



December 24, 2013

Dear Vessel Owner/Operator:

Thank you for your letter to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in which you requested an extension to the USCG implementation schedule for Ballast Water Management Discharge Standards for vessels required to use Coast Guard approved ballast water management systems. The USCG has shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) your extension request to facilitate a coordinated response. The USCG and the EPA share the important goal of protecting the nation's waters. We both regulate the discharge of oil, hazardous substances, and non-indigenous invasive species into the maritime environment and are working together to ensure that the Agencies are as consistent as possible under their respective statutory authorities. Our coordinated approach has been essential to our success in reducing the further introduction of non-indigenous invasive species into the nation's waters.

In response to your letter and to assist your understanding of our collaborative approach, we provide you with both the USCG's letter approving your extension request and the EPA's Enforcement Response Policy. This coordinated response represents a unified approach to addressing the ballast water management issues you raised in your extension request to the USCG. As you may be aware, the USCG and the EPA directly partner on a variety of ballast water initiatives, including the development of the EPA ETV protocols, upon which the USCG type approval requirements depend. We both strongly support the use of USCG type approved technology and are working together to ensure the availability of such systems for the earliest implementation of ballast water management system compliance dates.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Joseph A. Servidio, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Joseph A. Servidio, RDML
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy
U. S. Coast Guard

A blue ink signature of Michael H. Shapiro, written in a cursive style.

Michael H. Shapiro,
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency