

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice

## Red Sea and Gulf of Aden - MARPOL Annex I and V Special Areas

Ref. 006-24  
Issued: 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024

### 1. Introduction

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, all operators are advised that new restrictions regarding the discharge of oil, oily mixtures and garbage will be applied to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas by IMO Resolutions MEPC.381(80) and MEPC.382(80).

MEPC.381(80) will apply the discharge requirements of regulations 15.3, 15.5 and 34.3 to 34.5 of MARPOL Annex I to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Special Areas. MEPC.382(80) will apply the discharge requirements of regulation 6 of MARPOL Annex V to the Red Sea Special Area only.

The Red Sea Special Area is defined as the Red Sea proper including the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba bounded at the south by the rhumb line between Ras si Ane (12°28'.5 N, 043°19'.6 E) and Husn Murad (12°40'.4 N, 043°30'.2 E).

The Gulf of Aden Special Area is defined as that part of the Gulf of Aden between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea bounded to the west by the rhumb line between Ras si Ane (12°28'.5 N, 043°19'.6 E) and Husn Murad (12°40'.4 N, 043°30'.2 E) and to the east by the rhumb line between Ras Asir (11°50' N, 051°16'.9 E) and the Ras Fartak (15°35' N, 052°13'.8 E).

It should be noted that there is no phase-in date for the requirements and immediate compliance is expected following the entry into force date.

### 2. Requirements under MARPOL Annex I

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, with respect to both the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas; **all ships** of 400 gross tonnage and above shall be prohibited from discharging oil or oily mixtures into the sea except when:

- .1 The ship is proceeding enroute;
- .2 The oily mixture is processed through oil filtering equipment meeting the requirements of regulation 14.7 of MARPOL Annex I;
- .3 The oil content of the effluent without dilution does not exceed 15 parts per million;
- .4 The oily mixture does not originate from cargo pump-room bilges on oil tankers; and
- .5 The oily mixture, in case of oil tankers, is not mixed with oil cargo residues

With respect to **Oil Tankers only**, any discharge into the sea of oil or oily mixtures from the cargo area shall be prohibited.

### 3. Requirements under MARPOL Annex V

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, with respect to the Red Sea:

1. Discharge of the following garbage by all ships is only permitted in accordance with the following while the ship is enroute:
  - .1 Discharge into the sea of food wastes must be as far as practicable from the nearest land, but not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land. Food wastes must be



comminuted or ground and capable of passing through a screen with openings no greater than 25 mm. Food wastes must not be contaminated by any other garbage type.

.2 Discharge of cargo residues that cannot be recovered using commonly available methods for unloading, is only permitted where all the following conditions are satisfied:

.1 Cargo residues contained in hold washing water do not include any substances classified as harmful to the marine environment according to the criteria set out in appendix I of Annex V;

.2 Solid bulk cargoes as defined by regulation VI/1-1.2 of SOLAS, other than grain, shall be classified in accordance with appendix I of Annex V, and declared by the shipper as to whether or not they are harmful to the marine environment (For ships engaged in international voyages, reference is made to section 4.2.3 of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code; for ships not engaged in international voyages, other means of declaration may be used, as determined by the Administration);

.3 Cleaning agents or additives contained in hold washing water must not include any substances classified as harmful to the marine environment (refer to MEPC.295(71) - 2017 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V as may be revised);

.4 Both the port of departure and the next port of destination are within the special area and the ship will not transit outside the special area between those ports;

.5 No adequate reception facilities are available at those ports (refer to MEPC.1/Circ.834/Rev.1 - Consolidated Guidance for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users as may be revised); and

.6 Where the conditions of subparagraphs 2.1 to 2.5 of this paragraph have been fulfilled, discharge of cargo hold washing water containing residues shall be made as far as practicable from the nearest land and not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land.

2. Cleaning agents or additives contained in deck and external surfaces wash water may be discharged into the sea, but only if these substances are not harmful to the marine environment (refer to MEPC.295(71) - 2017 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V as may be revised).
3. Where garbage is mixed with or contaminated by other substances prohibited from discharge or having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements apply.

*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.*

