

Period of Validity for BWMS Type Approval Certificates

Recently, we have been receiving inquiries from shipowners and management companies stating that the type approval certificates for the BWMS installed on their ships are nearing the end of their period of validity.

This document explains the key points regarding the period of validity of type approval certificates. (Refer to the second page for examples of how the period of validity is shown)

1. What is the period of validity for BWMS type approval certificates?

* The period of validity indicates the period during which a manufacturer is authorized to manufacture the equipment.

* **It has no effect on the validity of equipment already installed on a ship.**

2. Equipment after the certificate period of validity has expired

* **Equipment that was manufactured or installed during the relevant period remains valid even after its certificate has expired.**

3. Certificates to be kept on board

* **Please keep the type approval certificate for the installed equipment at the time of issuance on board.**

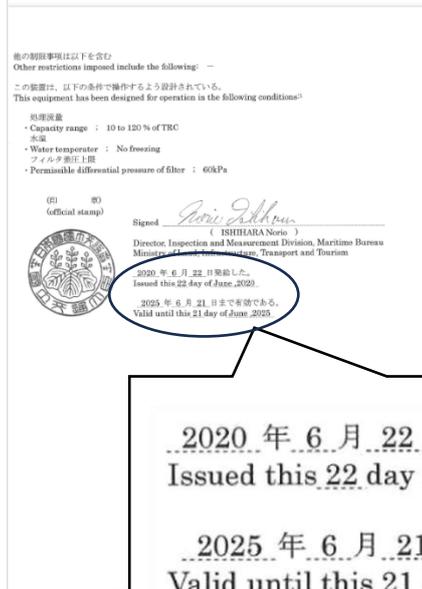
* However, if the equipment is modified, in some cases it may be necessary to replace the certificate with a new type approval certificate.

4. International interpretation

* The above interpretation is clearly stated in official documents issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

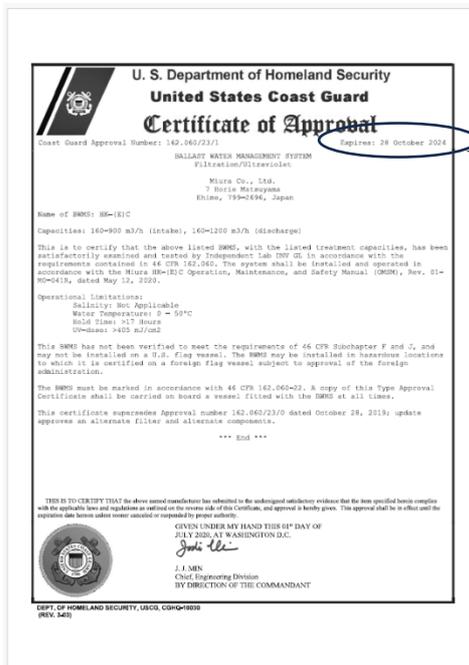
(Refer to the third page for excerpts from the official documents)





2020年6月22日発給した。
Issued this 22 day of June, 2020.

2025年6月21日まで有効である。
Valid until this 21 day of June, 2025.



Expires: 28 October 2024

Figures: Examples of how the period of validity is shown on type approval certificates



Excerpt from International Maritime Organization official documents:

“BEARING IN MIND the Organization's established practice with regard to the validity of type approval certification for marine products (MSC.1/Circ.1221), which is that the Type Approval Certificate itself has no influence on the operational validity of existing ballast water management systems approved and installed on board a ship and manufactured during the period of validity of the relevant Type Approval Certificate, meaning that the system need not be renewed or replaced due to expiration of such Certificate.”

(Source: Official website for the International Maritime Organization [MEPC.300\(72\)](#) and [MSC.1/Circ.1221](#))

Excerpt from United States Coast Guard official documents:

“A BWMS's Type Approval Certificate (TAC) expiration date indicates the dates between which a BWMS must be manufactured. A type approved BWMS, which is manufactured within the TAC applicability dates, remains in compliance for the lifetime of the system, assuming it is operated and maintained in accordance with the listed Operation, Maintenance, and Safety Manual (OMSM). The TAC to which the BWMS was manufactured and approved should be stored onboard, regardless of the expiration date. The onboard TAC is only replaced upon modification of the BWMS to comply with a revised TAC.”

(Source: United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Center, [BWMS Type Approval Certificates](#))

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If you have any questions, please contact your nearest one of our service offices.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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