

INTERIM GUIDANCE
ON
ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (AMS),
ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES (IL), AND
TYPE APPROVAL OF BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (BWMS)
13 APRIL 2012

On March 23, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard published a Final Rule titled “Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters” in the *Federal Register* at 77 FR 17254 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-23/pdf/2012-6579.pdf>).

This Final Rule provides requirements for acceptance of Alternate Management Systems (AMS) in 33 CFR 151.2026; for acceptance of Independent Laboratories (IL) in 46 CFR 162.060-40; for type approval of Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS) in 46 CFR 162.060-10 and 162.060-12; and for extensions to vessel compliance dates in 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036.

These requirements take effect June 21, 2012, except for 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036, which contain information collection requirements that the Office of Management and Budget has not approved. The Coast Guard will publish a document in the *Federal Register* announcing the effective date of these requirements.

The Coast Guard is preparing industry guidance detailing procedures for the submission and review of applications under these provisions. When completed, this guidance will be posted on the Environmental Standards Division (http://www.uscg.mil/environmental_standards/), and announced through the Environmental Standards Division’s e-mail listserv. You may sign up to receive e-mail listserv announcements on the Environmental Standards Division web page.

Additionally, the Coast Guard is preparing responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the above requirements and provisions, which will also be posted on the Environmental Standards Division web page, distributed via the e-mail list server, and periodically updated.

If you have questions you would like added to the FAQs regarding the Coast Guard’s Ballast Water Management Program, please e-mail them to environmental_standards@uscg.mil or call the Environmental Standards Division’s Information Line at 202-372-1402.