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BWM.1/Circ.4  
24 January 2008

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

**Accession by Sierra Leone and Kenya**

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 following Contracting States was effected by the deposit of instruments on the dates indicated:

<b>Name of State</b>	<b>Date of deposit of instrument</b>
The Republic of Sierra Leone	21 November 2007
The Republic of Kenya	14 January 2008

Article 18 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 thirty-five per cent 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 accordance with Article 17.”

There are, at present, twelve Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 3.46% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.