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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION OF LATVIA

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Maritime Safety/ Environment Protection

*Circular No 24*

***Information on Exemptions under regulation A-4 of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments***

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWMC) enter into force for Latvia on 11 January 2019<sup>1</sup>. Regulation A-4 of the BWMC provides that a Party or Parties, in waters under their jurisdiction, may grant exemptions to any requirements to apply regulations B-3 or C-1. Maritime Administration of Latvia is a focal point for Exemptions in waters under jurisdiction of Latvia. Exemption shall be granted based on statement/conclusions on environmental risks provided by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development in co-operation with Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology<sup>2</sup>.

Applicants for Exemption shall submit information listed in the appendix of the IMO Resolution **MEPC.289(71) 2017 Guidelines for Risk Assessment under Regulation A-4 of the BWMC Convention (G7)**. Additional information may be requested by competent authorities, if necessary.

Environmental risk assessment and granting for Exemptions will be carried out according to IMO resolution MEPC.289(71) and [Joint Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of HELCOM and OSPAR on the granting of exemptions under International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4](#). Indicative information about potential risks is available at the web based HELCOM/OSPAR [Decision Support Tool](#).

In case of any questions please contact Maritime Safety Inspectorate of the Maritime Administration of Latvia:

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<sup>1</sup> IMO Circular BWM.1/Circ.59

<sup>2</sup> According to the Law of the Republic of Latvia on International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004