

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Regional Municipalities,
Environment & Water Resources
Minister's Office

Ministerial Decision No. 39/2004

- Pursuant to royal decree No. 66/2001 setting the jurisdictions and organizational structure of the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment & Water Resources, and
- The Environment Protection and Pollution Control Law, promulgated by royal decree No. 114/2001, and
- Approval from the Ministry of Finance, and
- For the public interest:

It was decided

Article 1: The enclosed bylaws for the marine environment management permit shall be implemented.

Article 2: This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and implemented as from the date of publishing.

Dr. Khamis bin Mubarak bin Issa Al Alawi
Minister of Regional Municipalities,
Environment & Water Resources

Issued: 23 Muharam 1425 AH.
Corresponding to: 15 March 2004

Marine Environment Management Bylaws

Chapter one

Definitions and general provisions

Article 1: In implementing these bylaws, the following expressions shall have the definition assigned, unless otherwise stipulated:

Liquids: Liquids other than natural untreated water.

Diving: The action of a qualified diver using special equipment enabling him to stay underwater for a long time.

Article 2: No sinking, liquid transportation between marine installations or diving activity may be performed unless after obtaining the permission required in accordance with the regulations stipulated by the ministry.

Article 3: Permits to sink solid materials in marine environment or transportation of liquids between marine installations shall be issued for three months. Permit holder should inform the ministry of the date for the sinking or transportation process.

Diving permits shall be issued for one year for individuals and diving clubs. Permit for one day may be issued.

Article 4: Permit fees are set as follows:

Permit type	Validity	Amount
Sinking of solid materials	3 months	200 Baisa/ton
Liquid transport between installations	3 months	RO 100
Diving permits outside natural reserves	a) One year for diving clubs	RO 100
	b) One year for individuals	RO 25
	c) One day for individuals	RO 2

Article 5: Government authorities are exempted from the fees stipulated in the preceding article if performing by itself any of the works stipulated in the bylaws.

Exempted from the fees also the authorities and individuals performing any of these works for research or scientific purposes.

Article 6: Owners should facilitate the officials' assignment and allow them to enter the project site to implement their assignments.

Chapter two

Permit to sink solid materials in the marine environment

Article 7: Permits to perform any sinking works for solid materials in the marine environment may be obtained in accordance with the following conditions:

- a) Submission of documents maps and charts indicating the water depth and longitudes and latitudes of the area intended to sink in.
- b) Marine environmental impact study on the sinking area and the project's foreseen environmental impact.
- c) List of quality and quantity of solid materials to be sunk.
- d) Materials to be sunk should not contain any radioactive or hazardous materials that may lead to marine environmental damage.

Article 8: Quantities specified for sinking should not exceed the permitted quantity. Permit holder may not change the materials to be sunk or the location.

Chapter three

Permit to transport liquids between marine installations

Article 9: Permit to transport liquids between marine installations may be issued against:

- a) Approval from the authority concerned, as specified by the directorate of environmental inspection & control, for the specifications of the marine installations and its qualifications.
- b) Insurance against damages resulting from liquid leaking into the marine environment.
- c) Special emergency plan for the transport operation in accordance with the rules and regulations stipulated by the ministry.
- d) Documents and charts for the areas where the transportation is taking place, together with list of materials, quantities and duration required for transportation.

Article 10: The permit holder undertakes to inform the ministry immediately in the event of any leakage into the marine environment.

Chapter four

Diving permits outside natural reserves

- Article 11: Diving permit provides that the applicant should be member with diving clubs in Oman, or holding a diving certificate issued by an authorized authority.
- Article 12: Diving clubs should be registered with the directorate of environmental inspection and audit in order to obtain diving permit.
- Article 13: Diving is not permitted without the presence of a diver from the diving club. Exempted from this are diving operations for research or scientific purposes, or marine surveys, provided that there is an approval from this ministry.

Chapter five

Penalties

- Article 14: Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated by the said Environment Protection and Pollution Control Law, or any other law, any person diving without permit, or diving in restricted areas, shall be penalized by RO 100 (Rial Omani one hundred) for the violation, increased to RO 200 (Rial Omani two hundred) if the violation is repeated more than once.