



**MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.**

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

---

**Subject: "I.M.O. Environmental Legislation: Israel announces lower in-port fuel sulfur limits"**

---

**Summary:** The current Newsletter informs on the recent approval of the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) and the announcement by Israel for lower in-port fuel sulfur limits by 23 February 2023.

**Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) approved by the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee**

MAC S.A. [Technical Service Circular 08/2022](#), issued in July 2022 reported that at the MEPC 78 the proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area (ECA) was approved. While the date of entering into force was at that time still to be decided, required ships navigating the Mediterranean Sea to burn fuel oils with no more than 0.10% m/m sulfur content.

Following the submission of the joint and coordinated Proposal to Designate the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides by all Mediterranean coastal States, along with all Member States of the European Union, and the European Commission, the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 78th session (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).

There are currently four designated Emission Control Areas for Sulphur Oxides and particulate matter worldwide: the Baltic Sea area; the North Sea area; the North American area (covering designated coastal areas off the coast of the United States and Canada); and the United States Caribbean Sea area (around Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands).

**Med SOx ECA Effective Date**

It is noted that although the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and particulate matter was recently adopted at MEPC 79, it will not take effect until 2025. In such an Emission Control Area, the limit for sulfur in fuel oil used on board ships is 0.10% mass by mass (m/m), while outside these areas the limit is 0.50% m/m.

**Israel Announces Lower In-Ports Sulfur Limits**

For this reason and according to Maritime Press Reports, Israel, in enacting the new regulations, will put in place measures similar to the EU directive for ships at berth with an effective date of 23 February 2023. Accordingly, it is expected that the limit for sulfur in fuel oil used on board ships whilst in all Israeli ports and/or designated anchorage areas should be not more than 0.10% mass by mass (m/m).

**Service Offered by MAC**

Considering the ever-expanding and binding legislation related to the Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides notably also for the Med Area and its high relevance for the efficient operation of vessels MAC S.A. provides to its customers operating vessels under various registries, specialized guidance relevant to concrete requirements for potential obligations for the sulfur limit in vessels fuel.

---



**"SIMPLIFYING YOUR MARITIME NEEDS"**



**Notara Str. 110-112, Piraeus, 18535, Greece**