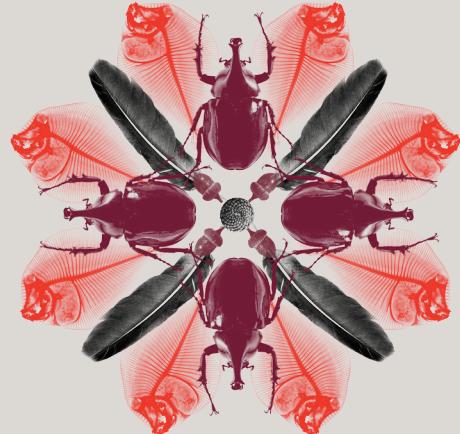




August
2017

Ballast water management for vessels travelling within Australia

CHANGES FOR DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL VESSELS FROM
8 SEPTEMBER 2017



On 8 September 2017, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (the Convention) will enter into force internationally.

From this date, domestic commercial vessels (DCVs) will need to comply with the requirements of the Convention and manage ballast water when travelling between Australian ports.

The Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements Version 7, available from agriculture.gov.au/ballast explain how vessel operators should manage ballast water in compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

New requirements

Management plans and certification

From 8 September 2017, DCVs undertaking ballasting operations must have an:

- approved Ballast Water Management Plan
- Ballast Water Management Certificate.

However, case by case exemptions from certification, or meeting the Convention's D-2 discharge standard apply to some DCVs including:

- ships in the offshore industry
- vessels less than 400 gross tonnes
- vessels with reasonable grounds for exemption which can demonstrate equivalent measures for managing biosecurity and safety concerns.

Approved methods of ballast water management

From 8 September 2017, DCVs must manage ballast water between Australian ports using an **approved method**, including:

- ballast water exchange
- use of an International Maritime Organization type approved ballast water treatment system
- on-board conversion of sea water to potable water for use as ballast
- discharge to a ballast water reception facility
- retention (sometimes known as tank-to-tank transfers).

Some DCVs will not need to install an on-board ballast water treatment system. These include vessels:

- with sealed tanks
- using only potable water
- that only take up and discharge in the same place (within port limits).



Exceptions to ballast water management

Vessels **do not need to use an approved method** of ballast water management if all ballast water in a tank is:

- taken up on high seas
- taken up and discharged in the same place (within port limits)
- taken up and discharged within a declared *same risk area*
- covered by a low risk exemption (this applies to vessels managing Australian-sourced ballast water between specific ports where ballast transfer is determined to be low risk).

Vessel operators can apply for low risk exemptions using the Australian-sourced Ballast Application, or by updating their existing ballast water report, in the Maritime Arrival Reporting System (MARS).

Register your vessel, and learn more about MARS from August 2017 at
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessel/mars

Ballast water exchange

Vessel masters who cannot comply with the following requirements should phone the Maritime National Coordination Centre on 1300 004 605 for advice. Failure to do so before discharging ballast water may result in civil penalties for the operator of the vessel.

Where to exchange Australian-sourced ballast water

Vessels carrying Australian-sourced ballast water must conduct ballast water exchanges as far as possible from the nearest land. This must be **at least** 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, and in water greater than 50 metres deep.

Ballast water must not be discharged or exchanged in:

- Ningaloo Marine Reserve, Western Australia
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Queensland

Please see the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements Version 7 (agriculture.gov.au/ballast) for exchange requirements when operating between ports in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park area.

Phase out of ballast water exchange

Ballast water exchange will be phased out over the next seven years in accordance with Regulation B-3 of the Convention. This will be in favour of higher discharge standards prescribed by Regulation D-2. This may require the installation of an on-board treatment system.

Ensuring compliance

Biosecurity officers will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with Australian domestic ballast water regulations.



Contact 1800 900 090
(free call)



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