



Client Alert 24-2016

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U.S. Ballast Water Management Standard

USCG issues First Type Approval to Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS)

Today, the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC) issued the first U.S. Coast Guard **Ballast Water Management System Type Approval Certificate** to Norwegian manufacturer [Optimarin AS](#), after a detailed review of the type approval application determined that the system met the requirements of 46 CFR 162.060. The Optimarin Ballast System is a filtration/ultraviolet ballast water management system with treatment capacities ranging from 167m³/h to 3000m³/h. A copy of the type approval certificate may be obtained by contacting the manufacturer.

The Marine Safety Center continues to review type approval applications from other BWTS manufacturers. Each type approval application includes thousands of pages of data and analysis to document compliance with the comprehensive land-based and shipboard testing requirements. In addition, the applications include detailed descriptions of materials, evaluations of component suitability for the maritime environment and operating manuals. The Marine Safety Center remains in constant communication with the manufacturers and the Independent Laboratories to keep them apprised of the status of their review.

“While this is a significant milestone, it is the first of multiple system approvals that are needed to mitigate the threat of harmful aquatic invasive species,” said Rear Adm. Paul Thomas, Assistant Commandant for prevention policy. “One size does not fit all, so we will continue to evaluate other systems submitted by multiple manufactures with the intent to provide options that meet shipping’s varying needs.”

In conjunction with the type approval certification, the Coast Guard released [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 14-16](#) (copy attached with this Alert) which provides answers to frequently asked questions concerning:

- The extension program;
- Vessel compliance dates; and
- Use of Alternate Management Systems (AMS).

U.S. regulations allow the Coast Guard to grant an extension to a vessel’s compliance date if the Master, owner, operator, agent or person in charge (collectively “owner/operator”) documents that, despite all efforts, compliance with one of the approved ballast water management methods, including installation of a Coast Guard type-approved BWTS, is not possible. Now that a type-approved BWTS is available, any owner/operator requesting an extension must provide the Coast Guard with an explicit statement supported by documentary evidence (e.g., a delay in commercial availability) that installation

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of the type approved system is not possible for purposes of compliance with the regulatory implementation schedule.

While this certification provides vessel owners and operators with a type-approved system to meet the ballast water discharge standard, there continues to be other means available to vessels to comply with U.S. ballast water management regulations. These include:

- Temporary use of a foreign type-approved BWMS that has been accepted by the Coast Guard as an Alternate Management System (AMS) (5-year validity) if installed in compliance with 33 CFR Part 151.
- Use of ballast water obtained exclusively from a U.S. public water system.
- Discharge of ballast water to a reception facility.
- No discharge of unmanaged ballast water within the 12 nm limit.

Please note that USCG extension letters, including letters issued to vessels with installed BWTS that receive type approval, will remain valid until the extended compliance date specified in the letter. Please refer to [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 14-16](#) for more detailed answers to FAQ on this subject, availability of future extensions, etc.

Source : US Coast Guard Maritime Commons.