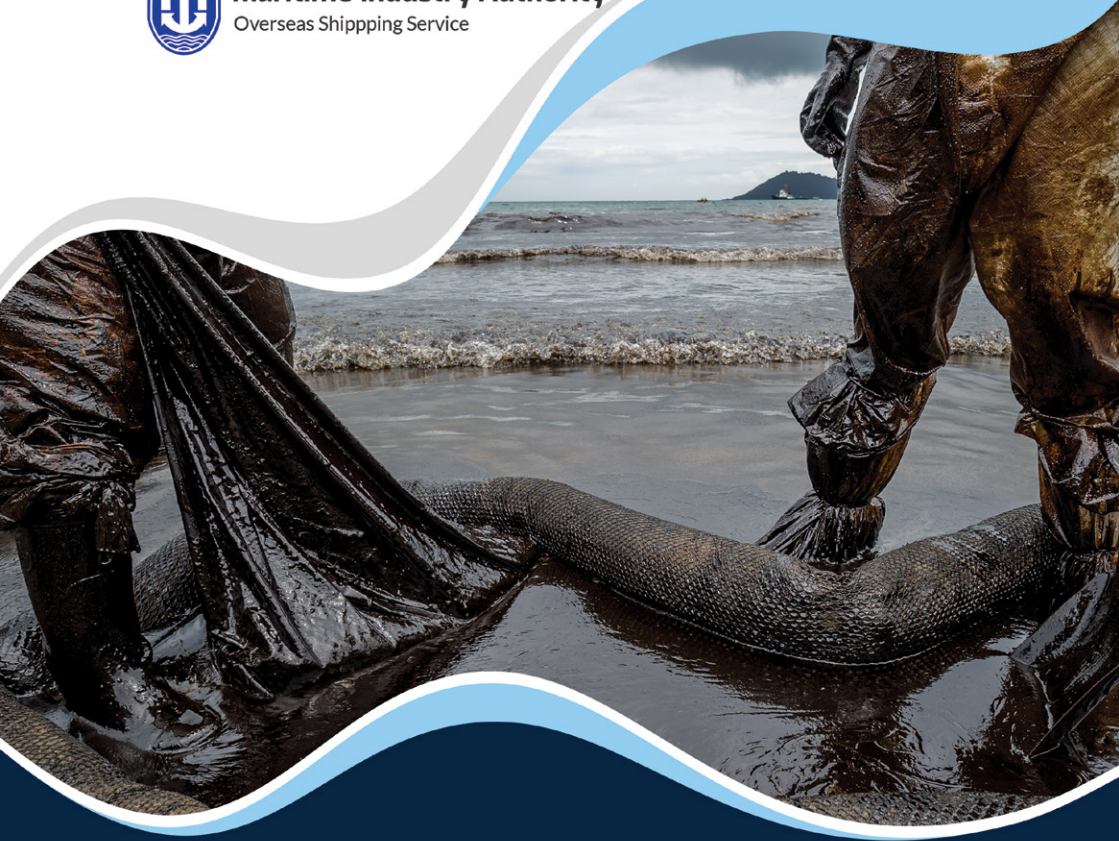




Maritime Industry Authority
Overseas Shipping Service



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON **MARPOL 73/78 CONVENTION**

What is **MARPOL** Convention?

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

MARPOL Convention was adopted on 02 November 1973 at the IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977. As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument entered into force on 02 October 1983.



What is the objective of **MARPOL 73/78**?

The objective of the Convention is to reduce the volumes of harmful materials entering the world's ocean and marine environment. To achieve this goal, the Convention and its Annexes contain requirements to control the accidental or deliberate discharge of substances such as oil, chemical and garbage. It also sets incineration requirements.



What are the different annexes to MARPOL 73/78?

MARPOL 73/78 includes six annexes, as follows:

Annex I: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Oil (entered into force on 02 October 1983)

Annex I includes not only regulations relating to the construction of ships for the protection of the marine environment but also a general prohibition on discharging oil into the sea. The discharging of oily mixtures, however, is permissible in compliance with the discharging regulations. Furthermore, all the important operational events that take place on board – particularly the treatment and storage of oil residues and oily bilge water – shall be maintained in an oil record book.

Annex II: Regulations for the Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk (entered into force on 06 April 1987)

Annex II deals with the transport of noxious liquid substances, which are conveyed in the form of bulk products as well as the discharging of liquid residues containing noxious liquid substances. The regulations contained in this Annex also include a general prohibition on discharging these residues. Exceptions conforming to the classification of the respective substance into the hazard category X, Y, or Z are permissible. All the events occurring on board that are important with regard to a harmful substance shall be entered into a cargo record book.





Annex III: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form (entered into force on 01 July 1992)

Annex III aims to identify marine pollutants, using clear marks to distinguish them from other less harmful cargoes, in order to be packed and stowed on board ship that would minimize accidental pollution. The carriage of harmful substances in packaged form is prohibited except in accordance with its provisions.

Annex IV: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (entered into force on 27 September 2003)

Annex IV generally prohibits the discharge of sewage into the sea with corresponding exceptions in accordance with its provisions.

Annex V: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships (entered into force on 31 December 1988)

Annex V contains provisions intended to prevent pollution by garbage from ships, with different requirements in accordance with the type of garbage to be disposed of. All the disposal and incineration operations of garbage must be documented in a garbage record book.

Annex VI: Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (entered into force on 19 May 2005)

Annex VI intends to limit air pollution from ships. It affects ozone-depleting substances (ODS), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur oxides (SO_x) and particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), shipboard incineration, reception facilities, fuel oil quality, energy efficiency design of ships, and ship energy efficiency management plan (SEEMP).



