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Marine Design Center

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Marine & Floating Plant Newsletter

Special Edition - Ballast Water Management

Inside this issue:

Special Edition - Ballast Water Management

BWDS Rule Summary 1

BWDS Flowchart 2

NEW BALLAST WATER REGULATIONS

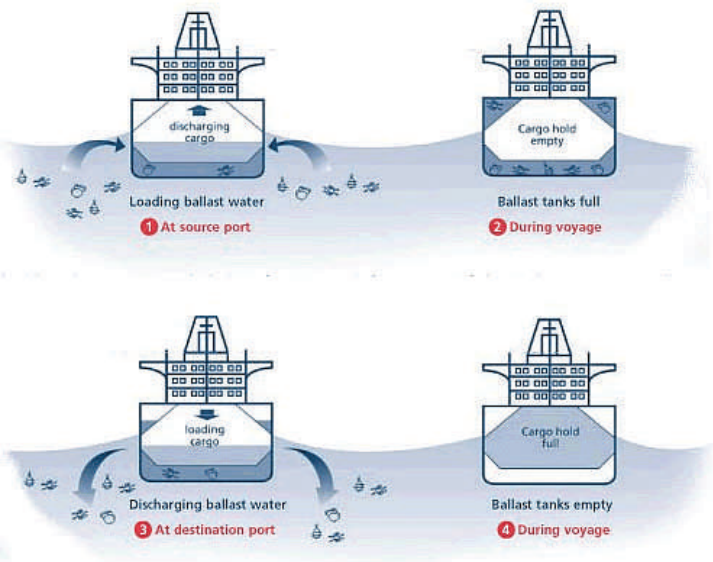
On 23 March 2012, the US Coast Guard published the final rule regarding Ballast Water Management and Discharge Standards (BWDS). This is the first such national standard for ballast water and it will become effective on **21 June 2012**.

The first question many of you may have is….Will my vessel be impacted by the new BWDS? There is no short answer; so the long answer is that some vessels may be required to install equipment to "treat" ballast water, while many vessels will not need treatment systems but will be required to follow best management practices with respect to ballast water, reporting and record keeping. **To determine if your vessel must comply with BWDS, please refer to the flow chart on the page 2.**

The new BWDS standards are found in 33 CFR Part 151 Subpart D – Ballast Water Management for Control of Nonindigenous Species in Waters of the United States. The key elements of the new rules are:

- All vessels (self-propelled and barge) with ballast tanks must comply with 33CFR151.2050 – Additional Requirements (specific practices with respect to ballast water use and management, maintain a ballast water plan, training, etc.).
- Vessels > 1600 GRT (i.e. ocean-going hopper dredges) will have to comply with all parts of 33CFR151 Subpart D, including 151.2025 – Ballast Water Management Requirements (i.e. install a type approved ballast water management system, use public water, discharge 200 NM off-shore, etc.).
- Vessels < 1600 GRT may still have to comply with sections of 33CFR151 Subpart D, specifically 151.2060 Reporting and 151.2070 Recording Keeping (along with 33CFR151.2050 – Additional Requirements).
- Vessels operating on the Great Lakes and Hudson River above the George Washington Bridge have similar BWDS requirement, which are found in 33CFR151 Subpart C.
- Compliance Dates:
  - Ballast Water Capacity (1,500 m^3 to 5,000 m^3) = First Schedule Dry-Docking after 01 Jan 2014
  - Ballast Water Capacity (< 1,500 m^3 or > 5,000 m^3) = First Schedule Dry-Docking after 01 Jan 2016
- Refer to the flow chart on the following page to determine specific vessel applicability.

