

**Law No. (3) of 2023**  
**Concerning the Dubai Maritime Authority**

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**We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,**

After perusal of:

Law No. (1) of 2001 Establishing the Ports, Customs, and Free Zone Corporation and its amendments;

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

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

Law No. (8) of 2009 Concerning Liability of Heads and Directors of the Entities Affiliated to the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (11) of 2010 Concerning the Licensing of Vessels in the Emirate of Dubai, and its Implementing Bylaw and its amendments;

Law No. (13) of 2011 Regulating the Conduct of Economic Activities in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, and its Implementing Bylaw and its amendments;

Law No. (5) of 2021 Concerning the Dubai International Financial Centre;

Decree No. (2) of 1990 Concerning the Dubai Dry Docks Authority;

Decree No. (22) of 2009 Concerning Special Development Zones in the Emirate of Dubai;

Decree No. (6) of 2020 Regulating Advertisements in the Emirate of Dubai;

Resolution No. (4) of 2006 Affiliating Jaddaf Dubai to the Ports, Customs, and Free Zone Corporation;

Executive Council Resolution No. (63) of 2016 Concerning Marine Navigational Aids in the Emirate of Dubai; and

The legislation establishing and regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

## **Title of the Law**

### **Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (3) of 2023 Concerning the Dubai Maritime Authority".

## **Definitions**

### **Article (2)**

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

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
PCFC:	The Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation.
DMA:	The Dubai Maritime Authority.
Chairman:	The chairman of the PCFC.
Executive Director:	The executive director of the DMA.
Maritime Sector:	This includes, but is not limited to, the Ports, harbours, all types of public and private marinas, dry docks, Al Jaddaf, all types of islands, maritime logistic services and operations, Vessel building and maintenance facilities, maritime projects, and all establishments conducting Maritime Activities.
Port:	A natural or man-made Vessel anchorage and berthing facility where necessary services are provided to Vessels to arrange or end their trips, including the wharves, buildings, harbours, and structures located in, on, or near water, as well as the land required for using that facility. This includes all commercial ports and other ports used for loading and

unloading Goods and transporting Passengers in the Emirate, such as dry ports, Port Facilities, and container handling terminals, as well as the services and operations related thereto. Ports include Port Rashid, Al Hamriya Port, and Jebel Ali Port.

**Port Facilities:** The locations designated by the DMA for providing services related to Vessels, Goods, and individuals within Ports or on the navigational passages leading thereto.

**Maritime Activities:** These include, but are not limited to, Maritime Transport, shipping, insurance, and financing; Vessels inspection; Vessel operator training; Vessel building and maintenance; diving; water sports performed using Vessels; maritime Advertisements; maritime tourism; maritime agencies; maritime recreational activities; Wooden Ship manufacturing; maritime trade; fishing; and other maritime activities licensed in the Emirate in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate.

**Operating Establishment:** A company or corporation licensed to conduct a Maritime Activity in the Emirate.

**Vessel:** A vessel of any type or structure whatsoever, including Wooden Ships and remotely-piloted Vessels, operated on the Waters of the Emirate to transport Passengers, Goods, or other items for personal purposes, such as cruises or recreational fishing; or for commercial, sports, or tourism purposes.

**Wooden Ship:** Any of the commercial ships built of wood and arriving to the Emirate to load or unload Goods. This includes fibreglass ships.

**Maritime Agents Office:** The organisational unit at the DMA in charge of overseeing the management of the operations of Wooden Ships during their stay in the Waters of the Emirate; the completion of the procedures related to these ships with the concerned Government Entities; and the enhancement of Maritime Safety and security of these ships.

**Maritime Safety:** A set of rules, measures, procedures, and methods that ensures the safety of lives within the Waters of the Emirate by regulating navigation routes and their safe operation; and ensuring that Vessels are provided

with personal, professional, and first aid equipment; rescue and survival equipment; and fire detection and fire-fighting equipment.

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, such as Ports, harbours, marinas, canals, waterways, and creeks.

### **Scope of Application**

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

- a. The provisions of this Law apply to the Dubai Maritime City Authority established pursuant to the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2007 as a public authority, which has legal personality, financial and administrative autonomy, and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives; and which is affiliated to the PCFC.
- b. The name "Dubai Maritime City Authority", wherever mentioned in any legislation in force in the Emirate, is hereby replaced by "Dubai Maritime Authority".

### **Head Office of the DMA**

#### **Article (4)**

The head office of the DMA will be located in the Emirate. Other branches and offices of the DMA may be opened within the Emirate pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman.

### **Objectives of the DMA**

#### **Article (5)**

The DMA will have the following objectives:

1. to support the Emirate's vision and promote the Emirate as an international hub for maritime trade;
2. to enhance and develop maritime security in coordination with the concerned entities;

3. to encourage and attract local and international capital flows, companies, and corporations engaged in the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities to invest in the Maritime Sector in the Emirate; and to enhance their competitive edge at the local and international levels;
4. to develop and regulate, in coordination with the concerned entities, the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities in the Emirate in accordance with the relevant international best practices;
5. to enhance the governance of the Maritime Sector in the Emirate by implementing the highest standards of oversight and accountability;
6. to contribute to the protection of marine environment, maintenance of Maritime Safety, and satisfaction of maritime security requirements within the Waters of the Emirate in accordance with the legislation in force; and
7. to uphold the principles of transparency, support fair competition, and protect the interests of stakeholders in the Maritime Sector.

