



16/06/2020

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SHIPPING CIRCULAR**

NO. 01 OF 2020

Who does this notice affect?

Shipowners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Australian and foreign flagged ships, Recognised Organisations (ROs), ballast water management equipment manufacturers and shipyards

**Advice to the international maritime industry – Compliance with Ballast
Water Requirements during COVID-19**

1. In the event that a ship cannot meet the requirements of Regulation B-3 of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, due to delay of dry-docking caused by disruption from COVID-19, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) will seek confirmation that the flag State has agreed to an exceptional delay specific to COVID-19.
2. The ship should also provide evidence of a plan that covers how the ship will be brought into compliance with the requirements of Regulation B-3 of the BWM Convention.
3. Where there is no evidence of flag State approval and the ship has exceeded the requirements by three (3) months, the ship will be treated in the normal manner as per the Tokyo MOU procedures.
4. Any queries to this circular should be directed to the Marine Biosecurity Unit at pestsmarine@awe.gov.au

Further information

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/campaigns/advice-international-maritime-industry-during-covid-19>