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INTERTANKO

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Maritime Safety Administration of the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China
Notice [2019] 661 from the Dept. of Dangerous Goods Management and Pollution Prevention

Notice from the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of the Ministry of Transport Regarding the Exemption from Conducting Ballast Water Exchange by Ships Plying Between China and Korea

To all local MSA branches:

The 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention (hereinafter referred to as the BWM Convention) has been in force in China since 22 January 2019. In order to resolve the difficulties faced by some international vessels trading between China and South Korea in regard to ballast water exchange, based on the consensus between the maritime authorities of both countries, in accordance with the IMO Circular, international vessels plying between China and South Korea shall be exempted from conducting ballast water exchange with immediate effect when the below listed requirements are met, please comply:

1. Period of Exemption

1 June 2019 till 7 September 2024

2. Application

Applies only to international vessels¹ plying between China and South Korea

3. Requirements

Referring to IMO Circular BWM.2/Circ.63 where application of the BWM Convention to ships operating in sea areas where ballast water exchange in accordance with regulation B-4.1 and D-1 is not possible, a vessel is exempted from conducting ballast water exchange where one of the following conditions is met:

3.1 Depth of water along the ship's route is less than 50 metres;

3.2 Ship's route is less than 100 nautical miles from the territorial sea baselines of China's destination ports

Vessels that are unable to conduct ballast water exchange in accordance with the BWM Convention due to one of the above listed conditions, shall record the reason for not being able to conduct ballast water exchange in the ballast water record book.

4. Others

All local MSA branches shall inform the relevant persons of ships within their jurisdiction that meets the requirements of this notice, and report any issues faced in the implementation process to the MSA.

Maritime Safety Administration of the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China
28 May 2019

¹ **Note from INTERTANKO:** While it is not explicitly indicated in this Notice, the Secretariat checked with China MSA and can confirm that this exemption is only applicable to **vessels flagged with China and the Republic of Korea.**