§ 151.2010

Voyage means any transit by a vessel destined for any United States port or place.


§ 151.2010 Applicability.

This subpart applies to all non-recreational vessels, U.S. and foreign, that are equipped with ballast tanks and operate in the waters of the United States, except as expressly provided in §§ 151.2015 or 151.2020 of this subpart.

§ 151.2013 Severability.

If a court finds any portion of this subpart to have been promulgated without proper authority, the remainder of this subpart will remain in full effect.

§ 151.2015 Exemptions.

(a) The following vessels are exempt from all of the requirements of this subpart:

(1) Any Department of Defense or Coast Guard vessel subject to the requirements of section 1103 of the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, as amended by the National Invasive Species Act; or any vessel of the Armed Forces, as defined in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)), that is subject to the “Uniform National Discharge Standards for Vessels of the Armed Forces” (33 U.S.C. 1322(n)).

(2) Any warship, naval auxiliary, or other vessel owned or operated by a foreign state and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, such vessels should act in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with this subpart.

(b) The following vessels are exempt from the requirements of §§151.2025 (ballast water management (BWM) requirements), 151.2060 (reporting), and 151.2070 (recordkeeping) of this subpart:

(1) Crude oil tankers engaged in coastwise trade.

(2) Vessels that operate exclusively within one Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone.

(c) The following vessels are exempt only from the requirements of §151.2025 (BWM requirements) of this subpart:

(1) Seagoing vessels that operate in more than one COTP Zone, do not operate outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and are less than or equal to 1,600 gross register tons or less than or equal to 3,000 gross tons (International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969).

(2) Non-seagoing vessels.

(3) Vessels that take on and discharge ballast water exclusively in one COTP Zone.

§ 151.2020 Vessels in innocent passage.

A foreign vessel that is merely traversing the territorial sea of the United States (unless bound for, entering or departing a U.S. port or navigating the internal waters of the U.S.) does not fall within the applicability of this subpart.

§ 151.2025 Ballast water management requirements.

(a) The master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of a vessel equipped with ballast tanks that operates in the waters of the United States must employ one of the following ballast water management methods:

(1) Install and operate a ballast water management system (BWMS) that has been approved by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR part 162. The BWMS must be installed in accordance with §151.2035(b) of this subpart. Following installation, the master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of vessels employing a Coast Guard-approved BWMS must properly maintain the BWMS in accordance with all manufacturer specifications. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this subpart, the master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of vessels employing a Coast Guard-approved BWMS must meet the applicable ballast water discharge standard (BWDS), found in §151.2030 of this subpart, at all times of discharge into the waters of the United States.

(2) Use only water from a U.S. public water system (PWS), as defined in 40 CFR 141.2, that meets the requirements of 40 CFR parts 141 and 143 as ballast water. Vessels using water from a PWS as ballast must maintain a record of which PWS they received the water from as well as a receipt, invoice, or
other documentation from the PWS indicating that water came from that system. Furthermore, they must certify that they have met the conditions in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) or (ii) of this section, as applicable, and describe in the BWMS plan the procedures to be used to ensure compliance with those conditions, and thereafter document such compliance in the BW record book. Vessels using water from a PWS must use such water exclusively unless the usage is in accordance with §151.2040 of this subpart. Vessels using PWS water as ballast must have either—
(i) Previously cleaned the ballast tanks (including removing all residual sediments) and not subsequently introduced ambient water; or
(ii) Never introduced ambient water to those tanks and supply lines.
(3) Perform complete ballast water exchange in an area 200 nautical miles from any shore prior to discharging ballast water, unless the vessel is required to comply with the BWDS in accordance with §151.2035 of this subpart. Vessels using PWS water as ballast must have either—
(a) A manufacturer whose ballast water management system (BWMS) has been approved by a foreign administration pursuant to the standards set forth in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, may request in writing, for the Coast Guard to make a determination that their BWMS is an alternate management system (AMS). Requests for determinations under this section must include:

(b) Requests for approval of BWMS for testing and evaluation by an Independent Laboratory in accordance with 46 CFR 162.060–28 will be deemed to be in compliance with paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

§ 151.2026 Alternate management systems.
(a) A manufacturer whose ballast water management system (BWMS) has been approved by a foreign administration pursuant to the standards set forth in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, may request in writing, for the Coast Guard to make a determination that their BWMS is an alternate management system (AMS). Requests for determinations under this section must include: