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01 AUGUST 2025

CIC on Ballast Water Management 2025

Applicable to: This FLEET SAFETY LETTER should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships and Recognized Organizations

The Maritime Administrator of Vanuatu International Shipping Registry hereby issues this Fleet Safety Letter (FSL), effective immediately, to draw urgent attention to the **Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management (BWM)** launched by the Tokyo MoU and Paris MoU on Port State Control.

This CIC will be conducted from **1 September 2025 to 30 November 2025**, and **all vessels operating in areas where the regulations indicated in the CIC apply and trading in the region** are subject to inspection during this period. Each vessel will only undergo **one inspection** under this campaign.

1. Scope of the Campaign

The purpose of this CIC is to verify that ships fully comply with the **International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention)**. Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) will evaluate, among others:

- Valid **International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)** on board
- Approval and **up-to-date status of the Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP)**
- **Crew familiarization** with BWMP implementation
- **Approval and operational status** of the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS)
- **Proper entries** in the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB), including any granted exemptions
- **Ballast water sediment management** in accordance with BWMP
- **Compliance with conditions of exemptions**, if any

2. Mandatory Actions for Vanuatu-Flagged Vessels

All Vanuatu-registered vessels **operating or trading in areas covered by the CIC** must:

- Conduct thorough **internal checks** against the CIC checklist (attached)
- Ensure **full compliance with the BWM Convention** and all referenced **international regulations**
- Verify that **no deficiencies or non-conformities** related to this CIC exist onboard during the campaign
- Maintain **readiness for PSC inspection**, including crew awareness and proper documentation

Any **non-compliance** could result in **deficiency reports, detention, or other enforcement measures** by the Port State.

3. Critical Reminder

The Maritime Administrator emphasizes that **full compliance** with the attached checklist is **mandatory**, and vessels must make **all reasonable efforts** to ensure no non-conformities are present onboard. Masters and operators are urged to **review arrangements of the Ballast Water Management immediately** and confirm that all records, plans, and equipment are in **perfect working order** prior to entering ports under Tokyo or Paris MoU jurisdiction.

For additional information, please contact: Office of the Maritime Administrator at info@register-vu.com.


Berke Ayazli
Executive Vice President
Vanuatu International Shipping Registry
The Republic of Vanuatu



1 August 2025

JOINT CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT

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 purpose of the campaign 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.

In order to determine if ships meet the requirements of the Convention, the following areas will be verified during inspections:

- 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.

The inspection campaign will be held for three months, commencing from 1 September 2025 and ending 30 November 2025. A ship will be subject to only one inspection under this CIC during the period of the campaign.

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

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. 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.

Paris MOU	Tokyo MOU
<p>Mr. Luc Smulders Secretary-General Paris MoU on Port State Control PO Box 16191 2500 BD The Hague The Netherlands Tel: +31-70-4561508</p> <p>E-mail: secretariat@parismou.org Web-site: www.parismou.org</p>	<p>Mr. KUBOTA Hideo Secretary, Tokyo MOU Secretariat Ascend Shimbashi 8F 6-19-19, Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo Japan 105-0004 Tel: +81-3-3433 0621 Fax: +81-3-3433 0624 E-mail: secretariat@tokyo-mou.org Web-site: www.tokyo-mou.org</p>

Notes to editors:

Paris MOU	Tokyo MOU
<p>Regional Port State Control was initiated in 1982 when the maritime Authorities of fourteen European countries agreed to coordinate their port State inspection effort under a voluntary agreement known as the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU). Currently 27 countries are members of the Paris MOU. The European Commission, although not a signatory to the Paris MOU, is also a member of the Committee.</p> <p>The Paris MoU is supported by a central database THETIS hosted and operated by the European Maritime Safety Agency in Lisbon. Inspection results are available for search and daily updating by MoU Members. Inspection results can be consulted on the Paris MoU public website.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the MoU is provided by the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and located in The Hague.</p>	<p>The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region, known as the Tokyo MOU, was signed among eighteen maritime Authorities in the region on 1 December 1993 and came into operation on 1 April 1994. Currently, the Memorandum has 22 full members, namely: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the Memorandum is located in Tokyo, Japan. The PSC database system, the Asia-Pacific Computerized Information System (APCIS), was established. The APCIS centre is located in Moscow, under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.</p>
<p>Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to verify their compliance with international rules on safety, pollution prevention and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance in cases where the owner and flag State have failed in their responsibility to implement or ensure compliance. The port State can require deficiencies to be corrected, and detain the ship for this purpose if necessary. It is therefore also a port State's defense against visiting substandard shipping.</p>	

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON PORT STATE CONTROL
IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN
ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT
01/09/2025 to 30/11/2025

CIC on Ballast Water Management

Inspection Authority			
Ship Name		IMO Number	
Date of Inspection		Inspection Port	

No.	Item	Yes	No	N/A	Detention
1*	Is a valid International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) on board?				
2*	Is the approved Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) on board?				
3*	Is the BWMP up to date to reflect the applicable requirements to manage Ballast Water as required by the Convention?				
4*	Are officers and crew familiar with their duties in the implementation of the BWMP?				
5*	Is the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) approved by the Administration/Organization, as appropriate?				
6*	Is the BWMS operational?				
7	Was the Ballast Water managed according to the BWMP?				
8	Is the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB) properly filled including exemptions if granted?				
9*	Is the crew managing Ballast Water sediments in accordance with the BWMP?				
10*	If an exemption has been granted, are the conditions of exemption implemented?				

If "No" is ticked for questions marked with an asterisk "*", the ship may be considered for detention