



RAYAH MARITIME SERVICES GROUP (RMSG)

This circular will come into force effective May 25th, 2010.

This circular is to inform concerned and interested parties about ballast management requirements and guidelines applicable in the ROPME Sea Area. It is intended to provide relevant guidance to our clients transiting or operating in this area.

The ROPME Sea Area (RSA) comprises the Kingdom of Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, State of Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Reference is made to IMO MEPC 59/INF.3 dated 2 February 2009.

With effect from 1 November 2009, all ships, regardless of flag, will be required to exchange and/or treat all ballast water taken up outside the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment Sea Area, ROPME, (RSA). Taking into consideration the provisions of the regulations of the Ballast Water Management Convention and the guidelines for ballast water exchange, the following points should be reasonably observed;

A) Vessels arriving from outside the RSA should undertake ballast water exchange en route in water over 200 nautical miles from the nearest land and in water at least 200 metres in depth.

B) If it is not possible for safety reasons, then vessels should make deviations to areas within the 200 nautical miles limit that can be identified as discharge area, so long as such areas are more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest land in waters at least 200 metres in depth.

C) If this is not achievable, then the vessel shall provide the respective authority with the reason why it has not been possible to do so and further ballast management measures may be required, consistent with the Ballast Water Management Convention as they would exist when the Convention is in force and other international laws.

Ballast water, which has been treated with a ballast water treatment system approved in accordance with IMO Ballast Water Management Guidelines, do not need to be exchanged. Ships will be required to have on board an approved Ballast Water Management Plan in accordance with the IMO standards. Ships should also have and maintain a Ballast Water Record Book.

From the date specified above, all ships passing the Strait of Hormuz will be required to complete the Regional Ballast Water Reporting Form (RBWRF). Ships might be inspected by the Port State Control Officers to ensure that these Regional requirements are fully implemented.

Should ship-owners or operators require further information or assistance, they are advised to get in touch with their local Ship's agent or respective Port Authority.

We invite you to contact us without hesitation if we can be of further assistance in explaining the use and content of this circular.

Rayah Maritime Services Group (RMSG)

Technical Department

Email : tech@rayahgroup.org

Tel : +963 43 317670 / 317671

Fax : +963 43 317672