

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM)

Place of adoption of the Convention	International Maritime Organization
Date of signature	February 2004
Date of entry into force	8 September 2017
Main objective	To prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another, by establishing standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments.
Official website	http://www.imo.org

United Arab Emirates

Date of signature / acceptance / ratification	
Decree of approval / ratification	Federal Decree Law No. (6) of 2017

Notes:

The Federal Authority for Land and Maritime Transport is the national liaison of the Convention.

Ballast water or balance water is the water ships carry in their tanks to provide balance and stability. However, this water is usually loaded with some 7,000 species of microorganisms, some of which invade the environment in which this water is discharged, causing many environmental and economic losses.

Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 on the protection and development of the environment in the UAE defines "unclean balance water" or "unclean ballast water" as "water discharged from a ship's tank where oil content is more than 15 ppm" .