



RINA/IMarEST Technical Presentation

IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention and the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention

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Venue: Harricks Auditorium
Engineers Australia
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Refreshments: 6:00 pm

Presentation: 6:30 pm

Merchant shipping is moving more than 10 billion tonnes of ballast water around the world annually, placing human health at risk and causing ecological and environmental damage through the transportation of pathogens and marine aquatic species. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to address this issue, is set to enter force on 8 September 2017. Once in force, seafarers conducting ballast water management operations will need in-depth knowledge of the BWM Convention, differing national regulations, standards and best practices, reporting and administration, survey requirements, sampling methods, safety precautions, compliance regulations, and the treatment methods, operation and maintenance of a large range of treatment systems. A lack of proficiency and knowledge in these matters may have serious implications for seafarers, such as exposure to chemical, physical, biological, mechanical and electrical hazards, financial penalties and punitive actions and, more broadly, damage to the marine environment, property and resources and the endangerment of human health.

This presentation examines the standards of competence expected from seafarers under the BWM Convention, and those being delivered to Australian STCW-certified seafaring officers by Australian maritime education and training (MET) providers. Specialised ballast-water management training, for seafarers certified at different levels of responsibility under the STCW Code to effectively comply with the BWM Convention, is discussed, and the need to include ballast-water management competencies in the STCW Code mandatory minimum units of competence is substantiated. This presentation also provides insights and recommendations regarding training requirements for Australian MET providers, seafarer employers, and regulators.