

**Administrative Resolution No. (2) of 2021**  
**Regulating**  
**Navigation in the Dubai Water Canal in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

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**The Executive Director of the Dubai Maritime City Authority**

After perusal of:

Law No. (17) of 2005 Establishing the Roads and Transport Authority and its amendments;

Law No. (11) of 2007 Establishing the Dubai Maritime City;

Law No. (11) of 2010 Concerning the Licensing of Vessels in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (11) of 2013 Issuing the Implementing Bylaw of Law No. (11) of 2010 Concerning the Licensing of Vessels in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments; and

Administrative Resolution No. (4) of 2017 Regulating Navigation in the Dubai Water Canal,

**Does hereby issue this Resolution.**

**Definitions**  
**Article (1)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Resolution, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
DMCA:	The Dubai Maritime City Authority.
RTA:	The Roads and Transport Authority.

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<sup>1</sup>*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.*

Competent Entity:	This includes the RTA, the Dubai Municipality, the Dubai Police, and any other entity authorised under the legislation in force to implement any of the provisions of this Resolution.
Vessel:	Any vessel of any type or structure whatsoever operated on the Waters of the Emirate to transport Passengers or Goods for personal, commercial, sports, or tourism purposes.
Licence:	A document issued by the DMCA pursuant to the provisions of the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2010, its Implementing Bylaw, and this Resolution, which authorises a Vessel to navigate in the Waters of the Emirate.
Permit:	A document issued by the DMCA to a Master, a Seaman, a Pilot, or any of the staff working on board a Vessel or persons engaged in maritime activities, which authorises its holder to navigate, work on board, or pilot the Vessel, or provide Vessel navigation training, in accordance with the requirements and rules stipulated in the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2010, its Implementing Bylaw, and this Resolution.
Authorisation:	A document issued by the DMCA, which authorises a Vessel to use, and pass through, the Dubai Water Canal for a certain period of time.
Waters of the Emirate:	The waters of the Emirate lying between the Dubai-Sharjah border and the Dubai-Abu Dhabi border and extending to the exclusive economic zone, including the internal waters of the Emirate and all ports, marinas, canals, and waterways.
Dubai Water Canal:	The Dubai Water Canal, as part of the Waters of the Emirate, extending from Business Bay in Al Jaddaf area to the Waterfront on Jumeirah Beach. The Dubai Water Canal boundaries and area are illustrated on the map attached to this Resolution.
Operations Centre:	The room for controlling the navigation of Vessels in the Dubai Water Canal.
Operations Director:	A person who is appointed by the RTA and is responsible for directing maritime navigation in the Dubai Water Canal.

Control Officer:	A person appointed by the DMCA and assigned to work at the Operations Centre.
Vessel Length:	The length overall of a Vessel, which is the distance in a straight line between the foremost point of the bow and the aftermost point of the stern.
Vessel's Draught:	The depth of the Vessel's part that is submerged in the water.
Vessel's Air Draught:	The height of the Vessel's hull above the water surface, measured to the uppermost point of its highest mast.

## **Functions of the DMCA**

### **Article (2)**

For purposes of this Resolution, the DMCA will have the duties and powers to:

1. regulate maritime navigation in the Dubai Water Canal in accordance with the highest international standards and best international practices adopted in this respect;
2. monitor all Vessels navigating in the Dubai Water Canal and provide them with the necessary information for safe navigation, in coordination with the Competent Entities;
3. create a database of all information relating to regulating navigation in the Dubai Water Canal, including the number of Vessels navigating in it;
4. verify Vessel Length, Vessel Draught, and Vessel Air Draught measurements to ensure that they do not exceed the maximum limits allowed for passing through the Dubai Water Canal;
5. verify that Vessels meet the requirements for safe maritime navigation in the Dubai Water Canal; the environmental requirements; and the security and safety requirements, as adopted by the Competent Entities;
6. manage, in coordination with the Competent Entities, the risks and emergencies that may occur at the Dubai Water Canal;
7. monitor the waterfront projects on the banks of the Dubai Water Canal to ensure the safety of maritime navigation in it;
8. monitor all activities and events that may affect navigation traffic within the Dubai Water Canal; and

9. issue warning bulletins when there is anything that may affect maritime navigation safety in the Dubai Water Canal.

### **Use of the Dubai Water Canal**

#### **Article (3)**

- a. The following Vessels are not required to obtain an Authorisation prior to using or passing through the Dubai Water Canal, provided that they meet the measurement specifications stipulated in Article (4) of this Resolution:
  1. pleasure Vessels designated for personal use;
  2. Tourist Vessels;
  3. Group Maritime Transport Vessels; and
  4. Vessels owned by Government Entities and used for official purposes.
- b. Commercial Vessels and fishing boats may not use or pass through the Dubai Water Canal irrespective of their Vessel Length, purpose of use, or transit time.
- c. Vessels used for water sports may not pass through the Dubai Water Canal except for rowing boats and sailboats, which may pass through the Dubai Water Canal only during daylight hours.
- d. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Article, the following Vessels may pass through the Dubai Water Canal subject to obtaining a prior Authorisation:
  1. Vessels participating in sports events and festivities organised by the concerned entities in the Emirate;
  2. sports Vessels used for rental, such as Personal Watercraft and similar Vessels, when navigating in groups, provided that they are accompanied by an instructor;
  3. Vessels that need maintenance, provided that they navigate in the Dubai Water Canal from or to Al Jaddaf area; and
  4. Vessels that are in danger or emergency situations, until they are no longer in danger.

