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This is based on the measures implemented by the South Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries in August 2023 for Members' reference only. Members are advised to contact their local agents or B Korea P&I Correspondent for information and more details

Guidance on South Korean authorities' measures to prevent inflow of possibly radioactive ballast water

Introduction

Since the Fukushima nuclear disaster happened in 2011, the South Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (hereinafter "MOF") has monitored by sample surveys the ballast water of vessels at Korean ports that have previously called at Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Ibaragi Prefecture and Chiba Prefecture (hereinafter "six eastern Prefectures in Japan").

As wastewater from Fukushima nuclear powerplant is released into the Ocean from 24 August 2023, the MOF has implemented the following new measures to prevent the wastewater from flowing into Korean waters.

Measures

1. **Vessels which are to enter Korean ports after pumping in ballast water at the six eastern Prefectures in Japan** are required to submit a "Ballast Water Reporting Form" including details on the management of ballast water, i.e., pumping in, exchanging and discharging of ballast water, 24 hours prior to entering a Korean port.

If a Ballast Water Reporting Form is falsified, detention or fines may be imposed in accordance with 'Ballast Water Management Act'.

2. **Vessels intending to discharge ballast water in Korean waters after pumping in ballast water at the six eastern Prefectures in Japan** are required to enter a Korean port after exchanging ballast water outside Korean jurisdictions waters.

Ballast water must be exchanged:

- between the passage of Tsugaru Strait and 135°30'E, when sailing northward, such as passing Tsugaru Strait
- between the passage of 34°35'N and 132°30'E, when sailing southward, such as passing the Kanmon Strait

The relevant Regional Office of Oceans and Fisheries will conduct an onboard inspection to verify whether or not ballast water was exchanged and then determine the concentration of radioactivity rapidly after taking a sample of ballast water. Discharge of ballast water is allowed after passing the test for radioactive contamination.

3. **Vessels which will not discharge ballast water in Korean waters after pumping in ballast water at the six eastern Prefectures in Japan** are required to submit details proving that ballast water has not been discharged at least one hour before departure.

Supporting evidence including the Ballast Water Record Book, Log Book, Ballast Water Management System Operation Record, Ballast Water Tank Capacity (photos) and so on should be submitted to the person in charge of the relevant Regional Office of Ocean and Fisheries by e-mail.

The relevant Regional Office of Ocean and Fisheries will review the details submitted and then verify whether or not ballast water has been discharged (by onboard inspection if necessary). Departure is permitted after verification.

Procedures for inspection

Pumping in ballast water at the six eastern Prefectures in Japan

