

Saudi Aramco Ports-Ballast Water Management

Effective August 16th, 2017 all ships calling at Saudi Aramco Ports and Terminals from international waters are required **to arrange for ballast water indicative sampling through their local shipping agents**. This is to ensure ship's compliance with Ballast Water Management convention requirement through the exchange or treatment of ballast water prior arrival.

Therefore, ship is required to provide ballast water indicative sampling report (printable format of result) to Saudi Aramco, Environmental Protection Department (EPD), through their appointed Shipping Agent supported by an updated Saudi Aramco "Ballast Water Sampling form" (attached) during every visit to Saudi Aramco Ports or Terminals.

All operational delays will be on Owner/Agency account.

Required documents can be shared with EPD through following email ballastwatermanagement@aramco.com

For clarification or inquiries, please contact your local agent:

Further information regarding new regulations, please see the Questions & Answer as follows:

1) How will this test be done? Should the vessel conduct the test at last Port of call or should they have some equipment on board to conduct these test

On-board indicative sampling to be conducted upon arrival and/or during de-ballasting discharge following BW G2 guidelines, ensure whoever is taking samples is competent and certified by instrument's manufacturer. Test to be done for ships arriving from international waters outside of ROPME or PERSGA sea areas. Ship owner/operator to arrange an independent 3rd party to conduct test. All currently approved service providers will work closely with Saudi Aramco to ensure continuous efforts are done to acquire most accurate results. Ships own test equipment not recognized for purpose of port/terminal indicative sampling requirement

2) If the vessel is required to have equipment on boards to conduct these tests, can you please advise full details and specs of such equipment that is ARAMCO approved.

See reply to point first point above. Also, ships should have Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) installed on-board at ships first renewal of IOPP certificate after September 8th 2017.

3) How will the sample be taken? Will ARAMCO send surveyors on board every vessel or will the test result send from the vessel on the declaration be in order?

Indicative sampling to be done by 3rd party surveyor whom will take representative samples (3 samples from 1 tank; Top, middle, and bottom level of tank for representative sample)

4) What parameters will be checked or should be checked and what is the standard requirements for these parameters?

There are 2 standards D1 and D2; **D1 is exchange standard for ships that are not fitted with treatment systems which is required to conduct exchange of ballast water prior to entering ROPME and PERSGA sea areas.** D2 is for ships fitted with ballast water treatment systems which have an internationally identified standard that is accessible

online. FYI, there are indicative sampling testing kits that can be used for both D1 and D2 standards.

5) In case ballast water does not pass the test, what will happen to the vessel? Will she be delayed in berthing or restricted from taking or deballasting in Port?

Saudi Aramco is keen to ensure **ships conduct ballast water exchange**, or where applicable treatment, nevertheless currently test results and operations will not impact ship operation for first visit. Ships that fail or show that exchange or treatment not done will be flagged for more stringent inspection during next visit, and further measures will be taken against violating ships

6) Any relevant other important information not covered in my questions. Ballast water management convention has been ratified by Saudi Arabia and will become internationally enforced by 8th September 2017. Saudi Aramco is keen to continuously improve and increase ability to ensure our ballast water testing ability to ensure that current international regulations are updated as required to protect our marine environment.

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Please conduct ballast water exchange prior entering **ROPME and PERSGA sea areas** and record in Ballast Water record book.

The convention for installing the Ballast Water Treatment system was scheduled to enter into force for ships on first renewal of IOPP Certificate after 8th September 2017. But the IMO has deferred enforcement until after 8th September 2019.

The sample will be required for any ships coming from areas outside of protected waters in the Red Sea and Middle East Gulf.

Testing will be done by a third-party surveyor on board and upon arrival at any Saudi Aramco port or terminal to confirm whether ballast water exchange has been conducted.

With effect from November 1, 2009, all ships, regardless of flag, are required to exchange, treat or deliver to a shore reception facility all ballast water taken up outside the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Sea Area*. This comprises the states of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Vessels arriving from outside the ROPME Sea Area are to exchange ballast water in waters at least 200 metres deep and 200 nautical miles from the nearest land. If this is not possible for safety reasons, ballast may be exchanged in areas within the 200 nautical mile limit, as long as such exchanges are more than 50 miles from the nearest land and in waters at least 200 metres deep.

If a ship cannot exchange ballast in the specified depths or at the required distance from land, it will be required to provide the respective port authority with the reason why exchange cannot be achieved. Further ballast water management measures may also be required.

* The ROPME Sea Area (RSA) is defined as extending between the following geographic latitudes and longitudes, respectively: 16°39'N, 53°3'30"E; 16°00'N, 53°25'E; 17°00'N, 56°30'E; 20°30'N, 60°00'E; 25°04'N, 61°25'E.

PERSGA, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, is an intergovernmental body dedicated to the conservation of the coastal and marine environments found in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez, Suez Canal, and Gulf of Aden surrounding the Socotra Archipelago and nearby waters. PERSGA's member states include: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Attachments: Ballast Water Sampling Form