

**GUIDELINES AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Table 1: Supplemental mandatory instruments

Resolution	Title	Status
MEPC.300(72) ¹	Code for Approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS Code)	In effect since 13 October 2019

Table 2: List of Guidelines for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention

Resolution	Title	Status
MEPC.152(55)	Guidelines for sediment reception facilities (G1)	
MEPC.173(58)	Guidelines for ballast water sampling (G2)	
MEPC.123(53)	Guidelines for ballast water management equivalent compliance (G3)	
MEPC.409(84) ²	2026 Guidelines for ballast water management and development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4)	Revokes MEPC.127(53), MEPC.306(73) and MEPC.370(80)
MEPC.153(55)	Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities (G5)	
MEPC.288(71)	2017 Guidelines for ballast water exchange (G6)	Revokes MEPC.124(53) Amended by MEPC.371(80)
MEPC.289(71)	2017 Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention (G7)	Supersedes MEPC.162(56)
MEPC.169(57)	Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances (G9)	Revokes MEPC.126(53)
MEPC.140(54)	Guidelines for approval and oversight of prototype ballast water treatment technology programmes (G10)	
MEPC.149(55)	Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction standards (G11)	
MEPC.209(63)	2012 Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12)	Revokes MEPC.150(55)
MEPC.161(56)	Guidelines for additional measures regarding ballast water management including emergency situations (G13)	
MEPC.151(55)	Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14)	

¹ With the introduction of the BWMS Code the various versions of the *Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems* (G8) became obsolete and are therefore not included in Table 2.

² The link to the 2026 Guidelines (G4) is not available yet; it will be provided as soon as the resolution is published.

Table 3: Indicative list of other resolutions and guidelines related to the implementation of the BWM Convention

Resolution	Title	Status
MEPC.387(81)	Interim guidance on the application of the BWM Convention to ships operating in challenging water quality conditions	
MEPC.372(80)	Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under the BWM Convention	
MEPC.290(71)	The experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention	
MEPC.252(67)	Guidelines for port State control under the BWM Convention	
MEPC.206(62)	Procedure for approving other methods of ballast water management in accordance with regulation B-3.7 of the BWM Convention	

Table 4: Indicative list of circulars related to the implementation of the BWM Convention

Circular	Title	Status
BWM.2/Circ.82	Guidance for the temporary storage of treated sewage and/or grey water in ballast water tanks	
BWM.2/Circ.80/Rev.1	2024 Guidance on ballast water record-keeping and reporting	Revokes BWM.2/Circ.80
BWM.2/Circ.79	Convention Review Plan for the experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention	
BWM.2/Circ.78	Protocol for the verification of ballast water compliance monitoring devices	
BWM.2/Circ.70/Rev.1	2020 Guidance for the commissioning testing of ballast water management systems	Revokes BWM.2/Circ.70
BWM.2/Circ.69	Guidance on System Design Limitations of ballast water management systems and their monitoring	
BWM.2/Circ.66, as revised	Unified interpretations to the BWM Convention	
BWM.2/Circ.63	Application of the Convention to ships operating in sea areas where ballast water exchange in accordance with regulations B-4.1 and D-1 is not possible	
BWM.2/Circ.62	Guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention	
BWM.2/Circ.61/Rev.1	2022 Guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms for type approval of ballast water management systems	Revokes BWM.2/Circ.61
BWM.2/Circ.52/Rev.1	Guidance on entry or re-entry of ships into exclusive operation within waters under the jurisdiction of a single Party	Supersedes BWM.2/Circ.52
BWM.2/Circ.46	Application of the BWM Convention to Mobile Offshore Units	
BWM.2/Circ.45	Clarification of "major conversion" as defined in regulation A-1.5 of the BWM Convention	
BWM.2/Circ.44	Options for ballast water management for Offshore Support Vessels in accordance with the BWM Convention	

Table 4 (continued)

Circular	Title	Status
BWM.2/Circ.43/Rev.2	2024 Guidance for Administrations on the type approval process for ballast water management systems	Revokes BWM.2/Circ.28, BWM.2/Circ.43 and BWM.2/Circ.43/Rev.1
BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.2	2020 Guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis for trial use in accordance with the BWM Convention and Guidelines (G2)	Revokes BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.1
BWM.2/Circ.37	Information that should be made available in proposals for approval of ballast water management systems in accordance with the Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9)	
BWM.2/Circ.34, as revised	List of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances which received Basic and Final Approval	Revised annually
BWM.2/Circ.33/Rev.1	Guidance on scaling of ballast water management systems	Supersedes BWM.2/Circ.33
BWM.2/Circ.32	Applicability of the Ballast Water Management Convention to hopper dredgers	
BWM.2/Circ.27	Framework for determining when a Basic Approval granted to one ballast water management system may be applied to another system that uses the same Active Substance or Preparation	
BWM.2/Circ.21	Engineering Questionnaire on ballast water management systems	
BWM.2/Circ.20	Guidance to ensure safe handling and storage of chemicals and preparations used to treat ballast water and the development of safety procedures for risks to the ship and crew resulting from the treatment process	
BWM.2/Circ.17	Guidance document on arrangements for responding to emergency situations involving ballast water operations	
BWM.2/Circ.13, as revised³	Methodology for information gathering and conduct of work of the GESAMP-BWWG	

Note: All tables updated in June 2026. The lists in Tables 3 and 4 are not exhaustive. For a full list of resolutions and BWM circulars, please consult the [Index of IMO Resolutions](#) and the publicly available [Circulars](#) at IMODOCS.

³ For the applicability of the various revisions, see paragraph 4.1.1 of the report of GESAMP-BWWG 47 (GESAMP-BWWG 47/6, attached to document MEPC 84/4/3), and paragraphs 6 and 7 of BWM.2/Circ.13/Rev.5.