**Specifications of Vessels Using the Dubai Water Canal**  
**Article (4)**

- a. A Vessel that uses or passes through the Dubai Water Canal must meet the following specifications:
  - 1. The Vessel Length may not exceed thirty-five metres (35 m).
  - 2. The Vessel Draught may not exceed two and a half metres (2.5 m).
  - 3. The Vessel Air Draught may not exceed seven metres (7 m).
- b. The DMCA may, in coordination with the Competent Entity, periodically review and amend the specifications prescribed by paragraph (a) of this Article to achieve safe navigation in the Dubai Water Canal.

**Obligations of Vessel Owners and Operators**  
**Article (5)**

An Owner or Operator of a Vessel that uses, or passes through, the Dubai Water Canal must:

- 1. request passage permission from the Operations Centre by a radio communication device or mobile telephone;
- 2. comply with the instructions, circulars, and navigational warnings issued by the DMCA and the Operations Centre;
- 3. ensure that the Vessel is issued a Licence and that the Vessel's crew members are issued Permits by the DMCA;
- 4. ensure that the Vessel is fitted with navigational security and safety equipment, and that this equipment is in good working condition;
- 5. navigate on the right-hand side of the Dubai Water Canal to the extent practicable; not overtake another Vessel unless it is safe to do so; and follow the rules of maritime navigation traffic;
- 6. not exceed the speed limits prescribed by the DMCA for navigation in the Dubai Water Canal, as indicated on the navigation marks and information signs installed across the Dubai Water Canal;
- 7. use navigational lights at night, and in times of reduced visibility; and use the sound navigation signals where necessary;

8. anchor at the Dubai Water Canal only in emergency situations, in which cases the Operations Centre must be immediately notified of the same;
9. not use the Vessel for water sports or allow its Passengers to swim in, or dive into, the Dubai Water Canal;
10. not overload the Vessel with Passengers beyond the maximum number specified in the Licence, and not allow the Passengers to lean out of the Vessel;
11. not refuel the Vessel in the Dubai Water Canal using portable fuel containers, unless in emergencies;
12. not dispose of waste; discharge oils or contaminated water; or discharge sewage water into the Dubai Water Canal;
13. not navigate in the private or prohibited areas specified by the DMCA or the Competent Entities;
14. not navigate in the Dubai Water Canal unless the Vessel's crew is complete in accordance with the relevant standards prescribed by the DMCA; and
15. not stop at the RTA marine stations without first obtaining the relevant approval of the RTA.

### **Requirements for Operations Managers** **Article (6)**

An Operations Manager must:

1. be a holder of a certificate in maritime navigation, and have work experience in managing and directing maritime traffic;
2. have a thorough understanding of the legislation relating to the maritime sector, and is capable of coordinating with the Competent Entities; and
3. have adequate experience in emergency, crisis, and disaster management; and in taking the measures required for safe maritime navigation.

### **Obligations of Operations Managers** **Article (7)**

An Operations Manager must:

1. supervise the work of Control Officers in the Operations Centre and provide all the operational needs required for their work;
2. identify any risks that may compromise maritime navigation, and find appropriate practical solutions to them;
3. organise the records of the Vessels authorised to use, and pass through, the Dubai Water Canal; and submit the same to the Competent Entities upon request;
4. prepare the required reports on Vessel navigational movement within the Dubai Water Canal, and periodically submit the same to the DMCA;
5. notify the DMCA of any marine accident immediately upon its occurrence, and take the necessary measures to prevent the disruption of, or obstruction to, maritime navigation; and
6. coordinate with the Competent Entities in the event of any marine accident, and request the necessary assistance.

### **Requirements for Control Officers**

#### **Article (8)**

A Control Officer must:

1. be a holder of a maritime navigation certificate recognised in the UAE at second mate level; or a maritime communications certificate with work experience of no less than two (2) years on board Vessels or in any other relevant field;
2. be articulate, have discourse and communication skills, and have knowledge of more than one language besides English; and
3. be medically fit; and not use any drugs or medications that may cloud his judgement or undermine his ability to work.

### **Obligations of Control Officers**

#### **Article (9)**

A Control Officer must:

1. use communication devices only for official work, and listen to radio calls round-the-clock;

2. notify the Operations Manager immediately upon the occurrence of any accident or emergency that may disrupt the flow of maritime navigation traffic in the Dubai Water Canal;
3. follow the work policies and procedures approved by the DMCA in respect of all matters related to the Operations Centre work;
4. communicate in a professional manner with all the stakeholders of the Dubai Water Canal;
5. maintain the equipment and devices existing at the Operations Centre in a good condition and immediately report any malfunction therein; and
6. alert Vessels, by all means available to him, in case of bad weather conditions or when maritime navigation traffic is disrupted.

#### **Penalties Article (10)**

Any person who violates the provisions of this Resolution will be punished by the penalties and fines stipulated in the above-mentioned Executive Council Resolution No. (11) of 2013.

#### **Repeals Article (11)**

The above-mentioned Administrative Resolution No. (4) of 2017 is hereby repealed. Any provision in any other administrative resolution will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Resolution.

#### **Publication and Commencement Article (12)**

This Resolution will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

**Saeed bin Ahmed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum**

**Executive Director**

**Dubai Maritime City Authority**



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