusively by the Maritime Administration of the Union of Comoros.

8.2. Recognized Organizations are not authorized to grant, approve or issue any exemption or dispensation on behalf of the Administration unless expressly authorized in writing by the Administration for a specific case.

8.3. Any request for exemption or dispensation shall be submitted to the Administration with the relevant technical justification, supporting documents and recommendations from the RO, where applicable.

8.4. The RO shall implement an exemption or dispensation only after receiving the Administration's formal written authorization.

9. Responsibilities of Recognized Organizations

9.1. ROs authorized by the Administration shall conduct surveys and issue or endorse statutory certificates strictly in accordance with the BWM Convention, applicable IMO instruments, this Circular and the specific authorization granted by the Administration.

9.2. The RO shall immediately notify the Administration of any serious deficiency, non-compliance or condition that may affect the validity of the Ballast Water Management Certificate.



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9.3. Nothing in this Circular shall be construed as transferring the Administration's exclusive authority to grant exemptions or dispensations to an RO.

Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

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We take this opportunity to reassure that human life, marine environment and property are always considered as a priority for the Maritime Administration of Comoros which is committed to the safety of the maritime industry and the users around the world.



Maritime Affairs Department

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Registrar