



Administrative Decision No. (69) of 2025
Concerning The Regulatory Bylaw for Maritime Safety in the Waterways
of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

Chairman of Department of Municipalities and Transport:

Having reviewed:

- Law No. (1) of 1974 concerning the reorganisation of the governmental body in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and its amendments;
- Law No. (16) of 2005 concerning the reorganisation of Abu Dhabi Environment Agency , and its amendments;
- Law No. (21) of 2005 concerning waste management in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and its amendments;
- Law No. (30) of 2019 concerning the establishment of the Department of Municipalities and Transport;
- Federal Law No. (19) of 1993 concerning the Delimitation of maritime zones of the United Arab Emirates;
- Federal Law No. (23) of 1999 concerning the exploitation, protection, and development of living aquatic resources, and its amendments;
- Federal Law No. (24) of 1999 concerning the Protection and Development of the Environment, and its amendments;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (43) of 2023 concerning the Maritime Law;
- Federal Decree No. (40) of 1983 concerning the approval of the United Arab Emirates' accession to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea Convention of 1972, and its annexed regulations;
- Federal Decree No. (42) of 1983 concerning the approval of the United Arab Emirates' accession to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers of 1978;
- Federal Decree No. (74) of 2006 concerning the Adherence of the State to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL73/78);
- Federal Decree No. (214) of 2018 concerning the accession of the State to the protocol of 1997 amending the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 1973 (MARPOL), and the annex attached thereto on the regulations on the prevention of air pollution from ships;



- Chairman of Executive Council Resolution No. (21) of 2018 Concerning Additional Competencies of the Department of Transport;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (35) of 2022 Concerning the Application of the Straight Baseline System on UAE Coasts;
- Chairman of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport Decision No. (171) of 2017 concerning the issuance of the Executive Regulations for licensing, renting, and using jet skis; and
- Based on what was presented to and approved by the Executive Council,

It was decided that:

Chapter One

General Provisions

Article (1) Definitions

In the implementation of the provisions of this bylaw, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings corresponding thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

State	:	United Arab Emirates.
Emirate	:	Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
Department	:	Department of Municipalities and Transport.
Ministry	:	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.
Emirate's Waters	:	Waterways, channels, water bodies, and waters surrounding the islands of the Emirate, as well as inland waters and coasts within the boundaries of the Emirate.
Ports	:	Maritime ports existing in the Emirate and any other ports that may be established in the future, excluding petroleum ports and military ports)
Waterways	:	Water areas surrounding islands, whether natural or artificial, as well as shorelines near the beaches located in the Emirate.
Navigational Aids	:	Any means or external system designed and operated with the aim of improving the safety and efficiency of marine vessel navigation, including any hull or equipment attached to it, buoys, lighthouses, guidance devices, and vessel traffic management system.



International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs)	:	The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea Convention of 1972 and its amendments.
Marine Vessel	:	Any marine vessel or facility operating or prepared to operate in the territorial waters and waterways of the Emirate, whether for personal, commercial, sports, or tourism purposes, regardless of its type or form.
Public Water Transport Vessel	:	Any vessel designated for public transportation of persons and goods within the Emirate's waters, including but not limited to what is called a water bus or water taxi.
Public Water Transport	:	A system designated for transporting the general public, their luggage, and their cargo units through mass transportation systems, on journeys with specified, scheduled, and announced routes, for an announced fare per journey, using marine vessels designated and classified for this purpose. It consists of an initial boarding station, passing through intermediate stations, and arriving at a final destination station, within the Emirate's waters, going back and forth, or from the Emirate to outside and vice versa. The public water transport system includes vessels designated for transport, supporting infrastructure, main passenger stations, waiting areas, docks, marine facilities, approved marine routes, and necessary intermediate stopping stations.
Berthing Areas	:	Designated areas for the docking of marine vessels in waterways.
Establishment	:	Any company or individual enterprise licensed to practice any marine activities in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate.
Permit	:	The document issued by the Department to individuals or establishments in accordance with the conditions and controls stipulated in this bylaw and decisions issued in pursuance thereof.
Marine Facilities	:	Structures along waterfronts, whether artificial or natural, used for maritime purposes or directly impacting



		waterway users, including (but not limited to) docks, shipyards and basins, marinas, floating piers, harbors, landing vessel berths, dry storage yards, and slipways.
Marine Accident	:	An event that exposes or may lead, if not corrected, to exposing the safety of a marine vessel or persons on board or other persons or the environment to danger. The accident may cause, but is not limited to, the following: 1. Loss of any person from on board the marine vessel. 2. Death or injury requiring medical treatment to a person caused by a vessel's operations. 3. The loss or presumed loss or abandonment of any marine vessel. 4. Collision with any marine vessel. 5. Stranding of any marine vessel. 6. Serious damage to any vessel marine. 7. Damage to property or the environment caused by a marine vessel operations. 8. Imminent danger to a person caused by a marine vessel operation. 9. Danger of serious damage to a marine vessel. 10. Any illegal discharge pollutants into the marine environment.
Maritime Operations	:	Any maritime works or activities taking place in the Emirate's waters, including but not limited to: ship-to-ship transfer operations, mooring, diving, hull cleaning, dredging, and other marine operations and activities authorized to be performed in the Emirate in accordance with the legislation in force.
MARPOL Convention	:	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 and its amendments.
Operator	:	A natural or legal person who exploits and operates the marine vessel on his account as an owner or charterer. The owner is considered an operator unless proven otherwise.



Diver	:	A natural person licensed by the concerned authorities to practice the profession of professional diving in works requiring diving below the water surface for industrial, construction, engineering, maintenance, or other commercial purposes similar to works carried out outside the water, in accordance with the conditions, controls, and standards stipulated in the regulations and decisions issued by the Department.
Vessel Captain	:	The natural person licensed by the Ministry to command the marine vessel and supervise its operation and management.
Passenger	:	Any person on board the marine vessel other than the captain of the marine vessel and crew members.
Temporary Permit	:	Approval issued by the Department for a specific time to perform any maritime activity in accordance with the requirements and rules stipulated in the Law and the regulations issued in pursuance thereof.
Restricted Areas	:	Areas demarcated by the Department and concerned entities in the Emirate where the use of vessels is prohibited.
Personal Jet Ski	:	A motorized watercraft for personal use.
Vessel License Number	:	A number permanently affixed to the marine vessel showing the identification of the marine vessel in accordance with the standards and rules issued by the Ministry.

Article (2)

Scope of Application

Without prejudice to applicable legislation in the Emirate and international maritime treaties and conventions to which the UAE or the Emirate is a party, this bylaw shall apply to the waters of the Emirate and to users and operators of marine vessels, activities, operations, marine facilities, and maritime infrastructure, with the exception of petroleum ports, military ports limits.



Chapter Two

Licensing of Maritime Activities and Events

Article (3)

Permits and No-Objection Certificates

1. The Department is responsible for permitting the practice of maritime activities within the waters of the Emirate. Any person or establishment must obtain in advance from the relevant authority a valid commercial license specifying the maritime activity for which authorization is requested before conducting any maritime activities in the waters of the Emirate.
2. In addition to the permit issued by the Department to practice maritime activity, any establishment conducting operations to remove maritime wreckage or navigational aids from the waters of the Emirate must obtain a No-Objection Certificate from the Department before proceeding with the removal or lifting of the wreckage or navigational aid.
3. No person or establishment may organize any maritime events within the waters of the Emirate without obtaining a No-Objection Certificate issued by the Department specifying the nature of the event and its duration, after obtaining the necessary approvals from other relevant authorities.
4. The Department may issue a temporary permit for maritime activities.
5. Any person or establishment that has been issued a permit for an activity or a No-Objection Certificate must comply with all provisions of this bylaw and the standards, requirements, and guidelines related to these activities and issued by the Department.
6. Permitted maritime activities must be practiced only in specific and approved locations and within the permitted time.
7. The transfer of goods, petroleum products, or passengers from one marine vessel to another is not permitted outside designated areas.
8. The Department shall issue the requirements, standards, and conditions related to licensing maritime activities and their types, including public water transport activities for goods and persons, and procedures for obtaining them, while identifying high-risk activities and those with low risk.

Article (4)

Permit for Visiting Foreign Recreational Marine Vessels

1. A visiting foreign recreational marine vessel may sail in the waters of the Emirate provided that it obtains a permit to do so from the relevant authorities.



2. Any marine vessel attached to a main marine vessel must have an announced identity and identification number, including but not limited to private yachts and personal jet ski that are part of the visiting yacht. The owner, operator, or captain of the attached marine vessel, as the case may be, must follow the instructions issued by the Department regarding safe navigation, restricted areas, speed limits, and not using those attached marine vessels except near the main marine vessel.

3. The Department may coordinate with the relevant authorities in the UAE regarding facilitating procedures and movement of visiting foreign recreational marine vessels, mechanisms for their rental, and procedures for their movement to and from the waters of the Emirate.

Chapter Three

Licensing of Marine Facilities

Article (5)

Licensing of Marine Facilities

1. The Department shall issue the requirements, standards, and conditions related to licensing marine facilities and their supervisors, and procedures for obtaining such licenses pursuant to decisions and instructions issued by it in this regard.

2. The supervisor of the marine facility must comply with the regulations issued by the Department.

3. All marine facilities shall be maintained and operated by the management of the establishment in accordance with the standards and rules of practice issued by the Department.

4. The supervisor of the marine facility shall be licensed by the Department and must do the following:

a. Comply with security, safety, and environmental protection procedures within the marine facility.

b. Install the necessary Signage required to enforce safety, security, and environmental protection regulations within the boundaries of the marine facility.

c. Remove any wreckage or obstruction within the boundaries of their facilities and enhance the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment.

5. All marine facilities in the Emirate, to which this bylaw applies, shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Department, and the Department may take necessary measures in case of finding any marine facility that violates the regulations and standards issued by it.



Chapter Four

Safety of Maritime Operations

Article (6)

Navigational Safety

The Department shall coordinate with the relevant authorities in the Emirate when establishing rules regulating maritime navigation, to ensure compliance with the provisions of applicable legislation and international maritime treaties and conventions to which the UAE or Emirate is a party, which relate to safe navigation, prevention of maritime collision, and guidance, towing, and rescue of marine vessels.

Article (7)

Rules of Maritime Navigation

1. The captain of the marine vessel must comply with the following:
 - a. Comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
 - b. Follow the signals, marks, and instructions organizing marine navigation.
 - c. Not cause harm to, endanger, hinder, or disturb others.
 - d. Not anchor the marine vessel in areas not designated for that purpose, except in cases of necessity. In such cases, they should notify the relevant authorities to obtain the necessary approvals, while taking the necessary measures to prevent accidents that may arise from this anchoring or avoid obstructing marine navigation.
 - e. Not use unauthorized marine facilities or docks, unless prior permission is obtained from the Department.
 - f. Not organizing any race of any kind without obtaining prior permission from the Department. This permit is granted after verifying that all necessary requirements to prevent dangers or accidents are met, maritime safety requirements are available, and after providing the necessary guarantees to compensate for any damages or accidents that may arise.
 - g. Provide the equipment and facilities required by the Department and relevant government entities in the Emirate, on board the marine vessel to ensure the safety of its users and protect the marine environment.
 - h. Not leave, dump, or discharge any materials that would hinder maritime navigation or cause danger to its users, and is obligated to remove these obstacles immediately.
 - i. Not participate in special processions or gatherings of marine vessels except with a temporary permit from the Department.



- j. Keep all valid documents and papers specified by the Department inside the marine vessel and present them to its inspectors upon request.
 - k. Ensure that the length, width, or height of the marine vessel's cargo does not exceed the prescribed limits. If the nature of the cargo exceeds these dimensions, prior permission must be obtained from the Department, and the protruding cargo must be marked with signals determined by the Department for this purpose.
 - l. Not use the marine vessel for advertisements such as installing a loudspeaker or placing banners or three-dimensional models on the marine vessel except with prior permission from the Department.
 - m. Not exceed the speed limits set by the Department in waterways and channels.
 - n. Not conduct the authorized activity by means of the marine vessel in areas not designated for that purpose.
 - O. Not destroy or relocate navigation marks or equipment; change their meaning, features, or direction, or cause any damage to them.
 - p. Ensure at all times, in particular before commencing navigation, that the vessel is safe and meets the requirements in accordance with the legislation and international conventions in force in the Emirate.
 - q. Adhere to the requirements of sea conditions, weather conditions, the condition of the marine vessel and its cargo, and all surrounding circumstances, and observe safe speed and distance.
 - r. Load, distribute and stow the cargo of the vessel in a safe manner so as not to affect its stability while navigating under all conditions.
 - s. Not load goods on board the marine vessel that are not designated for this type of goods.
 - t. Not deliberately destruct, abandon, or neglect the marine vessel.
 - u. During the towing operation, the captain of the marine vessel must be accompanied by his approved assistant and not pass under the bridge while towing more than one marine vessel unless permitted by the Department. Emergency cases are exempt from this.
2. It is prohibited for any person to use a marine vessel under the influence of drugs or alcoholic substances.
3. No person may use or release any signal, flame, rocket, or any other distress signal without obtaining prior permission from the Department, except in emergency situations or when the marine vessel is in danger and requires assistance.
4. No person may use the communication channel on frequency 16 of the Very High Frequency (VHF) marine radio except in emergency situations or when the marine vessel is in danger and needs assistance.



5. All commercial diving activities must be conducted in accordance with the laws and guidelines issued by the Department and must always be under the supervision of the establishment and the diver.
6. It is prohibited to practice any marine sport in restricted areas and areas where speed limits are restricted, including ports and marinas. Water sports must be practiced according to the standards and legislation issued by the Department.
7. It is prohibited to clean the hull of any marine vessel in the water without obtaining a permit from the Department. To obtain the permit, the cleaning of the marine vessel must not cause any harm to the marine environment, including but not limited to:
 - a. Any dredging or floating plant.
 - b. Any ongoing construction or other works.
 - c. Any facility on a bank, coast, or waterside.
 - d. Any other marine vessel, including a moored marine vessel.
 - e. Any marine pollution or change to the nature of the marine environment.
8. All workers and persons present in the waters of the Emirate must comply with all applicable legislation as well as the requirements, standards, and notices issued by the Department.
9. The Department shall issue the standards and requirements related to the safety of maritime operations and their specific requirements.

Article (8)

Obligations of the Marine Vessel Captain in Emergency Situations

1. The captain of the marine vessel must do what is required for the safety of the marine vessel and maritime safety, and must do the following:
 - a. Provide assistance in the event of a maritime accident.
 - b. Assist the marine vessel in case of distress or danger.
 - c. Assist individuals at risk in the waters of the Emirate.
 - d. Inform the relevant authorities about hazards or accidents that are detected in the waters of the Emirate.
 - e. Wait in the vicinity of the damaged marine vessel - whenever possible - until the causes of danger have been eliminated without exposing their marine vessel or other marine vessels to danger.
 - f. Provide the relevant authorities with acceptable and sufficient information for identification and communication.
2. The captain of the marine vessel is obligated to inform the Department of any obstacle to navigation, including but not limited to:
 - a. The presence of a marine vessel in a location that obstructs navigation.



- b. The presence of wreckage.
- c. Loss, damage, or harm to the marine vessel.
- d. Any other emergency situation.

Article (9)

Speeds and Maritime Areas

1. The Department shall determine the permitted maritime speeds in waterways.
2. It is not permitted to operate a marine vessel at a speed exceeding the specified speed for the area.
3. The Department may issue necessary guidance maps to define maritime areas and activities, or issue notices to regulate or prohibit operation in waterways or any parts thereof or prohibit the operation of a marine vessel or any specific categories of marine vessels and regulate the use of these waterways.
4. No person may operate a marine vessel or use the waters of the Emirate in violation of notices or instructions issued by the Department.

Article (10)

Equipping the Marine Vessel and Safety Equipment Requirements

1. The technical matters related to equipping the marine vessel and its safety means, as well as the responsibilities of the owner, operator, captain of the marine vessel, and sailors, shall be determined by a decision from the Department, taking into account the legislation in force.
2. Operators of marine vessels and those working on them must comply with the minimum safety equipment according to the standards and requirements issued by the Department.
3. Operators of marine vessels and those working on them must be fully familiar with how to use safety equipment and comply with the requirements for their use, including rescue equipment, firefighting equipment, and others, in accordance with the standards and requirements issued by the Department.

Article (11)

Maritime Notifications



Those working in maritime activities and operators of marine vessels must comply with the circulars and guidelines issued by the Department regarding maritime safety in the Emirate, including but not limited to the following:

1. Navigation warnings and hazards such as: navigational aids that have been damaged, lost, or malfunctioning.
2. Changes in the navigational aids system and updating of nautical charts.
3. Changes in the depths of waterways.
4. Any other works that may affect the safe navigation of the marine vessel in the waters of the Emirate, such as: drilling operations, construction and development works, events, and activities in the waters of the Emirate.

Article (12)

Environmental Safety

1. Subject to the MARPOL Convention and Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 referred to, all marine vessels are prohibited from disposing of solid waste, oils, toxic or harmful liquid substances, sewage, or waste in the waters of the Emirate or polluting the air with harmful emissions.
2. The Department shall coordinate with the relevant authorities to establish the necessary rules to prevent marine environmental pollution resulting from marine vessels.
3. It is prohibited to supply any recreational marine vessel, including personal jet ski, with fuel at sea.
4. It is prohibited to supply a marine vessel with fuel at any port, dock, or marina if there are passengers on board the marine vessel.
5. The operator of any marine vessel must not refuel except at fuel stations or from licensed fuel tankers.
6. Fuel shall be filled on board the marine vessel in fuel tanks designated for that purpose.
7. Every marina or port must have a station to supply marine vessels with fuel, emergency equipment to deal with spilled materials, and an effective and ready emergency plan that enables it to respond and deal quickly with any leakage or discharge from any marine vessel or from the marine facility itself.
8. Every marine vessel capable of carrying more than 1000 liters of petroleum oil must maintain emergency equipment to deal with spilled materials and must have an effective emergency plan on board that can be used to deal with any pollution from the marine vessel.

Article (13)

Waste Disposal



1. The following conditions shall be observed in applying the restrictions and prohibitions related to the disposal of waste from any marine vessel if waste disposal is necessary for the purpose of ensuring the safety of any marine vessel or those on board:
 - a. If the release of waste is resulting from damage to any marine vessel or its equipment, provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken before and after the damage occurs in order to prevent or minimize the release of waste to the maximum extent possible.
 - b. Waste disposal resulting from accidental loss of any fishing nets provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent such loss.
2. Each vessel 12 meters in length and over must display plates or posters that explain to all crewmembers and passengers the requirements for waste disposal in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution Resulting from Ships (MARPOL). The plates or posters referred to in this bylaw shall be written in Arabic and English or in the language of the vessel's workers if they are not proficient in Arabic or English.
3. Every marine vessel capable of carrying more than 1000 liters of petroleum oil and every marine vessel approved to transport 12 or more persons making voyages to ports or marinas must have a waste management plan on board, and all crewmembers must adhere to its implementation.
4. Every marina or port must have a plan for managing various types of waste.
5. Every marina or port must contain a reception facility to deal with waste, oil residues, oil filters, hazardous materials, and sewage from marine vessels that visit it.
6. The reception facility must be designed in a way that ensures that no oil or waste leaks back into the marine environment.
7. Marine vessels entering marinas and ports must dispose of their waste and residues in reception facilities according to the standards and conditions followed.

