Ballast Water Exchange: Flow–Through Method

Hello,

One of the three methods for ballast water exchange is the flow–through method. This process involves exchanging ballast water by pumping in replacement water from the bottom of the ballast tank, continuously overflowing ballast water from the top of the tank.

The estimated time to pump the required volume of water through the tank using the flow–through exchange method is greater than with the sequential ballast water exchange method. The size of the ballast tank overflow outlet must allow a flow rate higher than the pump capacity to avoid over pressurization of a tank and possible structural damage.

It should also be noted that overflow of ballast water directly on the open deck may present maintenance and corrosion issues and prevent crew access to affected areas. Please click on ‘view media’ to see a diagram and comprehensive list of advantages and disadvantages of the Flow–Through Method.

Thank you

Source: globallast.imo.org (Learning portal–Module 2)