



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF PORTS AND MARITIME
ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES**

**CIRCULAR
PIMA/CCP/008/2017**

FOR: PORTS AND SHIPYARDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

FROM: DR. GUIMARA TUÑÓN GUERRA
Director General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries



MATTER: MANAGEMENT OF SEDIMENTS FROM BALLAST WATER TANKS

DATE: MARCH 28TH, 2017

We hereby inform you that the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water, and ratified by the Republic of Panama through Law No. 41, dated September 12th, 2016, shall enter into force on September 8th, 2017.

On this matter, paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the above Convention reads as follows: "Each Party undertakes to ensure that, in ports and terminals designated by that Party where cleaning or repair of ballast water tanks occurs, adequate facilities are provided for the reception of Sediments, taking into account the guidelines developed by the Organization. Such reception facilities shall operate without causing undue delay to ships and shall provide for the safe disposal of such Sediments that does not impair or damage their environment, human health, property or resources or those of other States."

Because of the above, all ports and/or shipyards in which ballast tanks are cleaned or repaired, must have an environmental management plan which is safe for the final disposal of the sediments therein, through adequate reception facilities, and thus be able to comply with what is stated in said Convention.

Yours truly,


MPTA/CAGM

Legal Basis :

Law Decree No. 7 dated February 10th, 1998, Whereby the Panama Maritime Authority was created.
Law No. 41 dated September 12th, 2016, Whereby the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water was ratified.