### **Functions of the DMA**

#### **Article (6)**

The DMA is the competent entity in charge of regulating and overseeing the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities in the Emirate, including in Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre. For these purposes, the DMA will have the duties and powers to:

1. prepare the general policy and strategic plans for developing the Maritime Sector and regulating Maritime Activities in the Emirate, and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
2. propose the legislation regulating the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities in the Emirate, and the international treaties and conventions to be executed or to which the Emirate may accede; and submit the same to the competent entities in the Emirate for consideration and taking the relevant necessary action in accordance with the legislation in force;
3. propose the establishment of specialised entities with a view to supporting the Maritime Sector in the Emirate;
4. build partnerships at the local, regional, and international levels as required to enhance the role of the Maritime Sector in the Emirate;

5. develop, regulate, and manage the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities in the Emirate in accordance with the international best practices applicable in this respect.
6. issue all types of approvals and permits required for the work of the companies and corporations operating in the Maritime Sector, and the persons engaged in that sector; and for the conduct of Maritime Activities in the Emirate;
7. enhance Maritime Safety within the Waters of the Emirate by licensing Vessels, monitoring and inspecting the safety equipment of these Vessels, participating in rescue and evacuation drills, and investigating maritime accidents to identify their causes and take the necessary action to prevent their recurrence, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate;
8. protect the marine environment by verifying compliance by Vessels with the technical environmental standards, and coordinate with the concerned entities in the Emirate to monitor Maritime Activities to verify their compliance with the environmental standards and requirements stipulated in the legislation in force in the Emirate and the international treaties and conventions to which the UAE accedes or becomes a party;
9. develop, approve, and monitor the implementation of, the occupational health and safety standards related to the Maritime Sector, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate and in accordance with the legislation in force;
10. regulate the process of refuelling Wooden Ships and dealing in petroleum products at the harbours of the Emirate, in coordination with the concerned entities and in accordance with the legislation in force;
11. conduct the studies and research related to the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities in the Emirate;
12. monitor and inspect, in coordination with the concerned entities, the activities of public and private entities in relation to operating Maritime Sector facilities; and the activities of the entities conducting Maritime Activities in the Emirate;
13. regulate the construction and use of floating houses, hotels, and structures in the Emirate as well as their registration as Vessels; and determine their berthing areas and the safety requirements they must meet based on their type and size, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate;

14. draft the general maritime plan of the Emirate with a view to ensuring safe navigation and safe conduct of Maritime Activities;
15. determine the navigation routes and berthing areas of Wooden Ships and other Vessels in the Emirate;
16. perform all the functions related to Vessels as stipulated in the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2010 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof;
17. perform all the functions related to Navigational Aids as stipulated in the above-mentioned Executive Council Resolution No. (63) of 2016;
18. regulate navigation in creeks, canals, and waterways in the Emirate;
19. regulate, determine, and issue the permits required to establish harbours in the Emirate;
20. regulate, and determine the requirements for, the entry and exit of Wooden Ships and their crews through the Waters of the Emirate; and oversee these ships through the Maritime Agents Office;
21. regulate the work of the Maritime Agents Office, and of the owners of Wooden Ships and their agents, in a manner that protects their rights;
22. monitor, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities, all work of Seamen, including the aspects related to Maritime Safety and maritime accidents, throughout the period during which their Wooden Ships are berthed in the Ports and harbours within the Waters of the Emirate and until their departure;
23. coordinate with the concerned entities on the issuance of visas and the procedures for entry by Seamen and other crew members into the Emirate;
24. regulate maritime Advertisements in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate and in accordance with the legislation in force;
25. issue the circulars and instructions required for regulating and overseeing the conduct of Maritime Activities and the business practices related to Maritime Sector in the Emirate;
26. take the actions that the DMA deems appropriate for the purposes of enhancing transparency, supporting fair competition, and protecting the interests of stakeholders in the Maritime Sector;

27. seek assistance from experts and specialists, as the DMA deems appropriate, to enable it to exercise its duties and powers under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate;
28. represent the emirate before all regional and international maritime authorities, organisations, councils, unions, and committees as well as any other similar entities; and
29. exercise any other duties or powers required for the achievement of the DMA objectives, as assigned to it by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

### **Organisational Structure of the DMA**

#### **Article (7)**

The organisational structure of the DMA will consist of the following organisational levels:

1. the Chairman; and
2. the executive body.

