

Commonwealth Legislation (available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/>)*Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006**Shipping Registration Act 1981*

Shipping Registration Regulations 1981

International Maritime Organisation publications (available from <http://www.imo.org>)

International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969

Useful NOPSEMA documents (available at <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/>)

N-04800-PL0886 - Petroleum Safety Zone Assessments (Section 4.4 covers the area to be avoided)

N-04800-FM0912 - Application for Entry and Presence in the area to be avoided

N-04800-FM0911 - Application for Entry and Presence in a Petroleum Safety Zone

Current notices regarding petroleum safety zones are published on NOPSEMA's website:

<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/gazetted-notices-listing/>

Current authorisations to enter and be present in the area to be avoided are published on NOPSEMA's website:

<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/authorisations-to-enter-the-atba/>**Other useful publications**AMSA Shipping Registration
www.amsa.gov.au/sroAMSA Ship Registration – forms and information
<http://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels/shipping-registration/info-forms/index.asp>MBC Petroleum Safety Zones
<https://www.border.gov.au/australian-border-force-abf/protecting/maritime/command/resources/petroleum-safety-zones>MBC Bass Strait area to be avoided
<https://www.border.gov.au/australian-border-force-abf/protecting/maritime/command/resources/bass-strait-area-to-be-avoided>**Abbreviations**

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| AMSA | Australian Maritime Safety Authority |
| IC TMS | International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969 |
| MBC | Australian Maritime Border Command (part of the Australian Border Force) |
| OPGGS Act | <i>Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006</i> |
| SR Act | <i>Shipping Registration Act 1981</i> |
| SR Regs | Shipping Registration Regulations 1981 |

Please note: This document is designed to be printed in landscape, doubled sided (short edge bind) on a single A3 page and then folded in half to produce a four page A4 sized booklet.

Petroleum Safety Zones and the Area To Be Avoided**Key Points**

This guidance note is primarily targeted at owners and operators of commercial fishing vessels working in the Bass Strait and other offshore areas which contain petroleum infrastructure including production facilities and mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs). There are two types of areas that require NOPSEMA's permission to enter as follows:

Petroleum Safety Zones

- For the purposes of protecting a petroleum well, structure or any equipment in an offshore area NOPSEMA can prohibit vessels from entering or being present in a specified area (the **petroleum safety zone**).
- Unauthorised entry or presence in a petroleum safety zone is an offence with a maximum penalty of **12.5 years imprisonment**.
- A petroleum safety zone can extend up to 500m from the outer edge of the well, structure or equipment.
- Petroleum safety zones are established via a notice published in the *Gazette*.
- A notice establishing a petroleum safety zone can prohibit all vessels, or all vessels other than specified vessels, or all vessels other than vessels included in specified classes of vessels from entering or being present in the petroleum safety zone without the written consent of NOPSEMA.
- Applications for consent for a vessel(s) to enter and be present in a petroleum safety zone must be made via the relevant titleholder or operator (of the facility as defined in OPGGS Act Schedule 3 Clause 4(1)(b)(i)) associated with the well(s), structure(s), and/or equipment being protected by a petroleum safety zone.
- Current notices are published on NOPSEMA's website:
<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/gazetted-notices-listing/>
- There are a number of gazetted petroleum safety zones in and around the area to be avoided in the Bass Strait (title IDs commencing VIC/ and T/).

The Area To Be Avoided

- A flowchart on the following pages is intended to assist owners and operators of vessels determine if they are required to have authorisation from NOPSEMA to enter and be present in the area to be avoided.
- The area to be avoided is defined in Schedule 2 of the *Commonwealth Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* as being an area off the coast of Victoria covering approximately 5,650 square kilometres.
- Details of the area to be avoided are contained on page 3 of this document.
- Unauthorised entry or presence in the area to be avoided is an offence with a maximum penalty of **7.5 years imprisonment**.
- The owner of a vessel may apply to NOPSEMA for the grant of an authorisation for the vessel to enter and to be present in the area to be avoided. See form FM0912 available at:
<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/>
- An authorisation from NOPSEMA is subject to such conditions as are specified in the notice of authorisation including conditions that seek to assist with ensuring the safety of personnel on vessels and petroleum facilities in the area to be avoided.
- Current authorisations are published on NOPSEMA's website:
<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/safety/petroleum-safety-zones/authorisations-to-enter-the-atba/>

