



Ref. T5/1.22

BWM.2/Circ.12
11 December 2007

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR
THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS'
BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

**Sixth meeting of the GESAMP*–Ballast Water Working Group
established in accordance with resolution MEPC.126(53)**

Background

1 The Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM Convention), in its regulation D-3 provides that ballast water management systems, which make use of Active Substances to comply with the Convention, shall be approved by IMO based on a procedure developed by the Organization.

2 MEPC 53 adopted the 'Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9)' by resolution MEPC.126(53). Section 8 of the Procedure sets out the methodology to be followed for the approval of such systems and requests IMO to establish a Technical Group to review the proposals submitted by Members and report to the Organization on its findings. Based on the report of the Group, the Marine Environment Protection Committee decides on the approval of a proposal submitted by a Member of the Organization.

3 MEPC 53 agreed that a GESAMP-Ballast Water Working Group (GESAMP-BWWG), financed through a fee scheme paid by relevant industries requesting approval for a ballast water management system that makes use of Active Substances, could best serve the needs of the shipping industry. The fee mentioned above is to be based on the recovery of the costs incurred by the Organization in respect of the scientific services provided by the Group.

4 Based on the previous practice agreed by the MEPC, the GESAMP-BWWG aims to hold its meetings 20 weeks before the MEPC session expected to decide on the approval of the proposals made by the Member Governments. Consequently, a 28-week deadline has been established for the submission of the proposal for approval (including the complete application dossier). This allows eight weeks for the preparation of the meeting and enables interested parties to provide information that is relevant to the evaluation in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8.1.2.6 of Procedure (G9). In this respect, Members are invited to submit the non-confidential description of their ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances to the MEPC session before the one expected to decide on the approval or, if this is not possible, at their earliest opportunity after that, but not later than the 28-week deadline established above. A timetable for activities related to the GESAMP-BWWG meetings is attached at annex 1 of this circular.

* GESAMP stands for 'IMO/FAO/UNESCO-IOC/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection'.

Sixth meeting of the GESAMP-BWWG

5 MEPC 58 will be held from 6 to 10 October 2008 and, using the timetable described in paragraph 4 and annex 1, the sixth GESAMP-BWWG meeting is tentatively scheduled for 19 to 23 May 2008, subject to submission of relevant documents and application dossiers by Member States and subject to appropriate payment of the fees described in paragraph 9 below. The GESAMP-BWWG will review the application dossiers received before 21 March 2008 and will further develop its 'Methodology for information gathering and the conduct of work' as necessary. The report of the Group will be reviewed by GESAMP itself and submitted to MEPC 58 for its consideration.

6 Member Governments are invited to submit their proposals for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances, together with the Letter of Agreement referred to in paragraph 8 of this circular and the complete application dossiers, by 21 March 2008, taking into account relevant provisions of the Procedure (G9) and the Terms of Reference attached at the annex 2 of this circular, to:

International Maritime Organization
Marine Environment Division
55 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU
United Kingdom

Tel. +44 (0)20 7587 3247
E-mail: dpughiuc@imo.org

7 Member Governments are reminded that, as a prerequisite of the review, a description of their proposals for approval containing the non-confidential data related to the respective ballast water management system that makes use of Active Substance should have been submitted to MEPC 57 or, if this was not possible, should be submitted to MEPC 58 before 21 March 2008, to enable interested parties to provide information that is relevant to the evaluation by the GESAMP-BWWG.

8 It should be noted that the approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances is part of the regulatory function of the Organization and its Committees and that the GESAMP-BWWG has only an advisory role. A Letter of Agreement concerning the nature of the financial arrangements, the assertion of intellectual property rights, the settlement of disputes and the privileges and immunities of the Organization, shall be signed and submitted by the Members of the Organization together with their respective application dossiers when proposing an approval. The draft text of such a Letter of Agreement is attached as an appendix to this circular for the guidance of interested parties.

9 A non-refundable registration fee of US\$ 50,000 should be paid together with each submission of an application dossier. After the deadline mentioned in paragraph 6 above and based on the number of proposals received, the submitting Administrations will be advised on any additional amount needed to ensure the financing of the meeting. The total amount paid for one specific meeting is not expected to exceed US\$100,000, which covers the costs related to the services provided by the Group, the professional secretarial support to process the submissions and to assist the Group during its deliberation, the production of the report and the administrative and operational support (AOS) costs incurred by IMO. Bearing in mind the cost recovery character of the fee associated to GESAMP-BWWG meetings if a proposal was not recommended for Basic or Final Approval in the first instance any supplemental information should be considered as a new proposal subjected to a new fee.

10 Member Governments intending to submit proposals for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances are advised to contact the IMO Secretariat in advance for detailed information on the payment procedures and any other issues relating to their submissions.

Dates for future GESAMP-BWWG meetings

11 As MEPC 59 and MEPC 60 are tentatively scheduled in July 2009 and April 2010, using the timetable described in paragraph 4 and annex 1 to this circular, the seventh and eighth GESAMP-BWWG meetings are tentatively planned for February 2009 and November 2009, with the deadlines for submission of the proposals for approval in December 2008 and September 2009, respectively. The final dates will be circulated in due course.

