

## International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments

(BWM)

<b>Place of adoption of the Convention</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>Date of signature</b>	February 2004
<b>Date of entry into force</b>	8 September 2017
<b>Main objective</b>	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.
<b>Official website</b>	<a href="http://www.imo.org">http://www.imo.org</a>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	
<b>Date of signature / acceptance / ratification</b>	
<b>Decree of approval / ratification</b>	Federal Decree Law No. (6) of 2017
<b>Notes:</b> 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" .	