

# **Designation of the Mediterranean Sea Area as SOx Emission Control Areas**

## **Amended Rules**

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

## **Reasons for Amendment**

Regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI prescribes requirements related to sulphur oxides (SOx) and designates certain areas as being SOx Emission Control Area (ECA). This regulation has already been incorporated into the NK Rules.

Originally, only the Baltic Sea Area and the North Sea Area were designated as SOx ECA, with the North American Area and the United States Caribbean Sea Area being subsequently designated. In recent years, there has been growing support for also designating the Mediterranean Sea Area as SOx ECA, and proposal to do so was submitted to the IMO by European countries and Mediterranean coastal nations. The proposal was reviewed by the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 79<sup>th</sup> Session (MEPC79) in December 2022 and adopted as resolution MEPC.361(79).

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on MEPC.361(79).

## **Outline of Amendment**

Add the Mediterranean Sea Area to the areas designated as SOx Emission Control Areas.

“Rules for marine pollution prevention systems” has been partly amended as follows:

## **Part 8 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

### **Chapter 1 GENERAL**

#### **1.1 General**

##### **1.1.2 Terminology** (*Regulation 2, 13, 14 and 16 of Annex VI and 1.3, 4.1, 4.3.9 and 4.4.8 of NOx Technical Code*)\*

Sub-paragraph (16) has been amended as follows.

(16) “SOx Emission Control Areas” means any sea area, including any port area, designated by the *IMO* in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth in Appendix III to *Annex VI*. The emission control areas are those areas listed in the following (a) to ~~(d)~~:

- (a) The North American Area  
The area specified in (a) of (15) above.
- (b) The United States Caribbean Sea Area  
The area specified in (b) of (15) above.
- (c) The Baltic Sea Area  
The area specified in (c) of (15) above.
- (d) The North Sea Area  
The area specified in (d) of (15) above.

(e) The Mediterranean Sea Area

The area including all waters bounded by the coasts of Europe, Africa and Asia, and is described by the following i) to iii) coordinates:

- i) 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);
- ii) 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
- iii) the northern entrance to the Suez Canal excluding the area enclosed by geodesic lines connecting points specified in Appendix VII.4.3 to Annex VI.