



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 896 of 4th November 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Net-Zero Framework aiming to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
Reference	MEPC 83

2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS In April 2025, MEPC 83 approved amendments to MARPOL Annex VI introducing a new Chapter 5 – Regulations on the IMO Net-Zero Framework aiming to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping as soon as possible, and to deliver the reduction targets set out in the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

Consideration of adoption of the Mid-Term GHG Reduction Measures Adjournment of the meeting for a period of one year. At a historic extraordinary session, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) convened to consider the adoption of the revised MARPOL Annex VI (2025)—a key regulatory instrument intended to operationalize the IMO's Net-Zero Framework and advance global maritime decarbonization.

Despite extensive deliberations and the submission of a finalized draft text, consensus could not be reached among Member States. Key points of contention included the acceptance procedure (tacit vs. explicit), the inclusion of a clause recognizing the IMO Net-Zero Framework as the sole global mid-term measure for international shipping, and broader concerns over regional regulatory overlap and implementation timelines.

Additionally, several delegations expressed concern over the potential impact on the maritime industry, particularly regarding increased compliance costs and administrative burdens, as well as the financial strain such measures can impose on nations.

Pursuant to Rule 31.1.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, and following a roll call voting process, the Committee decided to adjourn the meeting for a period of one year. The motion to adjourn was adopted based on the majority view that further deliberations should be deferred to allow for additional consultations and preparatory work. The decision was primarily influenced by the following considerations:

- **Institutional Division:** Member States expressed sharply divergent views on several core provisions, notably the acceptance procedure. These differences reflected a broader lack of alignment in the regulatory direction.
- **Heightened Tensions and Fragmentation:** The deliberations revealed significant geopolitical and regulatory fault lines. Concerns over regional overlaps, implementation burdens, and perceived imbalances in obligations contributed to a tense and polarized atmosphere.

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- Need for Broader Consensus: Recognizing the importance of unity in advancing global maritime decarbonization, the IMO opted to adjourn the meeting to allow Member States additional time for consultation, deliberation, and convergence. The IMO's goal is to foster a more constructive environment in which the NZF can be adopted with greater cohesion and legitimacy.

REFERENCE:

- MARPOL Annex VI introducing a new Chapter 5.

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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