

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

MEDITERRANEAN SEA EMISSION CONTROL AREA FOR SULPHUR OXIDES AND PARTICULATE MATTER

No: MMN-02/2025

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to communicate to all relevant stakeholders that the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter has taken effect from **May 01, 2025** as stipulated in the Resolution MEPC.362(79) adopted on 16 December 2022.
2. Following the above, **starting from May 01, 2025**, Panamanian-flagged ships operating within the **Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area shall not** use fuel oil with a **Sulphur content exceeding 0.10% m/m**. Furthermore, ships may comply with the requirement established in Regulation 14.4 of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention by using approved and recognized equivalent methods such as Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems, Alternative fuels, and emerging technologies.
3. The Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter includes all waters bounded by the coasts of Europe, Africa and Asia, and is described by the following coordinates:
 - 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);
 - 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
 - the northern entrance to the Suez Canal, excluding the area enclosed by geodesic lines connecting points 1-4 with the following coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	31°29'.00 N	32°16'.00 E
2	31°29'.00 N	32°28'.48 E
3	31°14'.00 N	32°32'.62 E
4	31°14'.00 N	32°16'.00 E

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The Mediterranean Emission Control Area coordinates are shown below in **Fig.1** for easy reference.

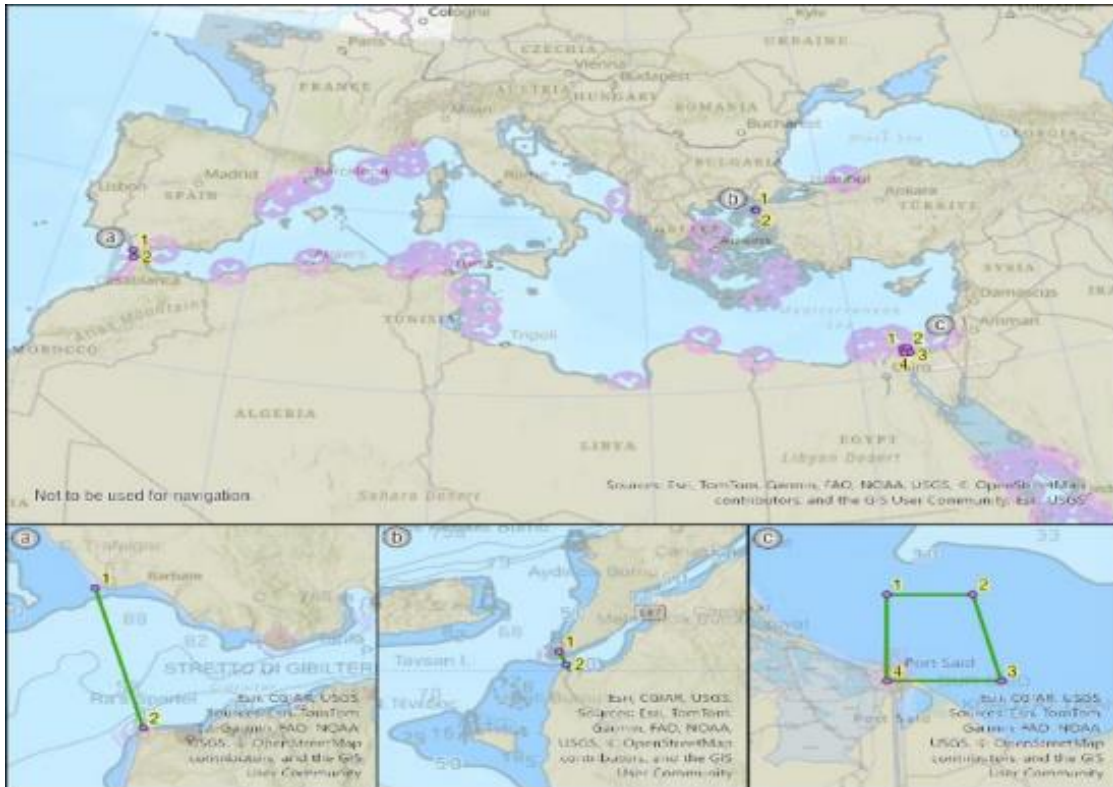


Fig.1: Mediterranean Emission Control Area. Adapted from: “Class News 05/2025: New Emissions Control Areas for Mediterranean Sea, Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea”, Lloyd’s Register.

4. Panamanian-flagged ships using separate fuel oils to comply with Regulation 14.4 of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention shall carry onboard a written fuel changeover procedure outlining how to fully flush their fuel oil service system to ensure compliant fuel is used before entering an ECA.

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5. The following data shall be recorded in **the Panama official Oil Record Book and emissions** when any fuel oil changeover operation is completed before entering the Mediterranean ECA or commenced after exiting from it:
- the volume of low-sulphur fuel oils in each tank;
 - date;
 - time;
 - position.
6. This Administration encourages stakeholders to refer to the MMC-224, which can be found [\[HERE\]](#), if the following exceptional scenarios are encountered:
- where ships are unable to purchase compliant fuel oils due to an exceptional circumstance; or
 - where it is found that the fuel supplied is not compliant and its sulphur content is different from the one stated in the Bunker Delivery Note (BDN).
- Shipowners/applicants are required to send all the evidence and documentation in due time and before entering the Mediterranean Emission Control Area.** Such a request must be sent to the SEGUMAR Office (authorizations@segumar.com) or the nearest international SEGUMAR Officer, which can be found [\[HERE\]](#).
7. Shipowners/Operators are advised to raise awareness onboard their ships by implementing proper measures that align with the standards established in Regulation 14 of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention and relevant IMO Guidelines, thereby maintaining operational safety and protecting the marine environment.



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8. Finally, this Administration recommends Shipowners/Operators to refer to the Paris MOU “Guidelines on application of MARPOL Annex VI Reg 18 in an Emission Control Area (ECA)”, which may serve as a preventive measure to avoid any deficiency or detention by the Port State Control. Click [HERE](#) for easy reference.

May, 2025 – New.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forwarded to:

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E-mail: segumar.headoffice@segumar.com

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