



2025 CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN (CIC)

Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the framework of the International Convention, 2004 (BMW, 2004)

Background:

1. During the 29th VMA Committee Meeting (Rio de Janeiro - Brazil, from 1 to 4 October 2024), participants adopted the decision to carry out, in 2025, the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Ballast Water Management in the framework of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM) jointly with the Tokyo and Paris Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). This CIC was carried out in the region from 1 September to 30 November 2025.
2. As said period has come to an end, the report elaborated from the information available in the database of the VMA Information Centre (CIALA) is hereby attached as Annex 1 with the results of the work carried out by the VMA Maritime Authorities.

ANNEX 1

Statistics of the CIC on Ballast Water Management in the framework of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM)

1 September to 30 November 2025

Section 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Executive summary

The VMA carried out, jointly with the Tokyo and Paris MoUs, a CIC on the topic of Ballast Water Management in the framework of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM), from 1 September to 30 November 2025.

The objective and scope of this CIC were to verify compliance with the requirements set out in the BWM Convention, which aims to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species through the uncontrolled discharge of ballast water. Inspections assessed the existence and correct implementation of the ballast water management plan on board and the availability and maintenance of the necessary equipment.

The VMA elaborated a 10-question Questionnaire and Guidelines to be used by Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) at the inspections during the CIC period. This Questionnaire was completed on board 1,858 ships out of the 2,926 ships inspected during the CIC.

It is also noteworthy that on 12 and 13 August 2025 the VMA Maritime Authorities of Argentina, Brazil and Peru delivered an online workshop, coordinated by the Secretariat. It was attended by approximately 50 PSCOs from the VMA Maritime Authorities.

1.2. CIC purpose and scope

The main purposes of the campaign include the following:

- Verify compliance with BWM, as regards prevention of invasive aquatic species.
- Confirm that ships hold a valid International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) and an approved Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP).
- Assess the correct implementation on board of ballast water management procedures, including the operation and maintenance of the treatment system, if applicable.
- Ensure that the crew are properly trained and familiar with their responsibilities and that they maintain the corresponding records and reports.
- Raise awareness amongst shipowners, operators and crew of the importance of effective ballast water management for the protection of marine environment and the obligations set out in BWM, among others.

1.3. General findings

The most common CIC-related deficiencies identified on ships of the region focused mainly on the following areas: ballast water management system; ballast water record book; sediment removal and disposal; crew training and familiarization; and ballast water management plan, among others.

Section 2

SUMMARY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Summary analysis

During the CIC, 2,926 ships were inspected in the region. Out of them, 1,858 inspections were related to the CIC, which accounts for 63.50% of the total ships inspected in that period.

The total number of ships with deficiencies during the CIC was 303, and 14 of them showed CIC-related deficiencies. This represents 4.62% of the total ships with deficiencies.

With regard to ship detention during this CIC, a total of 17 ships were detained, accounting for 17.21% of the 2,926 inspected ships, although none of the 1,858 ship detentions was related to the CIC.

2.2. Recommendations

Based on the CIC findings, it was recommended that crew training be strengthened in terms of the correct implementation of the Ballast Water Management Plan, in order to ensure its proper application on board. It was suggested that the frequency between documentary verifications during inspections be increased, with special regard to the records in the Ballast Water Record Book. It was deemed necessary to encourage the preventive maintenance of ballast water management systems, with the aim of preventing operational failures during their use. Finally, it was also considered necessary to raise awareness of the importance of compliance with BWM, highlighting its impact in the protection of the marine environment, among other actions adopted.

Section 3

3.1. Results

The following table shows the total ships inspected and the total inspections carried out during the CIC. The number of ships and of inspections may differ, as some vessels were inspected more than once during the CIC. The table also includes the CIC-related detentions and deficiencies.