Article (14)

Incident Reporting

1. The owner, operator, or captain of the marine vessel, or the management of the marine facility must report the occurrence of any maritime accident as soon as possible after the accident occurs, provided that this does not exceed twenty-four (24) hours under any circumstances.



2. The captain of the marine vessel must notify the Department in case of seeing or causing an accident in waterways.
3. The maritime accident must be reported according to the approved maritime accident report form included in the Maritime Accident Management Standard issued by the Department.

Article (15)

Investigation of Accidents

Upon receiving the initial accident report, the Department may participate in the investigation of any maritime accident, and may take the following in coordination with the Ministry, including but not limited to:

1. Assigning certified inspectors as investigators in maritime accidents.
2. Assigning one or more certified inspectors as investigators to participate in maritime accident investigations conducted jointly with other entities.
3. Seeking assistance from relevant government entities, certified surveyors, or other experts.
4. Recommending the formation of and participating in an accident investigation committee.
5. Recommending to other relevant government entities the cancellation, suspension, or modification of the license of a marine vessel or an entity involved in the accident.
6. Cancelling, suspending, or modifying the license of the person involved in the accident.
7. Imposing an administrative fine as described in the schedule of violations and fines attached to this bylaw.

Chapter Five

Maritime Infrastructure

Article (16)

Development of Maritime Infrastructure

1. No natural or legal person shall begin maritime construction works or a maritime facility: port dock, floating dock, floating structure, marina, port, boat yard, slipway, pier, ramp dock, marine pipeline, marine cable, and bridge in the waters of the Emirate without obtaining a No-Objection Certificate from the Department, and it must be in accordance with the regulations, requirements, standards, and specifications in force in the Emirate.
2. The Department may accept or reject plans or design ideas for any maritime constructions.
3. Any natural or legal person must comply with the instructions related to safety and environmental protection issued by the Department and the relevant authorities regarding any current or proposed maritime constructions.



4. The Department shall inspect the marine facility and establishment upon completion of construction, and accordingly, a permit to operate the marine facility shall be issued.
5. In addition to the requirements of a no-objection certificate from the Department, all necessary no-objection certificates must be obtained from the relevant authorities before starting work.
6. The Department shall issue the standards and requirements related to the development of maritime infrastructure and the specific requirements for that.

Article (17)

Navigational Aids

1. No natural or legal person may install navigational aids without obtaining approval from the Department.
2. The Department may install or order the installation of navigational aids near or in a pilotage area, port area, marine facilities, or any other location.
3. No natural or legal person may modify, remove, damage, interfere with, or obstruct the use of any navigational aids in the waters of the Emirate.
4. In case of causing damage to or moving navigational aids, the captain of the marine vessel, its owner, and operator, collectively or separately, shall be responsible for the costs of repairing them and restoring them to their previous condition.
5. In case the Department repairs or reinstalls navigational aids, it may recover the amount from the person who caused the damage.
6. No natural or legal person may tie any marine vessel to navigational equipment and aids.

Article (18)

Hydrographic Survey

1. Any entity must obtain a No-Objection Certificate from the Department when implementing any hydrographic survey projects in the waters of the Emirate, and must comply with the hydrographic survey standard established by the International Hydrographic Organization as amended from time to time without prior notice.
2. A copy of any hydrographic data collected within the Emirate must be submitted to the Department in the format agreed upon, which necessarily requires updating nautical charts.

