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BWM.1/Circ.8  
7 January 2009

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL  
AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER  
AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

**Accession by Antigua and Barbuda**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, and to state that ratification by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 19 December 2008.

Article 18 of the Convention provides as follows:

“1. This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than thirty States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than thirty-five percent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession accordance with Article 17.”

There are, at present, seventeen Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 15.35%\* of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.

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\* This tonnage percentage is based on world tonnage figures provided by Lloyd's Register/Fairplay, effective as of 31 December 2007.