

# MARPOL law

<b>Official reference</b>	Wet van 6 april 1995 betreffende de voorkoming van verontreiniging door schepen	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	6/04/1995
	Publication	27/06/1995
	Entry into force	7/07/1995
<b>Policy level</b>	Federal	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Law	
<b>(Legal) coverage in the BNS</b>	Belgian territory, exclusive economic zone (further developed in art. 34 of the law)	
<b>Competent authorities in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Mobility and Transport; DG Shipping	

## // abstract:

This law ensures the implementation of the [MARPOL Convention](#) (p.38) in Belgium, and stipulates the rules that prevent ships from discharging harmful substances. The law defines the standards for the construction, adaptation, equipment and functioning of ships flying the Belgian flag. According to the law, ships need a certificate of compliance. Rules can be imposed regarding the cargo's packaging, the presence of instructions, registration equipment, etc. The captain needs to keep a logbook on the transport, treatment and discharges of harmful substances. For some ships, an emergency plan is required on board. Moreover, the regulation regarding the inspection and surveillance of compliance with these measures is discussed. Finally, the appeal procedure and the penalties are specified.