Article (19)

Dredging and Reclamation Works



Any entity must obtain a No-Objection Certificate from the Department before starting any dredging or reclamation projects in waterways in accordance with the standards and requirements determined by the Department, taking into account the following:

- a. A No-Objection Certificate for operations, dredging, and reclamation shall not be issued by the Department except on the basis of the contractor's obligations to install the necessary navigational aids in channels passing through public areas.
- b. A copy of any depth measurement survey results must be submitted to the Department before and after dredging works within the Emirate as determined by the Department.

Chapter Six

Administration and Implementation

Article (20)

Delegation of the Department's Tasks for Implementing the Bylaw

The Department may delegate any other government entity in some of the following competencies or outsource them to the private sector, after the approval of the Executive Council, according to the following conditions:

1. Determining and managing the mooring of marine vessels and berthing areas in coordination with the relevant authorities in the Emirate.
2. Determining the main lines of the maritime transport network in the Emirate in coordination with other relevant authorities in the Emirate, and determining the routes and areas where maritime activities are permitted and maximum speed limits.
3. Establishing data registers of registered marine vessels and persons and entities licensed to conduct maritime activities in the Emirate.
4. Issuing code of practice and guidelines related to marine vessel security and safety standards and requirements, including passenger security and safety standards and systems, in accordance with relevant international standards. These standards must cover the following:
 - a. Life-saving equipment.
 - b. Firefighting equipment.
 - c. Maritime navigation equipment.
5. Preparing a technical specifications manual for navigational aids in coordination with the relevant authorities for managing maritime navigation in the Emirate.
6. Supervising the work of marine vessel manufacturers and maintenance companies to ensure their compliance with the standards and specifications approved by the Department.
7. Any other conditions determined by the Department.



Chapter Seven

General Provisions and Penalties

Article (21)

Cases of Detention of Marine Vessels

The Department, in coordination with the Ministry and relevant authorities, may detain any marine vessel as a precautionary measure:

1. If it was involved in a maritime accident or an accident with another marine vessel or facility.
2. If it caused deaths or the loss of a person or persons.
3. If it caused serious human injuries.
4. If the marine vessel is technically not seaworthy.
5. If it caused damage or potential damage to the marine environment.
6. If there is no license for the marine vessel.
7. If the captain of the marine vessel does not have a valid driving license.
8. Driving a jet ski under the age of 18 years and without an escort.
9. Any other reason that may lead to damage.

Article (22)

Grievances or Disputes

Grievances may be filed before the Department according to the periods and procedures stipulated in the legislation in force in this regard.

Article (23)

Previous Permits, Licenses, and Certificates

All permits, licenses, and certificates issued before the implementation of the provisions of this bylaw shall remain valid until their expiration date. Those addressed by the provisions of this



bylaw who do not hold the required documents must regularize their status within 3 months from the date of implementation of the provisions of this bylaw.

Article (24)

The schedule of violations and administrative fines attached to this bylaw shall be applied.

Article (25)

The Chairman of the Department shall issue the decisions, requirements, and standards necessary to implement the provisions of this bylaw.

Article (26)

Any text or provision that contradicts the provisions of this bylaw shall be repealed..

Article (27)

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect from the date of its publication.

Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport

Issued:

