



# ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

### CIRCULAR N° POL 034

## IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MARPOL REQUIREMENTS – EMISSION CONTROL AND SPECIAL AREA DISCHARGE REGULATIONS

### MEPC.361(79), MEPC.381(80), MEPC.382(80)

**TO:** SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS,  
MASTERS, SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE  
ADMINISTRATION AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

**APPLICABLE TO:** Vessels subject to MARPOL Annex VI operating in the  
Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area and vessels of  
400 gross tonnage and above operating within the Red Sea  
and Gulf of Aden Special Areas

**EFFECTIVE AS FROM:** 1<sup>ST</sup> January 2025 and 1<sup>ST</sup> May 2025

15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### 1. General

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), through Resolutions MEPC.381(80) and MEPC.382(80), has adopted new discharge requirements under MARPOL Annex I and Annex V, respectively. These resolutions establish the operational limitations applicable within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas in accordance with Regulation 38.8.1 of MARPOL Annex I and Regulation 8.2 of MARPOL Annex V.

In addition, this Circular addresses the requirements related to the sulphur content of fuel oils to be used on board ships operating within the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (SOx ECA), effective from 1 May 2025.

This Circular summarizes and outlines the implementation of the following MARPOL regulations:

- Sulphur content of fuel oils used on board vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea SOx ECA, effective 1 May 2025;
- Discharge requirements under MARPOL Annex I Regulations 15.3, 15.5, and 34.3 to 34.5 applicable within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas, effective 1 January 2025;
- Discharge requirements under MARPOL Annex V Regulation 6 within the Red Sea Special Area, effective 1 January 2025.

## **2. Application**

The following IMO Resolutions apply:

- a) Resolution MEPC.361(79) – Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 14 (Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter);
- b) Resolution MEPC.381(80) – Annex I discharge requirements for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas;
- c) Resolution MEPC.382(80) – Annex V discharge requirements for the Red Sea Special Area.

## **3. Requirements**

### **3.1 Sulphur Emission Control in the Mediterranean Sea (Effective 1 May 2025)**

All vessels subject to MARPOL Annex VI and operating within the Mediterranean Sea SOx ECA shall, as of 1 May 2025, either:

- Use fuel oils with a sulphur content not exceeding 0.10% m/m in accordance with Regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI, or
- Employ alternative emission reduction technologies to achieve equivalent compliance.

### **3.2 Discharge of Oil or Oily Mixtures – MARPOL Annex I (Effective 1 January 2025)**

For all vessels of 400 gross tonnage and above, the discharge of oil or oily mixtures into the sea shall be prohibited within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas unless all of the following conditions are met:

- a) The ship is en route;
- b) The oily mixture is processed through oil filtering equipment in compliance with Regulation 14.7 of MARPOL Annex I;
- c) The oil content of the effluent without dilution does not exceed 15 ppm;
- d) The oily mixture does not originate from cargo pump room bilges on oil tankers; and
- e) In the case of oil tankers, the oily mixture is not mixed with cargo oil residues.

### **3.3 Discharge from Oil Tankers – Cargo Area (Effective 1 January 2025)**

For oil tankers, any discharge of oil or oily mixtures from the cargo area while within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Special Areas shall be strictly prohibited.

*Note:* This requirement does not apply to the discharge of clean or segregated ballast.

### **3.4 Garbage Discharge – MARPOL Annex V (Effective 1 January 2025)**

For all vessels, the discharge of garbage within the Red Sea Special Area shall only be permitted while the ship is en route and in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 6 of MARPOL Annex V. The geographical boundaries of the Mediterranean Sea SOx ECA and the designated Special Areas are as delineated in the relevant Appendices of MARPOL.

## **4. Recommendations**

All shipowners, Ship's Operators and Managers as well as Masters are strongly advised to ensure full compliance with the above-mentioned MARPOL regulations. Necessary measures should be implemented to update operational procedures and crew awareness to reflect these regulatory changes.