

# Mediterranean Sea inclusion in ECA

URC25008 | 20 February 2025

**Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators / Surveyors / Auditors**

This circular is issued to remind that, as per our URC23064, amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, under IMO Resolution MEPC.361(79) established a “Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (ECA)”.

**Points to Note:**

From 01 May 2025, ships operating within this ECA will be prohibited from using fuel oils with a sulphur content of more than 0.10% m/m, unless an approved equivalent arrangement such as an Exhaust Gas Cleaning System is used.

The amended MARPOL Annex VI, Appendix VII gives the coordinates of the emission control area, which includes all waters bounded by the coasts of Europe, Africa, and Asia.

**Act now**

All Ship Owners / Managers / Operators / Surveyors / Auditors should ensure that ships trading within the Mediterranean Sea, are aware of this Emission Control Area, and the date of entry into force of the sulphur content limitation.

Ship owners / Managers / Operators are advised to plan their bunkering operations to ensure that F.O. with an appropriate sulphur content, as per the MARPOL requirements, is available on board in a timely manner.

## **RESOLUTION MEPC.361(79)**

**(adopted on 16 December 2022)**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1997 TO AMEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973, AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING THERETO**

#### **(Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter)**

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee conferred upon it by international conventions for the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING ALSO article 16 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto (MARPOL), which specifies the amendment procedure and confers upon the appropriate body of the Organization the function of considering amendments thereto for adoption by the Parties,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its seventy-ninth session, proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, concerning the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter, which were circulated in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of MARPOL,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article 16(2)(d) of MARPOL, amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article 16(2)(f)(iii) of MARPOL, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 November 2023 unless prior to that date, not less than one third of the Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have communicated to the Organization their objection to the amendments;

3 INVITES the Parties to note that, in accordance with article 16(2)(g)(ii) of MARPOL, the said amendments shall enter into force on 1 May 2024 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 ALSO INVITES the Parties to note that, in accordance with regulation 14.7 of MARPOL Annex VI, ships operating in the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter are exempt from the requirements in paragraphs 4 and 6 of regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI and from the requirements of paragraph 5 of that regulation insofar as they relate to paragraph 4 of that regulation until 1 May 2025;

5 INVITES coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so, at least by the date of entry into force of the said amendments;

6 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article 16(2)(e) of MARPOL, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to MARPOL;

7 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of the present resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization which are not Parties to MARPOL.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX VI**

**(Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter)**

**Regulation 14**

*Sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) and particulate matter*

1 At the end of paragraph 3.3, the word "and" is deleted. At the end of paragraph 3.4, "." is replaced by "; and". A new paragraph 3.5 is added as follows:

"5 the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area, which means the area described by the coordinates provided in appendix VII to this annex."

**Appendix VII**

*Emission control areas (regulations 13.6 and 14.3)*

2 A new paragraph 4 is inserted, as follows:

"4 In respect of the application of regulation 14.4, the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter includes all waters bounded by the coasts of Europe, Africa and Asia, and is described by the following coordinates:

- RESOLUTION MEPC.361(79) (adopted on 16 December 2022)  
AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1997 TO AMEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (MARPOL) HERETO
- .1 the western entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar, defined as a line joining the extremities of Cape Trafalgar, Spain (36°11'.00 N, 6°02'.00 W) and Cape Spartel, Morocco (35°48'.00 N, 5°55'.00 W);
  - .2 the Strait of Canakkale, defined as a line joining Mehmetcik Burnu (40°03'N, 26°11'E) and Kumkale Burnu (40°01'.00 N, 26°12'.00 E); and
  - .3 the northern entrance to the Suez Canal excluding the area enclosed by geodesic lines connecting points 1-4 with the following coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	31°29'.00 N	32°16'.00 E
2	31°29'.00 N	32°28'.48 E
3	31°14'.00 N	32°32'.62 E
4	31°14'.00 N	32°16'.00 E