On 02/06/ 2025



Violations and Administrative Fines List

#	Type of Fine	Administrative Fine Amount (AED)
1	Failure to comply with the code of practices, standards, and instructions issued by the Department while conducting maritime activities.	5000
2	Organizing an event on the waterfront without a permit.	3000
3	Failure to comply with the requirements for safe diving.	3000
4	Transferring and unloading cargo and fuel at sea from one marine vessel to another without obtaining approval from the Department.	10000
5	Conducting maritime activity without a permit from the Department.	10000
6	Conducting maintenance works for a marine vessel in places other than those designated for it.	2000
7	Cleaning the hull of a marine vessel in the water without obtaining approval from the Department.	20000
8	Using an unauthorised or undesignated facility or location by vessel for securing or performing any marine activity without obtaining approval from the Department.	2000
9	Berthing in the waters of the Emirate without prior permission from the Department.	10000
10	Obstructing navigation or misuse of navigational signals and maritime guidelines.	2000
11	Conducting towing operations without obtaining a permit from the Department.	5000
12	Failure to comply with the navigation rules as specified in this bylaw.	2000
13	Failure to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of navigation when the marine vessel breaks down.	1000
14	Lack of cooperation from the captain of the marine vessel or the operator of the marine vessel to provide assistance in the event of a maritime accident.	5000
15	Causing a maritime accident.	5000
16	Failure of the captain of the marine vessel to report navigation risks caused by the marine vessel under his command or by others.	5000
17	Carrying out actions that might harm a marine vessel or facility, such as approaching it in an unsafe manner .	3000
18	Failure to wear a life jacket except in cases specified by applicable legislation.	500



19	Non-compliance of a marine vessel with requirements for disposal of garbage, oils, ballast water, sewage, management of exhausts, and sanitation requirements.	20000
20	Damaging, abandoning, or neglecting a marine vessel without reason.	10000
21	Failure to secure oil spill containment tools and emergency plans for marine vessels, ports, and facilities to which this bylaw applies.	10000
22	Supplying the marine vessel with fuel from places not designated for that purpose.	5000
23	Sailing under the influence of alcohol or narcotic substances.	10000
24	Renting a marine vessel to a person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.	10000
25	Commencing maritime construction works without obtaining approval from the Department.	30000
26	Conducting any construction works that do not fall under the approval obtained or outside the approved boundaries of the project.	30000
27	Installing or removing a navigational aid or marine buoy without obtaining prior permission from the Department.	15000
28	Tying a marine vessel to any of the navigational aids.	1000
29	Submitting incorrect documents or information to a certified inspector.	3000
30	Deliberately concealing or withholding official documents or records required by the certified inspector.	5000
31	Obstructing the work of a certified inspector or preventing him from performing his duties.	5000
32	Explicit violation of the instructions of the certified inspector.	10000
33	Failure to address deficiencies resulting from the Department's inspection within the specified time and in accordance with its instructions.	5000



Appendix of schedule of services and fees approved by Executive Council Resolution No. (40) of 2025 concerning the draft executive regulations for maritime safety in the waterways of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

#	Service	Fee (AED)
1	Service of traveling within the Emirate for the purpose of conducting technical inspection of jet skis for licensing purposes.	300
2	Issuance of No-Objection Certificates for making technical modifications to jet skis.	100
3	Cancellation or issuance of a replacement for lost or damaged documents mentioned in the schedule of services and fees.	100
4	Issuance of an Export Certificate for jet skis after cancellation of its license.	100
5	Issuance or renewal of an operating permit for an establishment practicing an activity classified within the category of high-risk activities.	3000
6	Issuance or renewal of an operating permit for an establishment practicing an activity classified within the category of low-risk activities.	1000
7	Issuance of an annual permit for supplying fuel through floating platforms to marine vessels.	1000
8	Issuance of No-Objection Certificates for maritime events and activities.	1000
9	Passengers crossing through international maritime ports in the Emirate.	5 dirhams per passenger
10	Approval and licensing of a marine facility.	3000 dirhams for a facility with an area of 100 square meters, with fees increasing



		at a rate of 100 dirhams for each additional square meter
11	Certification of a marina berth lease contract (new contract, renewal, or amendment of a valid contract).	100
12	Issuance of a permit for berthing or anchoring.	1000
13	Issuance of a No-Objection Certificate for a maritime infrastructure project.	2000
14	Issuance of a No-Objection Certificate for the removal of marine vessel wreckage or navigational aid.	500