



September  
2019

# Ballast water management phase-out schedule



From 8 September 2019, all vessels that use ballast water are required to meet the Regulation D2 discharge standard of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (the Convention) at their next renewal survey.

Vessels using ballast water exchange (Regulation D1) as their primary ballast water management method are required to phase out this management method and meet the Regulation D2 discharge standard. Vessels may meet this standard by installing an International Maritime Organization (IMO) Type Approved ballast water management system, or as specified within the Convention.



## Complying with the Ballast Water Management Convention

*Stopping the spread of invasive aquatic species*



**D1** standard requiring ships to exchange ballast water in open seas, away from coastal areas. Few organisms survive.

**D2** standard specifying the maximum amount of viable organisms allowed to be discharged, including specified indicator microbes harmful to human health. Usually involves installing ballast water management system.

### BACKGROUND INFO

- All new ships must conform to the D2 standard.
- Until the date when they have to meet the D2 standard, existing ships should exchange ballast water mid-ocean, to meet the D1 standard.
- Over time, all ships will have to meet the D2 standard.
- 'Renewal survey' refers to the IOPPC renewal survey under MARPOL Annex I

All ships must have:

- ballast water management plan
- ballast water record book
- International Ballast Water Management Certificate

Existing ships with renewal survey between 8 September 2017 and 8 September 2019

Case 1: if previous renewal survey was between 8 September 2014 and 8 September 2017 – must comply with D2 by this renewal survey.

Case 2: if previous renewal survey was before 8 September 2014 – then compliance with D2 must be by the next renewal survey.

New ships built on or after 8 September 2017 must meet the D2 standard.

Existing ships built prior to 8 September 2017 must meet the D1 standard until their D2 compliance date.

Existing ships with renewal survey after 8 September 2019 must meet D2 standard by this renewal survey.

All ships must meet D2 standard by 8 September 2024.

2024 ✓

2019 ✓

2017 ✓

D2 STANDARD  
D1 STANDARD



## Exemptions

### Exemptions available

Exemptions are available upon application for vessels operating predominantly in Australian waters or the high seas. These include:

- Exemption from the requirement to have a ballast water management plan and certificate.
- Exemption from meeting the D2 discharge standard. This is an exemption that allows vessels to continue to use ballast water exchange as their primary ballast water management method (D1 discharge standard).

### The D2 discharge standard

#### Case by case exemptions from meeting the D2 discharge standard:

Applications will be accepted for vessels operating solely within Australian waters. For these vessels applications will be considered under the following scenarios:

- Floating platforms, Floating Storage Units and Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Units operating exclusively in Australian waters.
- Vessels unable to retrofit a ballast water management system based on certified design restrictions.
- Vessels which are only required to manage ballast water for the purposes of scheduled maintenance or emergency response.

#### The following vessels do not need to apply for an exemption:

- vessels that do not use ballast water to control trim, stability or list.
- vessels considered to have sealed tanks.

#### Applying for an exemption from meeting the D2 discharge standard:

An exemption will only be required from the time the vessel would have otherwise needed to meet the D2 discharge standard under the Convention. For most vessels, this will be the first renewal survey after 8 September 2019.

Applications must include justification. Supporting documentation, for example a detailed explanation of the vessel's operating profile, should be included.

### How to apply

To apply for an exemption listed above, download the application form from [agriculture.gov.au/ballast](http://agriculture.gov.au/ballast) and email to [pestsmarine@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:pestsmarine@agriculture.gov.au).



1800 900 090 or  
+61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)



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