

TECHNICAL SERVICE CIRCULAR

No. 08/2022

Date: 04.07.2022



MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.

*"CONNECTING YOUR BUSINESS
TO THE MARITIME RESOURCES YOU NEED"*

Subject: "MEDITERRANEAN SEA AS AN ECA"

Summary: At the recent MEPC 78 the proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area (ECA) was approved. The date of entering into force is still to be decided but, if adopted at MEPC 79, it may be as early as 2024 or 2025 and require ships navigating the Mediterranean Sea to burn fuel oils with no more than 0.10% m/m sulphur content.



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

Background

1. Countries within the European Union along with Mediterranean littoral states have come together to lodge an official proposal with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to **make the Mediterranean an emission control area (ECA) for sulphur oxides**. The 78th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which convened on 6-10 June 2022, approved the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) under regulation 14 of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The formal designation of the Med SOx ECA will be put forward for adoption at the 79th session of MEPC due to take place on 12-16 December 2022.
2. MEPC 78 granted its approval after considering the joint and coordinated proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides, which was submitted by all Mediterranean coastal States, along with all Member States of the European Union, and the European Commission. The submission of this proposal was agreed in December 2021 within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) at COP 22 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). The consensus reached among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the proposal was the culmination of intense consultations facilitated by UNEP/MAP. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), administered by the IMO in cooperation with UNEP/MAP, led on the preparatory technical work. A Technical Committee of Experts that REMPEC established in 2016 brought together representatives from all 21 Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union.
3. At the recent MEPC 78 the proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area (ECA) was approved, with a view to this being adopted at MEPC 79 in December 2022. The date of entering into force is still to be decided but, if adopted at MEPC 79, it may be as early as 2024 or 2025 and require ships navigating the Mediterranean Sea to burn fuel oils with no more than 0.10% m/m sulphur content.

Service Offered by M.A.C.

4. M.A.C. S.A. based on its wide expertise for detailed monitoring of international legal and institutional developments, will follow proceedings and revert with updates in due course providing to its customers and affiliated International Registry Administrations technical input on IMO developments, as appropriate.



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