



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Sixteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional  
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the  
Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.61/INF.24  
27 March 2025  
Original: English

Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

**Agenda Item 6: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships**

**Marine Intervention in Chemical Emergencies Network (MAR-ICE service)**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

### **Note by EMSA**

The present document provides information on the Marine Intervention in Chemical Emergencies Network (MAR-ICE service), a 24/7 Information Service for marine emergencies involving chemicals, provided by the European Maritime Safety Agency to the EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries.

## **Background**

1. In close cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre, France), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) established in 2008 a network of experts (MAR-ICE Network) who, upon request, can provide product-specific information and specialist advice on chemicals involved in maritime emergencies (MAR-ICE service). The service has been available to Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain since January 2009.

2. Since 1 January 2025, the MAR-ICE service has been made available also to Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, through the EuroMed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships project (SAFEMED V) as well as to Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Türkiye through the project for the preparatory measures for the future participation of candidate countries in the European Maritime Safety Agency (IPA III).

3. SAFEMED V and IPA III are funded by the European Commission under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and are both implemented by EMSA.

## **Type of service offered from the MAR-ICE network**

4. A 24/7 access to a specialised expert is provided to the national competent authorities, whom they can consult remotely for substance-specific professional information, documentation and advice, thus fostering the decision-making process when dealing with chemical emergencies at sea.

5. The support to the requesting national competent authority is provided remotely (email/phone) through the single MAR-ICE Contact Point and includes the following:

**.1 Information provided within 1 hour from the request:**

- Safety data sheets (SDS) and Marine chemical information sheets (MAR-CIS data sheets)
- Relevant data from international codes & regulations

**.2 Information provided after the initial first hour, on a case-by-case basis:**

- Additional information on product properties from a knowledgeable chemical company

**.3 For cargoes spilled at sea:**

- 2D or 3D drift and weathering models, indicating areas potentially impacted by the spill
- Estimation of the mass balance of the chemical spilled according to time elapsed

**.4 For containers:**

- Assessment of the behaviour of a container lost at sea
- Advice on methods to locate and recover the containers

**.5 For cargoes on board disabled vessels:**

- Risk assessment for responders and the environment
- Advice on response methods and options.

6. The service can be activated with the use of the *MAR-ICE Activation Form*, via dedicated contact numbers and operational procedures to be distributed to national maritime administrations of the beneficiaries.

7. Dedicated MAR-ICE service familiarisation sessions are organised and provided by EMSA in close cooperation with Cedre to the staff of the countries with access to the service, to enable a better understanding of the service's scope and activation procedures.

**Actions requested by the Meeting**

**1 The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment** as deemed appropriate.

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