IMO

Special and emission control areas

Adoption, entry into force & date of taking effect of Special Areas			
Special Areas	**Adopted #**	**Date of Entry into Force**	**In Effect From**
Annex I: Oil			
Mediterranean Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Baltic Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Black Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Red Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	1 Jan 2025
"Gulfs" area	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	1 Aug 2008
Gulf of Aden	1 Dec 1987	1 Apr 1989	1 Jan 2025
Antarctic area	16 Nov 1990	17 Mar 1992	17 Mar 1992
North West European Waters	25 Sept 1997	1 Feb 1999	1 Aug 1999
Oman area of the Arabian Sea	15 Oct 2004	1 Jan 2007	*
Southern South African waters	13 Oct 2006	1 Mar 2008	1 Aug 2008
Annex II: Noxious Liquid Substances			
Antarctic area	30 Oct 1992	1 Jul 1994	1 Jul 1994
Annex IV: Sewage			
Baltic Sea	15 Jul 2011	1 Jan 2013	**
Annex V: Garbage			
Mediterranean Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 May 2009
Baltic Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 Oct 1989
Black Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	*
Red Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 Jan 2025
"Gulfs" area	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 Aug 2008
North Sea	17 Oct 1989	18 Feb 1991	18 Feb 1991
Antarctic area (south of latitude 60 degrees south)	16 Nov 1990	17 Mar 1992	17 Mar 1992
Wider Caribbean region including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea	4 Jul 1991	4 Apr 1993	1 May 2011
Annex VI: Prevention of air pollution by ships (Emission Control Areas)			
Baltic Sea (SOx) (NOx)	26 Sept 1997 7 July 2017	19 May 2005 1 Jan 2019	19 May 2006 1 Jan 2021****
North Sea (SOx) (NOx)	22 Jul 2005 7 July 2017	22 Nov 2006 1 Jan 2019	22 Nov 2007 1 Jan 2021****
North American ECA (SOx and PM) (NOx)	26 Mar 2010	1 Aug 2011	1 Aug 2012 1 Jan 2016***
United States Caribbean Sea ECA (SOx and PM) (NOx)	26 Jul 2011	1 Jan 2013	1 Jan 2014 1 Jan 2016***
Mediterranean Sea (SOx and PM)	16 Dec 2022	1 May 2024	1 May 2025

\# Status of multilateral conventions and instruments in respect of which the International Maritime Organization or its Secretary-General perform depositary or other functions as at 31 December 2002.

* The Special Area requirements for these areas have not yet taken effect because of lack of notifications from MARPOL Parties whose coastlines border the relevant special areas on the existence of adequate reception facilities (regulations 38.6 of MARPOL Annex I and 5(4) of MARPOL Annex V).

** The new special area requirements, which entered into force on 1 January 2013, will only take effect upon receipt of sufficient notifications on the existence of adequate reception facilities from Parties to MARPOL Annex IV whose coastlines border the relevant special area (regulation 13.2 of the revised MARPOL Annex IV, which was adopted by resolution MEPC.200(62) and which entered into force on 1 January 2013).

*** A ship constructed on or after 1 January 2016 and is operating in these emission control areas shall comply with NOx Tier III standards set forth in regulation 13.5 of MARPOL Annex VI.

**** A ship constructed on or after 1 January 2021 and is operating in these emission control areas shall comply with NOx Tier III standards set forth in regulation 13.5 of MARPOL Annex VI.

Note of the publisher: For the present status of the regulations on discharge of sewage by passenger ships in the Baltic Sea please refer to MARPOL Annex IV, Regulation 11 B.
A specific regulation for the discharge of certain substances of category Y applies for Northern and Western European waters. Details are to be found in MARPOL Annex II Regs. 13.7.1.4 and 13.9.
A specific definition of nearest land for the northeastern coast of Australia, covering the area of the Great Barrier Reef and the Torres Strait, applies. This area is subject to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV and V.

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