	Ships inspected during the CIC	Inspections with a CIC questionnaire	Inspections without a CIC questionnaire
Total	2,926	1,858	1,068
Total detentions	17	10	7
Detentions with CIC-related deficiencies	0	-	-

Inspections by Port State – 2025 CIC

PORT STATE	CIC INSPECTIONS					
	TOTAL	W/DEF.	Wo./DEF.	INITIAL	No. OF DEF.	DET.
ARGENTINA	316	59	257	306	126	1
BRAZIL	508	85	423	495	217	1
CHILE	106	56	162	88	175	1
COLOMBIA	4	0	4	4	0	0
CUBA	12	0	12	12	0	0
ECUADOR	0	0	0	0	0	0
GUATEMALA	11	1	10	11	1	0
HONDURAS	89	3	86	89	10	0
MEXICO	281	37	244	274	67	4
PANAMA	86	28	58	83	92	2
PERU	281	18	263	281	39	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
URUGUAY	30	1	29	30	1	0
VENEZUELA	134	15	119	134	47	0
TOTAL	1,858	303	1,667	1,807	775	10

Inspections by ship type – 2025 CIC

Type	Number
BULK CARRIER	875
CONTAINER SHIP (FULLY CELLULAR)	340
CHEMICAL/PRODUCTS TANKER	182
GENERAL CARGO SHIP	90
VEHICLES CARRIER	87
OPEN HATCH CARGO SHIP	47
PASSENGER/CRUISE	40
CRUDE OIL TANKER	24
LIVESTOCK CARRIER	23
REFRIGERATED CARGO SHIP	21
PRODUCTS TANKER	19
OTHER	110

Inspections by ship age - 2025 CIC

Age (in years)	Covered by IMO Conventions	CIC
Over 20	475	294
Between 15 and 20	651	413
Between 10 and 15	855	555
Between 5 and 10	482	296
Under 5	463	300
TOTAL	2,926	1,858

Reference Table – 2025 CIC

COMPLIANT	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
YES	1,707	1,707	1,705	1,705	1,699	1,695	1,701	1,694	1,659	554
NO	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	2	2	0
N/A	151	151	153	151	159	159	157	162	197	1304
TOTAL	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858	1,858

Total: 1,858 Inspections / Shipswith deficiencies: 303. Out of them 14 had CIC-related deficiencies/ Detentions: 0.

Questionnaire - 2025 CIC

No.	Question	YES	% YES	NO	% NO	NA	% N/A
1	Is a valid International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) on board?	1,707	91.87%	0	0.00%	151	8.13%
2	Is the approved Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP) on board?	1,707	91.87%	0	0.00%	151	8.13%
3	Is the BWMP up to date to reflect the applicable requirements to manage Ballast Water as required by the Convention?	1,705	91.77%	0	0.00%	153	8.23%
4	Are the officers and crew familiar with their duties in the implementation of the BWMP?	1,705	91.77%	4	0.22%	151	8.13%

5	Is the Ballast Water Management System(BWMS) approved by the Administration/Organization, as appropriate?	1,699	91.44%	0	0.00%	159	8.56%
6	Is the BWMS operational?	1,695	91.23%	4	0.22%	159	8.56%
7	Was the Ballast Water managed according to the BWMP?	1,701	91.55%	0	0.00%	157	8.45%
8	Is the Ballast Water Record Book (BWRB) properly filled including exemptions if granted?	1,694	91.17%	2	0.11%	162	8.72%
9	Is the crew managing Ballast Water sediments in accordance with the BWMP?	1,659	89.30%	2	0.11%	197	10.59%
10	If an exemption has been granted, are the conditions of exemption implemented?	554	29.82%	0	0.00%	1304	70.18%

2025 CIC most common deficiencies in the region

Code	Deficiency	%
14811	Ballast water management system	0.27
14802	Ballast Water Record Book	0.22
14805	Sediment removal and disposal	0.11
14806	Crew training and familiarization	0.11
14801	Ballast Water Management Plan	0.05