12 Member Governments are also invited to note that the above arrangements will be reviewed in due course and amended, as appropriate, in light of the experience gained.

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Appendix

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

**relating to a ballast water management system that makes use of
Active Substances proposed for approval in accordance with regulation D-3,
paragraph 2 of the Ballast Water Management Convention**

Having received a satisfactory application on [please insert the name of the ballast water management system] produced by [please insert the name of the manufacturer], the undersigned hereby confirms, on behalf of the maritime Administration of [please insert the name of the submitting country], that the application dossier regarding the ballast water management system that makes use of Active Substance(s) mentioned above is subject to the following conditions:

1. **Financial arrangements:** The fee paid in connection with this proposal for approval is based on the recovery of costs incurred by the International Maritime Organization (Organization) in respect of the services provided by the GESAMP-Ballast Water Working Group. Fees will be invoiced in up to three tranches:
 - US\$50,000 immediately following receipt of this Letter of Agreement by the Organization;
 - an additional US\$50,000 immediately following the deadline for submissions, if only one submission has been made; and/or
 - a final invoice to recover costs over the initial cost estimate, if required.

All fees paid as described above will be retained in a Trust Fund established for this purpose.

2. **Intellectual Property Rights:** The Organization and the members of the GESAMP-Ballast Water Working Group will make every reasonable effort to prevent the disclosure of information which is clearly and prominently identified as being subject to an intellectual property right, subject to the condition that sufficient detail must be provided to the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the Organization to enable that body to perform its functions under resolution MEPC.126(53) and, in particular, to approve the proposed ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances. In this respect the members of the Group will be required to sign a declaration concerning the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of their affiliation with the Group. In any case, neither the Organization nor the members of the GESAMP Ballast Water Working Group can accept liability for damage or loss, which may result from disclosure of such information in the exercise of their responsibilities.
3. **Settlement of disputes:** The submitting Administration, the Organization, and the GESAMP-Ballast Water Working Group shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to the process established for reviewing Active Substances used for the management of ballast water or this Letter of Agreement, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where these parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the

conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then pertaining, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the parties. Any dispute, controversy or claim, which is not settled amicably shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then pertaining. The place of the arbitration will be London, England.

4. **Privileges and immunities:** Nothing in or relating to the process established for reviewing Active Substances used for the management of ballast water or this Letter of Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the International Maritime Organization, including its officers, experts or subsidiary organizations or of the privileges and immunities to which the Administration is entitled under international law.

Members of the GESAMP-Ballast Water Working Group, when performing functions in connection with the terms of reference of the Group, shall be considered to be experts of the Organization pursuant to Annex XII of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

Authorized signature on behalf of the maritime Administration:

Typed/Printed name: _____

Title/Position/Organization/Country: _____

Date of signature: _____

Fees Invoicing address: _____

ANNEX 1

TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO GESAMP-BWWG MEETINGS

Timeline	Activity
28 weeks before MEPC	Deadline for submission of application dossiers and related documents to be reviewed by GESAMP-BWWG
(8 weeks)	Preparation of the meeting, including circulation of any relevant information provided by other delegations
20 weeks before MEPC	GESAMP-BWWG Meeting
(1 week)	Editing and completion of the draft report of the meeting
(1 week)	Administrations confirm that no confidential data are contained in the report
(3 weeks)	Review and approval of the report by GESAMP
(1 week)	Produce the final report addressing the comments by GESAMP
13 weeks before MEPC	Submission of the report of the meeting of GESAMP-BWWG in accordance with the 13 weeks deadline for MEPC

ANNEX 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GESAMP-BWWG GROUP

1 Consideration of development of necessary methodologies and information requirements in accordance with the Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9) for consideration by MEPC 58.

2 For Basic Approval, the Group should review the comprehensive proposal submitted by the Member of the Organization along with any additional data submitted as well as other relevant information available to the Group and report to the Organization. In particular, the Group should undertake:

- .1 Scientific evaluation of the data-set in the proposal for approval (see paragraphs 4.2, 6.1, 8.1.2.3, 8.1.2.4 of G9);
- .2 Scientific evaluation of the assessment report contained in the proposal for approval (see paragraph 4.3.1 of G9);
- .3 Scientific evaluation of the risks to the ship and personnel to include consideration of the storage, handling and application of the active substance (see paragraph 6.3 of G9);
- .4 Scientific evaluation of any further information submitted (see paragraph 8.1.2.6 of G9);
- .5 Scientific review of the risk characterization and analysis contained in the proposal for approval (see paragraph 5.3 of G9);
- .6 Scientific recommendations on whether the proposal has demonstrated a potential for unreasonable risk to the environment, human health, property or resources (see paragraph 8.1.2.8 of G9); and
- .7 Preparation of a report addressing the above-mentioned aspects for consideration by MEPC (see paragraph 8.1.2.10 of G9).

3 For Final Approval, the Group should review the discharge testing (field) data and confirm that the residual toxicity of the discharge conforms to the evaluation undertaken for Basic Approval and that the previous evaluation of the risks to the ship and personnel including consideration of the storage, handling and application of the Active Substance remains valid. The evaluation will be reported to MEPC (see paragraph 8.2 of G9).

4 The Group shall keep confidential all data, the disclosure of which would undermine protection of the commercial interests of the applicant, including intellectual property