

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

BWM.1/Circ.30
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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF
SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Accession by the Congo

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, and to state that accession by the Republic of Congo was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 19 May 2014.

The conditions for entry into force of this Convention have not yet been fulfilled. Article 18(1) of the Convention provides as follows:

"1 This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than thirty States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 35% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article 17."

There are, at present, 40 Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 30.25%* of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.

* This tonnage percentage is based on world tonnage figures provided by IHS/Fairplay, effective as of 31 December 2013. Tonnage figures are liable to fluctuate from year to year.