



Nunes Assessoria  
Maritima

# Company Newsletter

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## Normam 20/DPC Maritime Authority Standard

NORMAM-20/DPC refers to the Brazilian Directorate of Ports and Coasts (DPC) standard for the management of ship's ballast water in Brazilian ports and terminals. This standard is crucial for environmental protection as it helps regulate the discharge of ballast water, which can carry invasive species and pollutants, posing risks to marine ecosystems.

The distance from the coast at which ballast water exchange (BWE) should ideally occur, as per international guidelines such as those outlined by the International Maritime

Organization (IMO), is typically specified in nautical miles rather than kilometers. However, for a general conversion:

1 nautical mile  $\approx$  1.852 kilometers

The recommended distance for BWE can vary depending on national regulations and specific circumstances, but it's often advised to conduct BWE at least 200 nautical miles from the nearest landmass, and preferably in water depths of 200 meters or more. This distance helps minimize the risk of introducing invasive species into coastal ecosystems.



# Normam 20/DPC Procedure



The procedure outlined in NORMAM-20 involves several steps for the management of ship's ballast water in Brazilian ports and terminals. Here's a general overview:

**Notification:** Ships arriving at Brazilian ports must notify the relevant authorities about their ballast water management plans in accordance with NORMAM-20.

**Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP):** Ships are required to have a BWMP in place, detailing how ballast water will be managed to minimize environmental impacts.

**Ballast Water Exchange (BWE):** If a ship's BWMP includes ballast water exchange, it must be conducted in accordance with NORMAM-20 standards. This may involve exchanging ballast water at sea in specified areas and depths to reduce the risk of introducing invasive species.

**Ballast Water Treatment Systems:** Ships equipped with ballast water treatment systems must ensure they are properly operated and maintained according to manufacturer guidelines and regulatory requirements.

**Documentation:** Ships must keep records of ballast water management activities and make them available for inspection by port authorities.

**Compliance:** Ships must comply with all relevant regulations and requirements outlined in NORMAM-20 to ensure the safe and environmentally sound management of ballast water.

It's important for ship operators and port authorities to be familiar with and follow the procedures outlined in NORMAM-20 to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect marine ecosystems.

# How important is it to follow NORMAM 20 procedures?



Following NORMAM 20 procedures is critically important for several reasons:

**Environmental Protection:** Compliance with NORMAM 20 helps protect marine ecosystems from the harmful effects of invasive species and pollutants carried in ballast water. By following proper procedures for ballast water management, ship owners can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, which can disrupt local ecosystems and threaten biodiversity.

**Regulatory Compliance:** NORMAM 20 procedures are established by regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with national and international regulations governing ballast water management. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in legal consequences, including fines, penalties, and restrictions on vessel operations.

**Public Health and Safety:** Proper management of ballast water is essential for safeguarding public health and safety. Ballast water can contain pathogens, bacteria, and other harmful

organisms that pose risks to human health and the safety of coastal communities. Compliance with NORMAM 20 helps mitigate these risks and protects public health.

**Economic Impact:** Non-compliance with NORMAM 20 procedures can have significant economic consequences for ship owners, operators, and the maritime industry as a whole. The spread of invasive species and pollutants through improper ballast water management can result in damage to marine infrastructure, loss of biodiversity, and disruptions to commercial activities such as fishing, aquaculture, and tourism.

**International Cooperation:** Following NORMAM 20 procedures contributes to international efforts to address global challenges related to ballast water management. By adhering to established standards and guidelines, Brazil can collaborate with other countries to promote sustainable maritime practices and protect shared marine resources.

“Adherence to NORMAM 20 procedures is essential for protecting the environment, ensuring regulatory compliance, safeguarding public health and safety, minimizing economic risks, and promoting international cooperation in ballast water management efforts.”

## More about us

**Representative**

Rodrigo Nunes

**Phone**

+55 13 98817-2562

**Email**

rodrigo.nunes@nassessoriamaritima.com

