



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Revised re-harmonisation requirements for decoupled IOPP Certificates

To: Masters, Officers, Ship owners, Operators, Managers, DPA's,

References:

- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004
- GMA - BWM Implementation Guidance
- Marpol Annex I
- International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate

Background:

The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004, (BWM Convention) came into effect on 8th September 2017.

This may have required the fitting of an approved ballast water management treatment system (BWTS) not later than the first renewal date of the ship's IOPP certificate after the Convention implementation date. It may under certain circumstances have been possible to postpone the installation of a BWMT system by de-harmonising the IOPP survey from the HSSC and undertaking IOPP renewal surveys before the implementation date of the BWM Convention, in order to postpone the installation of a BWMT system.

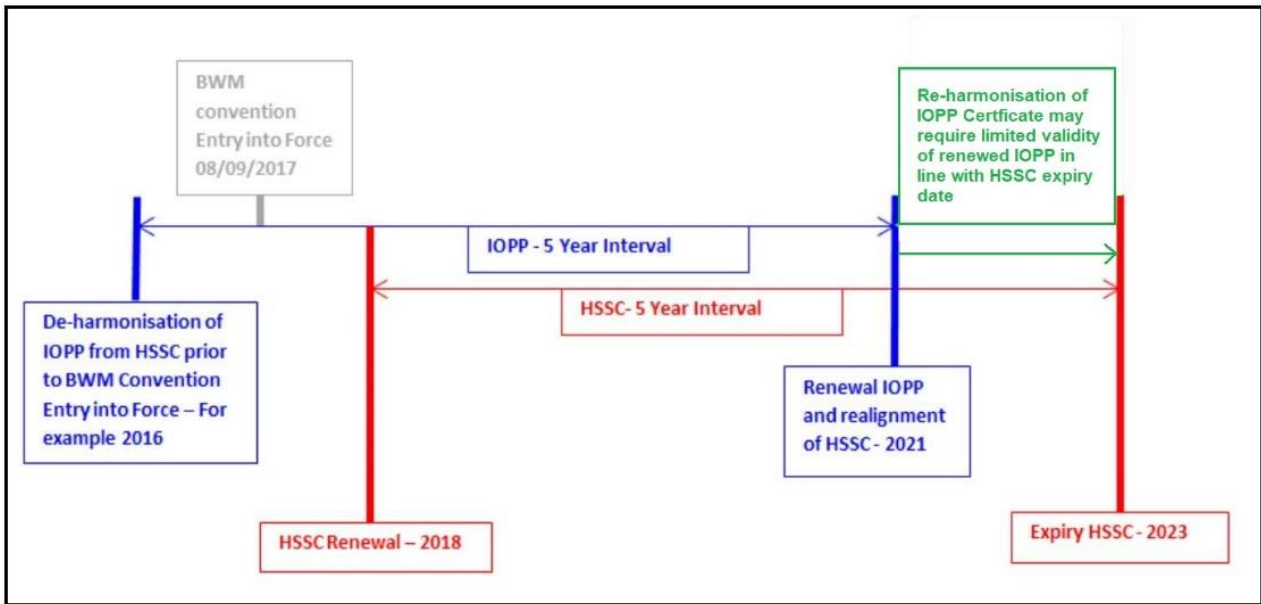
Guidance:

There was no legal reason to prevent the decoupling of single certificates, and this is not prohibited by the HSSC system.

However, if the IOPP was decoupled, then the GMA requires realignment of all HSSC surveys at the next renewal date of the decoupled IOPP. The renewed IOPP Certificate should be assigned an expiry/renewal date in line with remaining HSSC, thus potentially have a limited validity (less than 5 years) in order to achieve harmonisation with the HSSC system.

Renewal of the decoupled IOPP is subject to the Ballast water Treatment System (BWTS) having been installed and commissioned.

Example



The above timeline diagram illustrates an example for a vessel having the **HSC Renewal in 2018 (red timeline)**, showing that if the **IOPP was de-harmonized in 2016**, realignment of the HSC would require the renewed **IOPP Certificate in 2021** is issued with a limited validity, **in line with the HSC five year interval of 2023**.

Ship Managers / Owners should liaise with the relevant Classification Society in relation to renewal surveys for decoupled IOPP Certificates in order to re-harmonise with HSC.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor (Ag)

For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

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