

Albion Marine Solutions

The G8 type-approval deadline is getting close.

October 28, 2020



The deadline for manufacturers to get the IMO BWMS Code type approval, also known as G8, is getting close. This approval was issued on 21st September 2018 and includes no operational limitations of the BWMS in terms of salinities, water temperatures or holding times. For shipowners who have trades outside the US will be affected by this once it comes into effect on the 28 of October 2020.

According to MEPC.300(72) paragraph 1.5, "Approval of a system is intended to screen out BWMS that would fail to meet the standards prescribed in regulation D-2 of the Convention. Approval of a system, however, does not ensure that a given system will work on all ships or in all situations."

The testing that is needed to receive BWMS Code approval is similar to U.S. Coast Guard Type Approval testing. This also offers a far greater transparency with respect to any limitations of the

type approved Ballast Water Management System (BWMS). The original IMO Guidelines for approval of BWMS (G8) (MEPC.174(58)) were revised and on 28 October 2016 these revised G8 Guidelines (MEPC.279(70)) were adopted by IMO.

In addition to the updated testing protocol, the BWMS Code Type Approval process has some changes that need to be noted on the Type Approval certificate. There are four issues that vessel owners should be aware of:

- Land Based testing required in all three salinities if the BWMS should be approved for use in all three salinities
- During shipboard testing the BWMS should be installed in a manner that would allow it to be used for all the vessel's ballast operations in the 6 months test period.
- It should be documented that the BWMS were used for all the ship's ballast operations during the shipboard testing period, and not just the 5 required shipboard tests.
- Test facilities should be independent of the BWMS manufacturer

Is important for shipowners to be aware that IMO commissioning testing will add time to the installation schedule. Shipowners should allow sufficient time during the dry-docking period for the crew to receive proper BWMS operation training and perhaps to perform some trial operations, as well as allow the testing organization time to set up prior to conducting the IMO commissioning testing.

Albion Marine Solutions has expanded its ever -increasing service portfolio for Ballast Water Management Systems. In line with upcoming regulations being mandatory from October 2021, Albion now offers cost-effective VGP compliant sampling and USCG certified lab testing globally. This is covered under the same vessel visit and as part of its comprehensive periodic health check package.