### **Functions of the Chairman**

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

The Chairman will undertake general supervision of the DMA. For this purpose, the Chairman will have the duties and powers to:

1. approve the general policies and the strategic and development plans of the DMA;
2. approve the services, business, projects, and activities of the DMA;
3. approve the draft annual budget and Financial Statements of the DMA;
4. approve the organisational structure of the DMA;
5. approve the fees and charges for the registration, licensing, permits, and other services provided by the DMA; and submit the same to the competent entities for consideration and approval in accordance with the legislation in force in the emirate;
6. approve the tariffs and fees prescribed by the establishments engaged in the Maritime Sector and Maritime Activities for the services they provide to others;



7. establish any affiliates to the DMA as necessary to assist it in performing its duties under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate; and
8. exercise any other duties or powers assigned to him by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

### **Executive Body of the DMA**

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

- a. The executive body of the DMA will be comprised of an Executive Director and a number of administrative, finance, and technical employees.
- b. The employees of the executive body of the DMA will be subject to the relevant human resources regulations approved by the Chairman.

### **Appointment and Functions of the Executive Director**

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

- a. The Executive Director will be appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the Chairman.
- b. The Executive Director will be directly responsible to the Chairman for performing his duties under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. In particular, the Executive Director will have the duties and powers to:
  1. propose the general policies and the strategic and development plans of the DMA, submit these policies and plans to the Chairman for approval, and follow up the implementation of the same upon their approval;
  2. prepare the draft annual budget and Financial Statements of the DMA, and submit the same to the Chairman for approval;
  3. prepare the organisational structure of the DMA, and submit the same to the Chairman for approval;
  4. approve the resolutions and bylaws regulating the administrative, financial, and technical work of the DMA.

5. supervise the daily work of the executive body of the DMA, and the activities and services it performs;
  6. represent the DMA before third parties; and conclude the contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding to which the DMA is a party, in accordance with the relevant powers granted to him by the Chairman;
  7. open and manage bank accounts in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
  8. prepare annual reports on the performance of the executive body of the DMA, and submit the same to the Chairman to review them and issue the relevant directives as he deems appropriate;
  9. coordinate with local and federal government entities with a view to achieving the objectives of the DMA, and
  10. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to him by the Chairman in relation to achieving the objectives of the DMA and enabling it to perform its functions.
- c. The Executive Director may delegate any of his powers under sub-paragraphs (b)(5) and (b)(6) of this Article to any of the DMA employees, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

### **Financial Resources of the DMA Article (11)**

The financial resources of the DMA will consist of:

1. the annual support allocated to the DMA in the budget of the PCFC;
2. the movable and immovable property allocated by the PCFC to the DMA;
3. the fees and charges collected by the DMA in return for the services it provides;
4. returns on the investment of the property of the DMA; and
5. any other resources approved by the Chairman.

## **Budget and Accounts of the DMA**

### **Article (12)**

- a. The DMA will have an independent budget which reflects its actual financial position.
- b. In managing its accounts and records, the DMA will apply the principles and rules of government accounting.
- c. The Financial Year of the DMA will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year.

## **Cooperation with the DMA**

### **Article (13)**

All Government Entities in the Emirate must fully cooperate with the DMA to enable it to achieve its objectives and perform its functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate.

## **Liability**

### **Article (14)**

- a. Neither the Government nor the PCFC will be liable to third parties for any debts or obligations claimed from the DMA. The DMA will be solely liable for such debts or obligations.
- b. The DMA will not be liable to third parties for any obligations incurred by the companies and corporations authorised by the DMA, or the Vessels licensed by it, in the course of the performance of their Maritime Activities.

## **Exemption from Civil Liability**

### **Article (15)**

Except in cases of fraud and gross fault, neither the Chairman, nor the Executive Director, nor any of the employees of the executive body of the DMA will, in the course of performing their duties under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, incur civil liability towards third parties for any act or omission committed by them in connection with the performance of these duties. The DMA will be solely liable to third parties for such an act or omission.

## **Violations and Administrative Penalties**

### **Article (16)**

The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue a resolution determining the acts that constitute violation of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and the relevant penalties and measures to be imposed on violators.

## **Law Enforcement**

### **Article (17)**

The DMA employees nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Executive Director will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may inspect the establishments authorised to conduct Maritime Activities in the Emirate; inspect any Vessels; issue the necessary violation reports; and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.

## **Delegation of Functions**

### **Article (18)**

The DMA may, in accordance with the legislation in force, delegate any of its functions under this Law to any public or private entity in accordance with an agreement to be executed for this purpose by both parties. This agreement will determine the rights and obligations of the parties.

## **Issuing Implementing Resolutions**

### **Article (19)**

Except for the resolutions which the Chairman of the Executive Council is exclusively authorised to issue under this Law, the Chairman will issue the resolutions required for implementing the provisions of this Law. These resolutions will be published in the Official Gazette.

## **Supersession and Repeals**

### **Article (20)**

- a. This Law supersedes the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2007.

- b. Any provision in any other legislation is hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.
- c. The regulations, resolutions, bylaws, circulars, and instructions issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (11) of 2007 will continue in force to the extent that they do not contradict this Law, until new superseding regulations, resolutions, bylaws, circulars, and instructions are issued.

### **Publication and Commencement**

#### **Article (21)**

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

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

**Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 6 February 2023

Corresponding to 15 Rajab 1444 A.H.