



CALIFORNIA'S MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM



CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION - MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

California's Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards

What are California's ballast water discharge performance standards?

Ballast water performance standards are limits on the number of organisms that may be discharged in ballast water. California recently adopted regulations (Article 4.7) implementing the U.S. federal ballast water discharge standards and other provisions for vessels arriving at California ports. These changes will become effective on **January 1, 2022**. The details of these ballast water discharge standards are in the following table:

Organism Size Class	U.S. Federal Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards
Organisms greater than or equal to 50 micrometers in minimum dimension	Fewer than 10 organisms per cubic meter
Organisms less than 50 micrometers and greater than or equal to 10 micrometers	Fewer than 10 organisms per milliliter (mL)
Indicator microorganisms: a) <i>Escherichia coli</i> b) intestinal enterococci c) toxicogenic <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> (serotypes O1 and O139) must not exceed	Must not exceed: a) A concentration fewer than 250 colony forming units (cfu) per 100 mL b) A concentration fewer than 100 cfu per 100 mL c) A concentration less than 1 cfu per 100 mL

Which vessels will need to comply with California's ballast water discharge performance standards?

All new and existing vessels that are 300 gross registered tons or more and are carrying, or capable of carrying, ballast water, except those that have a valid compliance date extension granted by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Will vessels with an extension granted by the U.S. Coast Guard need to meet California's ballast water management requirements?

Yes, vessels with an existing extension to the vessel's compliance date granted by the U.S. Coast Guard will need to comply with California's ballast water management requirements. Details about the management requirements can be found at <https://www.slc.ca.gov/misp/>.

What happened to the Interim and Final California Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards?

Interim and Final Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards were delayed until 2030 and 2040, respectively. The Commission is required to report to the California Legislature on the availability and efficacy of treatment technology 18 months prior to each implementation date.



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Other Provisions Adopted in the Regulations (Article 4.7)

Alternative methods to meet California's Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards

Vessels can use water from a Public Water System. Please note that if the ballast tanks have had water from a source other than a from Public Water System, the ballast tanks and supply lines need to be cleaned before using this alternative method. In addition, vessels using water from a public system need to maintain a receipt, invoice, or other documentation recording which Public Water System was used.

Monitoring Ballast Water Treatment System Functionality

- The system must be operated in accordance with the **System Design Limitations** stipulated by the manufacturer or set forth in the United States Coast Guard approval certification or the "Alternate Management System" acceptance letter.
- All the applicable sensors and other control equipment must be **calibrated as recommended by the manufacturer.**

Recordkeeping

What ballast water treatment system records must be maintained onboard vessels?

- Printed or electronic functionality monitoring and calibration records for a minimum of two (2) years
- Printed or electronic records of any biological monitoring performed, from at least the past two (2) years, including dates of the monitoring, the individuals or entities who performed the tests, and methods used
- The ballast water treatment system type approval certificate or "Alternate Management System" letter issued by the United States Coast Guard, as applicable
- Procedures to manage ballast water in case of equipment malfunction

Collecting Samples for Research Purposes

Can Commission staff members collect samples from any vessel discharging ballast water in California waters?

Yes, Commission staff members may collect and analyze ballast water and sediment samples for research purposes and must be given access to ballast water tanks and sampling ports when feasible.