



# Ballast Water Treatment Systems

The following health and safety awareness alert is provided as part of MR Group’s efforts to raise the awareness of industry personnel regarding the hazards and risks associated with oil and gas drilling rigs and operations. We thank our Clients and field teams for sharing the information.

## What happened?

The Ballast Water Management Convention or BWM Convention was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in order to help prevent the spread of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water. From 8 September 2017, ships must manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released into a new location. This will help prevent the spread of invasive species as well as potentially harmful pathogens.

IMO Regulation B3 – Ballast Water Management for Ships, requires that by 2024 all ships must comply with the D-2 Ballast Water Standard. In many cases the trigger for compliance with the D-2 Standard saw vessels require a Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) installed by 2017 or earlier. Prior to the implementation of the D-2 Standard ships could comply with the D-1 Standard which allowed ships to conduct an exchange of ballast water such that at least 95% of water by volume was exchanged far from the coast. The D-2 standard specifies that ships can only discharge ballast water that meets specific criteria for content of viable marine organisms.



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**What was done:**

MR Group continue to be involved in shipyard projects involving new-build construction, or significant upgrades, of vessels for offshore drilling operations.

In some cases, there is an unrecognised trigger event that requires the vessel's ballast water management to be upgraded to enable compliance with the IMO D-2 Ballast Water Standard.

MR Group personnel are aware of the trigger events that require vessels to commence compliance with the IMO D-2 standard and well versed in the design, installation, commissioning, and operation of various types of ballast water treatment systems for vessels involved in offshore drilling operations.

This knowledge and experience has assisted both drilling contractors and client companies to make representations to regulators and include appropriate ballast water management plans when preparing applications for environmental approvals.