What are the main elements of **MARPOL** related to port reception facilities?

MARPOL

REGULATION FOR

Annex I: Oil

In loading ports, ship repair yards, bunkering ports

Applies to ships with machineries, not just oil tankers

Annex II: Noxious Liquid Substances

In ports and terminals an adequate reception needs to be present for cargo residues resulting from compliance with Annex II and in ship repair ports where repair of NLS-tankers can take place

Applies to ships carrying certain types of chemicals

Annex III: Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form

Harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form; does not require the provision of reception facilities

MARPOL

REGULATION FOR

Annex IV: Sewage

Ports and terminals in all areas and in Special Areas in particular used by passenger ships

Applies to all manned ships

Annex V: Garbage

Each party undertakes to ensure the provision of adequate facilities at ports and terminals for the reception of garbage without causing undue delay to ships

Applies to all manned ships

Annex VI: Air Pollution

Ozone depleting substances, equipment and materials; residues from exhaust gas cleaning systems

Applies to all fueled ships

What is the extent of applicability of this Convention on ships?

The present Convention shall apply to:

- Ships entitled to fly the flag of a Party to the Convention; and
- Ships not entitled to fly the flag of a Party but which operate under the authority of a Party.

What are the ships not covered by the said Convention?

The present Convention shall not apply to the following:

- Any warships;
- Naval auxiliaries; and
- Other ships owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service.



In which countries are the **MARPOL regulations** most often enforced?

The MARPOL regulations are enforced in all maritime nations signatory to the MARPOL Convention.

How many States are currently Parties to the Convention and to its Annexes?

TREATY	NO. OF CONTRACTING STATES	% WORLD TONNAGE
MARPOL 1973/1978	158	99.01
MARPOL ANNEX III	149	98.49
MARPOL ANNEX IV	144	96.28
MARPOL ANNEX V	154	98.64
MARPOL PROT 1997	96	96.72

What are the Special Areas under **MARPOL**?

- **Annex I: Oil**

- Mediterranean Sea
- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Red Sea
- "Gulfs" area
- Gulf of Aden
- Antarctic area
- North West European Waters
- Oman area of the Arabian Sea
- Southern South African waters

- **Annex II: Noxious Liquid Substances**

- Antarctic Area

- **Annex IV: Sewage**

- Baltic Sea

- **Annex V: Garbage**

- Mediterranean Sea
- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Red Sea
- "Gulfs" area
- North sea
- Antarctic area (south of latitude 60 degrees south)
- Wider Carribean region including the Gulf of Mexico and the Carribean Sea

- **Annex VI: Prevention of air pollution by ships
(Emission Control Areas)**

- Baltic Sea (SO_x) (NO_x)
- North Sea (SO_x) (NO_x)
- North American ECA (SO_x and PM) (NO_x)
- United States Caribbean Sea ECA (SO_x and PM) (NO_x)



How are **MARPOL Regulations** enforced?

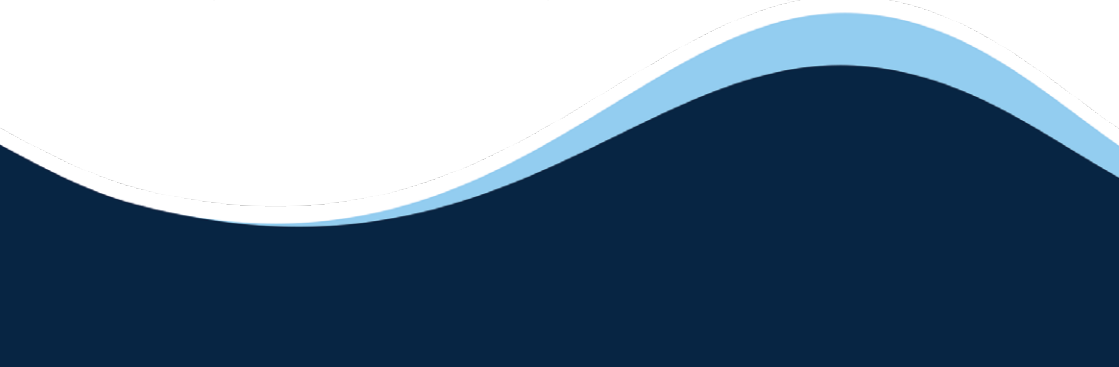
Each participating country adopts the MARPOL Regulations as part of their national laws. Each country has a law enforcement agency that can arrest and detain MARPOL Regulation violators, if appropriate.

What might happen if a ship violates **MARPOL Regulations**?

The ship may be detained, the owners/operators fined and placed on probation and the involved crew member/s may be imprisoned and/or fined. Many companies have been fined millions in US dollars for MARPOL violations worldwide.

When did the Philippines become a Party to **MARPOL 73/78**?

The MARPOL 73/78 (Annexes I to V) was ratified in the Philippines on 2001 while the Instruments of Accession of the MARPOL Annex VI has already been deposited to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary General on 24 April 2018.

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References:

- International Maritime Organization
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- MARPOL Training Institute, Inc.
- <http://www.mar.ist.utl.pt/mventura/Projecto-Navios-I/IMO-Conventions%20%28copies%29/MARPOL.pdf>
- Transportation, Water and Urban Development Department
The World Bank
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- National Workshop on MARPOL Annex V and Port Reception Facilities presentations





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Frequently Asked Questions | MARPOL Annex 76/78



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