



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Information Notice – 133

MIN 723 (M+F) Ballast water management: the intra North Sea ballast water contingency area

To: Masters, Owners, Operators, Certifying Authorities, and Recognised Organisations

1. References

- MIN 723 (M+F) Ballast water management: the intra North Sea ballast water contingency area
- Ballast Water Management Convention
- Shipping Guidance Notice 125 - Ballast Water Treatment Systems – Contingency Measures
- Shipping Guidance Notice 158 - Ballast Water Treatment Systems – Challenging Water Quality

2. Introduction

- 2.1. This Shipping Information Notice (SIN) serves to bring to the attention of stakeholders the recently published United Kingdom (UK) Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) *MIN 723 (M+F) Ballast water management: the intra North Sea ballast water contingency area*.
- 2.2. Following the expiry Intra North Sea Ballast Water Exchange Area, the Intra North Sea Contingency Area has been established on 19 June 2025, for the purpose of ballast water exchange and treatment in accordance with BWM.2/Circ.62 and Resolution MEPC.387(81).
- 2.3. The expired Intra North Sea Ballast Water Exchange Area was a designated area where ships pursuant to Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM) D-1 standard engaged on voyages between 2 North Sea ports could conduct ballast water exchange.
- 2.4. Pursuant to BWM D-2 requirements, the establishment of the Intra North Sea Contingency Area is primarily related to ships operating in North Sea ports when faced with challenging water quality and subsequently facilitating the handling of non-compliant ballast water in conjunction with BWM.2/Circ.62 and Resolution MEPC.387(81).
- 2.5. SIN 133 should be read in conjunction with Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN) 125 & 158.

3. Application

- 3.1. Gibraltar registered ships which are subject to the requirements of BWM Regulation B-3, D-2 ballast exchange standard.
- 3.2. A ship may only use the Contingency Area, as delimited by co-ordinates in Annex 2 of the OSPAR Summary Record, for an exchange using the BWMS if it meets the requirements laid out in Section 4 of the same Summary Record.
- 3.3. The Intra North Sea Contingency Area will expire on 26 June 2030 unless extended by the aforementioned States and will be reviewed on a yearly basis to update the map and coordinates as appropriate.

Steve Gomez - Chief Surveyor
For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

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