

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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STATUTORY ALERT Norwegian ballast water management regulations

APPLICABILITY All shipowners, operators and charterers

INFORMATION With effect from January 1, 2010, all ships, regardless of flag, will be required to exchange, treat or deliver to a shore reception facility all ballast water taken up outside the following areas: the Barents Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea, the Irish Sea, the Bay of Biscay and surrounding Iberian peninsular, and the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean.* This will also apply if ballast water is taken up in one of these specified areas and will be discharged in another. The requirements will apply when calling at Norwegian ports and when operating in Norwegian territorial waters.

Ballast is to be exchanged in waters at least 200 metres deep and 200 nautical miles from the nearest land. If this is not possible, ballast may be exchanged in waters 200 metres deep and not less than 50 nautical miles from land. Ships are not required to deviate from their intended voyage to meet this requirement. If a ship cannot exchange ballast in the specified depth of water or at the required distance from land, it must be exchanged in one of three designated exchange zones off the Norwegian coast*.

Ballast need not be exchanged if the master reasonably decides that doing so would threaten the safety or stability of the ship, its crew or its passengers because of adverse weather, ship design, equipment failure or any other extraordinary condition.

Ballast which has been treated with a ballast water treatment system approved in accordance with IMO standards need not be exchanged.

Ships will be required to have on board a ballast water management plan approved in accordance with the IMO guidelines. Ships should also have and maintain a ballast water record book.

Norwegian flagged ships using ballast water treatment technology are required to be surveyed and certified by the Norwegian administration – this requirement does not apply to ships flying other flags.

* The precise coordinates of these areas can be viewed at:

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/pressesenter/pressemeldinger/2009/norge-gar-foran-med-nasjonale-krav-til-b.html?id=571079> Please note that currently this page is only available in Norwegian.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you are an owner or operator and require further assistance, please get in touch with your local Lloyd's Register Group office at the earliest opportunity and we will be happy to assist.

Further information

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