



February 2025

05/2025: New Emissions Control Areas for Mediterranean Sea, Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea

Applicability: shipowners, ship operators, ship managers and ship masters.

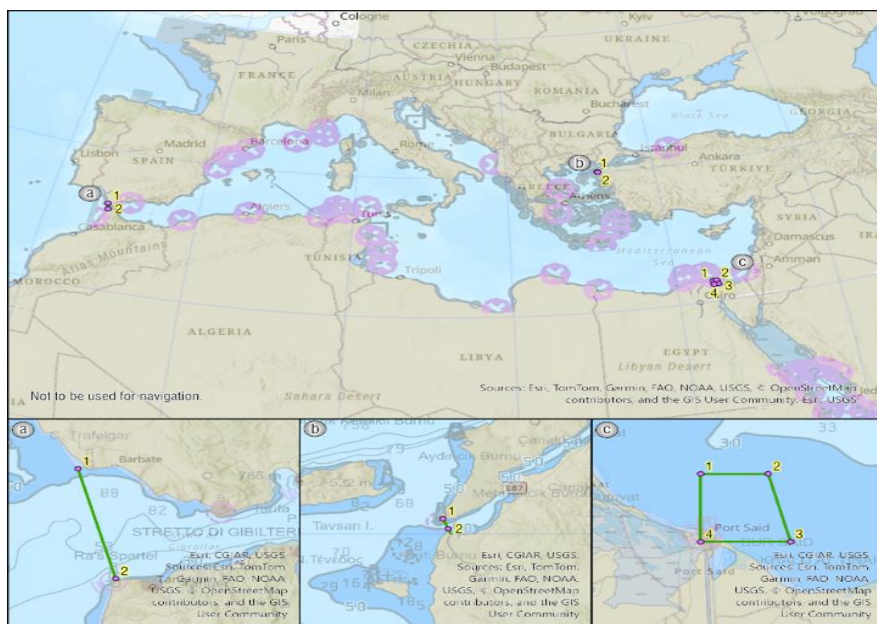
The IMO has adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI which introduce three new Emissions Control Areas (ECAs) for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulphur oxides (SOx).

The following new areas will require ships to comply with reduced emissions limitations:

- Mediterranean Sea (SOx)
- Canadian Arctic (NOx and SOx)
- Norwegian Sea (NOx and SOx)

These ECAs are defined in the regulations and are illustrated in below charts:

Mediterranean Sea - In the below chart, the numbered points relate to the corresponding coordinates given in the regulations.



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Canadian Arctic - In the below chart, the numbered points relate to the corresponding coordinates given in the regulations.



Norwegian sea - In the below chart, the numbered points relate to the corresponding coordinates given in the regulations.



Mediterranean Sea becomes a SOx ECA from 1 May 2025

From this date, amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 14.3.5, as amended by IMO Resolution [MEPC.361\(79\)](#), will prohibit ships operating within the Mediterranean Sea ECA from using fuel oils with a sulphur content exceeding 0.1% m/m unless an approved equivalent arrangement is used such as Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems.

Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea become NOx ECAs from 1 March 2026

From this date, in accordance with MARPOL Annex VI Regulations 13, as amended by IMO Resolution [MEPC.392\(82\)](#), ships operating in either the Canadian Arctic ECA or Norwegian Sea ECA with a marine diesel engine with power output of more than 130kW are required to be certified to the NOx Technical Code 2008 to meet the NOx Tier III standard, as follows:

- For the Canadian Arctic ECA, ships with keels laid or at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2025.

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- For the Norwegian Sea ECA:
 - Ships with a building contract placed on or after 1 March 2026
 - In absence of a building contract, ships with keels laid or at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 September 2026; or
 - The delivery is on or after 1 March 2030

Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea become SOx ECAs from 1 March 2027

From this date, amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Regulations 14.3.6 and 14.3.7, as amended by IMO Resolution MEPC.392(82), will prohibit ships operating within either the Canadian Arctic ECA or Norwegian Sea ECA from using fuel oils with a sulphur content exceeding 0.1% m/m unless an approved equivalent arrangement is used such as Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems.

LR advises that ship owners and ship operators are aware of three new Emissions Control Areas (ECAs) for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulphur oxides (SOx).

Ships operating in or entering the new SOx ECAs on or after their effective dates, will need to have on board sufficient compliant fuel oil (0.1% m/m maximum sulphur content) and bring it into use as required, or have installed and operate an approved alternative compliance mechanism, such as an Exhaust Gas Cleaning System.

Ships entering the new SOx ECAs before these dates, which intend to stay in them after the relevant ECA enters effect, will need to ensure that compliant fuel oil is brought into use no later than 00:00 hrs on the effective date. Lloyd's Register recommends that this fuel change-over is recorded in the same way as if the ship was entering an ECA.

Existing ECAs

The existing NOx and SOx ECAs are as follows:

- North American area
- United States Caribbean Sea area
- Baltic Sea area, and
- North Sea area

For further information

For further information or advice, please get in touch with statutorysupport@lr.org.

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ANNEX 3**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_x) 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:

- .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
