



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



PROTECTION OF THE SEA (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS) ACT 1983

If your project involves operating a ship in Australian or Antarctic waters, you must comply with this Act in regard to operational and accidental discharges of oil and other marine environment pollutants.

1. What does this Act require?

The [Protection of the Sea \(Prevention of Pollution from Ships\) Act 1983](#) along with the [Navigation Act 2012](#), implements the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

MARPOL includes rules for the management and discharge of marine pollutants from ships, including oil, chemicals, sewage, garbage and air pollution. Depending on the size and type of vessels involved, various operational plans may be needed, for example dealing with emergency spill response and waste management.

In addition, certain record keeping requirements may apply for operations involving oil, bulk liquid cargoes and garbage. Marine pollution incidents involving accidental discharges from a ship must be reported without delay so that authorities can respond quickly.

If your project involves the operation of a port, you should plan to provide adequate waste reception facilities for ship-generated waste, including oily waste, chemicals, sewage, garbage and exhaust gas cleaning system residues, and adequate waste recycling facilities. Such facilities will need to operate in accordance with any applicable State, Territory or Commonwealth laws on waste management and biosecurity.

2. Who administers this Act?

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication is responsible for the administration of the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983* and the *Navigation Act 2012*. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) implements this legislation and is responsible for ensuring industry's compliance with the Acts. The Act applies to operations in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including waters adjacent to external territories.

Operations within three nautical miles of the Australian coastline are regulated by State and Territory authorities, where equivalent State and Territory MARPOL legislation is not in force Commonwealth legislation applies.

3. More information

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For more information on prevention of ship-sourced pollution, please visit the [AMSA](#) website or contact AMSA Connect on 1800 627 484.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Phone: 02 6243 7121

Email: contact@mpaa.gov.au.