



# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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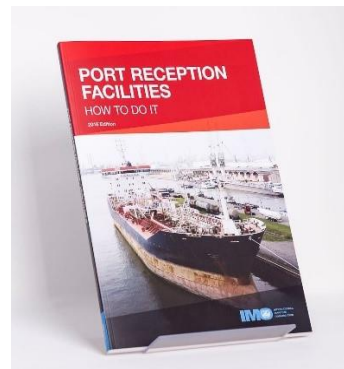
## Establishment of an effective date for the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden special areas under MARPOL Annex I and V

This technical information was published to provide information on the new Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I & V, specifically the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which will come into effect on 1 January 2025. At MEPC 80 (in July 2023), the adoption of Res.MEPC.381(80) and Res.MEPC.382(80) established **1 January 2025** as the effective date for the Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and under MARPOL Annex V in the Red Sea.

Consequently, ship owners and relevant parties involved in the operation of ships are kindly requested to pay attention to the following information, which provides background and detailed information on the designation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as Special Areas, the status of MARPOL Annex I & V Special Areas, and key considerations for compliance.

### 1. Background

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) noted that the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden were designated as Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I & V due to their significant marine ecological and environmental conditions, as well as their importance as major route for maritime commerce. MEPC confirmed that States in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden areas, such as Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan, provided adequate reception facilities and arrangements, including treatment facilities for MARPOL Annex I & V ship-generated wastes and residues at ports and terminals in these areas. Accordingly, the effective date for MARPOL Annex I & V Special Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was established for 1 January 2025.



(Image source: Encyclopedia Britannica, IMO)

## 2. List of Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I & V (refer to MEPC.1/Circ.778/Rev.4)

1) The list of Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I & V is designated as shown in [Table 1]. From 1 January 2025, the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden** shall take effect as Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I, and the **Red Sea** shall also take effect as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex V.

Table 1. List of Special Areas under MARPOL Annex I & V

MARPOL Annex I (Oil)	MARPOL Annex V (Garbage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltic Sea</li> <li>• Black Sea</li> <li>• Gulfs area</li> <li>• Mediterranean Sea</li> <li>• North West European waters</li> <li>• Southern South African waters</li> <li>• Antarctic area</li> <li>• Red Sea</li> <li>• Gulf of Aden</li> <li>• Oman area of the Arabian Sea<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltic Sea</li> <li>• Gulfs area</li> <li>• North Sea</li> <li>• Mediterranean Sea</li> <li>• Wider Caribbean region</li> <li>• Antarctic area</li> <li>• Red Sea</li> <li>• Black Sea<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>

2) The geographical information on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden areas is as follows, as defined in MARPOL Annex I & V

- Red Sea area means 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).
- Gulf of Aden area means 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).<sup>8</sup>



Figure1. Red Sea



Figure2. Gulf of Aden

<sup>1</sup> These areas have been designated as special areas under the MARPOL Convention. However, they have not yet become effective as special areas because notifications regarding the expansion of adequate port reception facilities have not been submitted to the IMO. Therefore, in accordance with MARPOL Annex I Reg.38.8.2 & MARPOL Annex V Reg.8.2.2, until these special areas become effective, the requirements regarding discharge outside special areas shall be followed.

### **3. Ship owner's consideration**

#### **(1) MARPOL Annex I**

- All ship's officers and crew need to be educated that the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden is added as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex I from 1 January 2025.
- Adequate entries shall be made in the Oil Record Book when ships operate in the Special Area of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- The information regarding reception facilities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden shall be contact local agents, and any receipts from reception facilities shall be attached to the Oil Record Book.
- The oil and oily mixtures discharge requirements in the Special Area, as designated under MARPOL Annex I, shall be observed.
- Especially, for ships of 400 GT and above but less than 10,000 GT intending to discharge oily mixtures within special areas, please note that a 15ppm bilge alarm and automatic stopping device are required to be installed in the oil filtering equipment.
- The discharge of oil or oily mixtures from the cargo area of an oil tanker is prohibited within special areas.

#### **(2) MARPOL Annex V**

- All ship's officers and crew need to be educated that the Red Sea is added as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex V from 1 January 2025.
- Adequate entries shall be made in the Garbage Record Book when ships operate in the Special Area of the Red Sea.
- The information regarding reception facilities in the Red Sea shall be contact local agents, and any receipts from reception facilities shall be attached to the Garbage Record Book.
- The garbage discharge requirements in the Special Area, as designated under MARPOL Annex V, shall be observed.
- In Special Areas, food waste can only be discharged if it is comminuted or ground to a size of 25mm or less and the ship is more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land. Cargo residues can only be discharged if all conditions specified in MARPOL Annex V Reg.6.1.2 are satisfied.

### **4. Notes to Surveyors**

- During relevant surveys and/or audits, in accordance with the addition of Special Areas, surveyors shall verify the adequate entries in Oil Record Book for the discharge or disposal of oil or oily mixtures in the Special Area under MARPOL Annex I, and entries in Garbage Record Book for the discharge or disposal of garbage in the Special Area under MARPOL Annex V. (This includes verifying entries in the Oil Record Book and Garbage Record Book for discharges or disposals to reception facilities in the Special Areas, including the relevant receipts)

## Attachment

1. Res.MEPC.381(80): Establishment of the date on which Regulations 15.3, 15.5 and 34.3 to 34.5 of MARPOL Annex I, in respect of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Special Areas, shall take effect
2. Res.MEPC.382(80): Establishment of the date on which Regulations 6 of MARPOL Annex V, in respect of the Red Sea Special Area, shall take effect
3. MEPC.1/Circ.778/Rev.4: List of Special Areas, Emission Control Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas

Distributions : Ship owners, KR surveyors, Other relevant parties

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