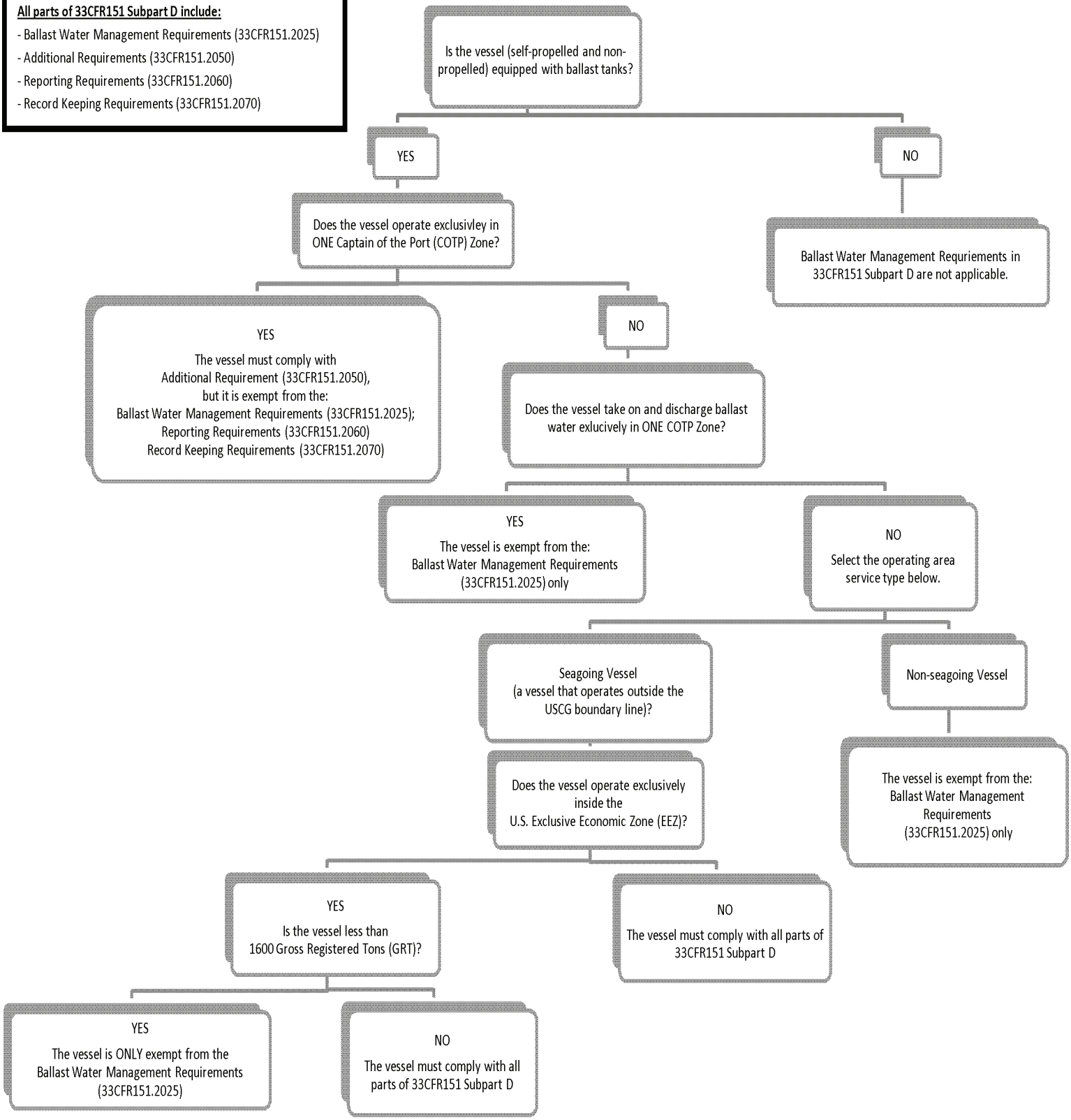
(cont'd on page 3)



BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT VESSEL APPLICATION CHART

All parts of 33CFR151 Subpart D include:

- Ballast Water Management Requirements (33CFR151.2025)
- Additional Requirements (33CFR151.2050)
- Reporting Requirements (33CFR151.2060)
- Record Keeping Requirements (33CFR151.2070)



New Ballast Water Regs (cont'd)

(Cont'd from Page 1)
It is recommended that you review the final rule and become familiar with the BWDS requirements. Information from the USCG on ballast water, system type approvals, and the final rule can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg522/cg5224/bwm.asp.

If you have any questions regarding Ballast Water Management and final rule, please contact Tim Keyser at MDC, (215) 656-6171, Timothy.J.Keyser@usace.army.mil.

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Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Suite 630 South
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Any questions or suggestions for the next issue can be referred to either of the following:
Phone: 215-656-6850
Fax: 215-656-6868
Vinton Bossert vinton.c.bossert@usace.army.mil
Timothy Keyser timothy.j.keyser@usace.army.mil