



California's Marine Invasive Species Program

California State Lands Commission, Marine Facilities Division

Performance Standards for Ballast Water Discharge

What are performance standards for ballast water discharge?

The interim ballast water performance standards are limits on the number of organisms that may be discharged in ballast water. **California's interim ballast water discharge performance standards are in the table below.**

Organism Size Class	California's Interim Ballast Water Discharge Performance Standards
Larger than 50 µm (micrometer or one millionth of a meter) in minimum dimension	No detectible living organisms
10-50 µm in minimum dimension	Less than (<) 0.01 living organisms per ml (milliliter)
Less than 10 µm in minimum dimension	Less than 10 ³ (1,000) living bacteria per 100 ml Less than 10 ⁴ (10,000) living viruses per 100 ml
<i>E. coli</i>	Less than 126 cfu (colony forming units) per 100 ml
Intestinal enterococci	Less than 33 cfu per 100 ml
Toxicogenic <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> (human Cholera)	Less than 1 cfu per 100 ml OR Less than 1 cfu per gram of wet weight biological material

The Final discharge standard for California is zero detectable living organisms for all organism size classes.

When will California's performance standards go into effect?

Interim performance standards:

- 1) On or after January 1, 2020 for newly constructed vessels **or**
- 2) As of a vessel's first scheduled drydocking on or after January 1, 2020

The Final performance standards are scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2030

Why is California using performance standards?

The California Legislature directed the Commission to implement performance standards for ballast water discharges to better protect California's waters from species introductions.

How will vessels meet California's performance standards?

There are several potential strategies:

- 1) Retention of all ballast water on board (most protective option);
- 2) Treat all ballast water to be discharged in California with a ballast water treatment system;
- 3) Discharge to a reception facility (none currently exist).



Where can I find more information?

Website : <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Programs/MISP.html>

Email: Nicole.Dobroski@slc.ca.gov

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California Code of Regulations

Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4.7. Performance Standards for the Discharge of Ballast Water For Vessels Operating in California Waters

Revised 12/28/2015



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Ballast Water Treatment Systems in California

Will the California State Lands Commission approve ballast water treatment systems?

No. Vessel owners/operators should work closely with treatment system vendors to determine what system is most appropriate for the type and routing of their vessels.

However, treated discharges must comply with all applicable environmental and water quality laws, regulations and permits.

Reporting Discharge of Treated Ballast in California

Ballast Water Treatment Technology Annual Reporting Form

Why would my vessel need to submit this form?

Vessels that have a ballast water treatment system installed onboard and have discharged treated ballast in waters of the state must submit a Ballast Water Treatment Technology Annual Reporting Form.

When should it be submitted?

This form should be submitted once per calendar year.

Ballast Water Treatment Supplemental Reporting Form

Why would my vessel need to submit this form?

Vessels that have a ballast water treatment system installed onboard must submit a Ballast Water Treatment Supplemental Reporting Form each time they discharge treated ballast in California's waters.

When should it be submitted?

This forms should be submitted upon departure from a California port.

Where do I submit the Annual and Supplemental reporting forms?

Email: BWForm@slc.ca.gov

Fax: 562-499-6444

Where can I find more information?

Website : <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Programs/MISP.html>

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