

# **MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICES**

**8 June 2001 M.S.Notice No.13 of 2001**

**Subject : IMO Voluntary Guidelines for Control and Management of ships ballast water**

The Assembly of International Maritime Organisation(IMO) at its 20<sup>th</sup> session has adopted voluntary Guidelines for preventing introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms and pathogens from ships ballast water and sediment discharges.(Resolution A.868(20)

This activity had been initiated by many countries due to problems they encountered concerning marine organisms introduced into their waters with ballast water and associated sediments.

IMO is working towards the development of legally binding provision on ballast water management, together with guidelines for their effective implementation.

In the light of problems encountered, concerning marine organisms introduced into our waters or transported from our water to other areas with ballast water and associated sediment discharges the Director General of Shipping now desires all the shipping companies to adopt procedure for ships included in these IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the control and management of ships ballast water to minimize the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.

Shipping companies are advised to approach their respective Classification Societies for assistance in implementation of such procedures.