

MCI Circular 318 / 2025

To: Vessel Owners, MLC shipowners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Paris and Tokyo Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign 2025 on Ballast Water Management

Attachments:

- [Questionnaire on Ballast Water Management CIC Campaign](#)
- [Press release 1st August 2025](#)

Date: 5th August 2025

Summary

The Member Authorities of the Tokyo and the Paris Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Port State Control will launch a joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management.

The **main objective** of this CIC is to determine if ships meet the mandatory requirements for Ballast Water Management (BWM) as prescribed in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention). This 2025 campaign has been initiated in order to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the BWM Convention.

Inspections

The campaign will examine specific areas related to the Ballast Water Management:

- Proper certification for BWM Convention;
- Approval and update of the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP);
- Crew familiarisation in the implementation of the BWMP;
- Ballast Water Management System approval and its operation;
- Records of Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB);
- Ballast water sediment management; and
- Valid exemptions, if any.

This inspection campaign will be held for three months, commencing from **1 September 2025 and ending 30 November 2025**.

The CIC inspections will be applicable to all ships and conducted in conjunction with the regular Port State Control inspection. A ship will be subject to **only one inspection** under this CIC during the period of the campaign.

Inspection Details

Questionnaire

Port State Control Officers will use a pre-defined questionnaire to assess that the BWM requirements in the respective areas are met.

Deficiencies and Detentions

If any non-conformities are found, actions by the port State may vary from recording a deficiency and instructing the Master to rectify it within a certain period of time, **to detaining the ship** until the serious deficiencies have been rectified.

Inspections Results

Inspection results will be published on the websites of the Tokyo and Paris MoU. The results of the campaign will be analysed and findings will be presented to the governing bodies of both MoUs for possible submission to the International Maritime Organization.

Cook Islands specific requirements:

Confirmation that BWTS installed on board was issued with a **Type Approval Certificate issued either by an IACS RO on behalf of the Cook Islands or by MCI based on an existing Type Approval Certificate**, according to Circular Letter nr. 221/2020 available at the below link:

<https://maritimcookislands.com/wp-content/uploads/mci-circular-221-2020-ballast-water-management-systems-for-cook-islands-flagged-vessels.pdf>

Cook Islands requires to all fleet, **within the 18th of August 2025**, to inform the Flag State if:

- The requirement to have the BWTS installed on board certified with a Type Approval Certificate—either issued by an IACS Recognized Organization on behalf of the Cook Islands, or by MCI based on an existing Type Approval Certificate in accordance with Circular Letter No. 221/2020—is not met;
- Proper certification for BWM Convention should be not available onboard;
- Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) is not available onboard or not approved or not updated;
- Crew familiarisation in the implementation of the BWMP is not available onboard;
- Ballast Water Management System approval is not available onboard or not operational;
- Records of Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB) is not available onboard;
- Any anomalies in the Ballast water sediment management; and

- if any exemptions were issued, if the exemption is not in order.

For further information or clarification please contact the MO&C Division and the Technical department at technical@maritimecookislands.com