

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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Established in 1938

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Dear Shipping Agents and Interested Parties:

During recent onboard inspections, Commission staff noted that some vessels' ballast water logs broadly summarize ballast water activity for all ballast tanks. As a result, the ballasting activities of these vessels cannot be tracked on a tank-by-tank basis as required by California Public Resources Code section 71205(c)(1)(E).

This letter clarifies California's ballast water log requirements. Please provide the information in this letter to all vessels that are represented by your organization and arrive at California ports.

BALLAST WATER LOG REQUIREMENTS

Vessels that are subject to California's Marine Invasive Species Act (Cal. Pub. Resources Code section 71200 et seq.) must retain a separate log of ballast water activities on board the vessel (Cal. Pub. Resources Code section 71205(d)). The ballast water log must:

- Outline the vessel's ballast water management activities for each tank
- Be available for inspection and review by Commission staff
- Be retained for two years

Failure to comply with the ballast water log requirements may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Please visit the California State Lands Commission's website (<https://www.slc.ca.gov/misp/>) for more information about California's ballast water and biofouling requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me with any questions at nicole.dobroski@slc.ca.gov or (916) 574-0742.

Sincerely,



Nicole Dobroski
Assistant Chief
Marine Environmental Protection Division

Attachment:

[Reporting and Recordkeeping Information Sheet](#)