

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice

Mediterranean Emissions Control Area

Ref. TAN 002-24
Issued: 2 Apr '24

1. Introduction

This notice applies to operators all of ships, including pleasure vessels, that are operating in the Mediterranean region. Changes to MARPOL Annex VI will designate this region an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides and particulate matter in the near future (see Section 2).

The geographical extent of the Emissions Control Area is described as the region enclosed by:

- The Western entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar
- The Strait of Canakkale
- The Northern entrance to the Suez Canal

Please refer to MEPC.361(79) for precise co-ordinates.

2. Entry Into Force Date

The Mediterranean region will be officially designated at Emissions Control Area on the 1st May 2024, however there is a 'phase in' period of 12 months. During this period, the requirements set out below will not apply – therefore operators can continue to operate in the current manner until **1st May 2025**.

3. ECA Requirements

MARPOL Annex VI requires 3 main actions to comply with the requirements of an emission control area for sulphur oxides and particulate matter.

- The sulphur content of fuel used on a ship while operating in the ECA shall not exceed 0.1% m/m (unless an approved exhaust gas cleaning system is installed);
- The sulphur content of the fuel used shall be documented on the bunker delivery note; and
- Those ships using separate fuel oils inside and outside the ECA shall carry a written procedure showing how the fuel oil changeover is to be undertaken. In addition, such ships shall maintain a Record Book containing the volume of low sulphur fuel oils in each tank as well as the date, time and position of the ship when any fuel oil changeover operation is completed prior to the entry into an emission control area or commenced after exit from such an area. This record may be in an electronic form, if approved in accordance with TAN 008-20.

3. Further Reading

MSN 071 – MARPOL Annex VI

TAN 008-20 – MARPOL Electronic Log Books

MEPC.295(71) – 2017 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

