



**Federal Law No. (24) Of 1999
for the
PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

We Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

After having perused the provisions of the constitution, and
Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 concerning the jurisdictions of Ministers and Authorities vested in
Ministers and its amendments, and
Federal Law No. (3) of 1979 concerning Civil Defence and its amendments, and
Federal Law No. (7) of 1979 concerning Agricultural Interdiction and its amendments, and
Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 Regulating Labour Relationships and its amendments, and
Federal Law No. (21) of 1981 concerning the Establishment of the General Authority for Water
Resources Management in the United Arab Emirates and its amendments, and
Federal Law No. (26) of 1981 concerning the Maritime Commercial Law and its amendments, and
Decree By Law No. (9) of 1983 Regulating the Hunting of Birds and Animals, and
Civil Transactions law issued under Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 and it amendments, and
Penal Code issued under Federal Law No. (3) of 1987, and
Penal Procedures Code issued under Federal Law No. (35) of 1992, and
Federal Law No. (39) of 1992 concerning the Production, Importation and Handling of Fertilizers and
Agricultural Additives, and
Federal Law No. (41) of 1992 concerning Agricultural Pesticides, and
Federal Law No. (7) of 1993 concerning the establishment of the Federal Environmental Agency, and
Federal Law No. (19) of 1993 concerning the definition of territorial waters of the United Arab
Emirates, and
In accordance with the proposal submitted by the Minister of Health and Approval of the Cabinet of

w, the following words and phrases shall bear the
meanings given opposite each unless the context otherwise requires:

StThe	Board	of
Chairman	:	The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agency.
Competent Authorities	:	Local Authorities in each Emirate of the United Arab Emirates.

Concerned Parties

- : All Parties concerned with the environmental affairs and development in the United Arab Emirates.

Environment

- : The biosphere in which different forms of life are manifested and consists of two elements:

Natural Element: comprises living creatures to include man, animal, plant, and other living creatures, natural resources to include water, soil, organic and inorganic substances and natural systems.

Unnatural Element: comprises all that man introduced into the natural environment, to include fixed and movable installations, roads, bridges, airports, means of transportation and innovative industries, inventions and technologies.

Marine Environment

- : The marine waters and their contents of natural resources, plants, fishes, other marine creatures, and the above atmosphere, as well as fixed and C/P MCID 6 BDCBT/TTd7.19

Establishment	: Industrial, tourism establishments and establishments for production and generation of electricity and establishments for explorations, production, transportation and use of oil and infrastructure projects and any other establishments.
Oil	: All forms of crude oil and oil products including any kind of liquid-hydrocarbons, lubrication and, fuel, refined and furnace oils, tar and other substances extracted from oil or its by-products or wastes.
Oil Mixture	: Any aqueous mixture containing an amount of oil that exceeding 15 ppm.
Dirty Ballast Water	: Dirty ballast water disposed off the ship's tank if its oil content exceeds 15 ppm.
Discharge	: Any leakage, spill, emission or draining of polluting substances or the disposal of such substances into the water environment, land or air.
Dumping	: a) Any deliberate disposal of pollutants or refuse from ships, aircrafts, quays, or other means into the marine environment. b) Any deliberate dumping from ships or industrial installations or other means into the marine environment.
Means of Transportation	: Aeroplanes, cars, trains, tractors, motorcycles or other road machineries.
Noise	: Sounds, vibrations or sound frequencies causing nuisance or harm to public health.
Public Premises	: Places set up to receive the public or a certain group of people for any purpose.
Closed Public Premises	: Public places as complete buildings not allowing air entry except through specially designed inlets. Public transportation means are classified among such premises.
Semi-Closed Public Premises	: Public places as incomplete buildings allowing air entry but cannot be closed completely.

ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

This law aims to achieve the following goals:

1. Protection and conservation of the quality and natural balance of the environment.
2. Control of all forms of pollution and avoidance of any immediate or long-term harmful effects resulting from economic, agricultural, industrial, development or other programmes aiming at improving life standards and co-ordination among the Agency, Competent Authorities and Parties concerned with the protection of the environment and conservation of

the quality, natural balance and consolidation of environmental awareness and principles of pollution control.

3. Development of natural resources and conservation of biological diversity in the region of the state and the exploitation of such resources with consideration of present and future generations.
4. Protection of society, human health and the health of other living creatures from activities and acts, which are environmentally harmful or impede authorized use of the environmental setting.
5. Protection of the State environment from the harmful effects of activities undertaken outside the region of the State.
6. Compliance with international and regional agreements ratified or approved by the State regarding environmental protection, control of pollution and conservation of natural resources.

ARTICLE 8

The Executive Order shall specify the period required for keeping all the records referred to in Article (7) of this Law.

SECTION 2 THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 9

All Concerned Parties specially parties responsible for planning, economic and construction development shall consider aspects of protection of the environment, control of pollution and rational use of natural resources when developing economic and social plans and when establishing and executing of projects.

ARTICLE 10

The Agency shall, in consultation and

CHAPTER 2 PROTECTION OF WATER ENVIRONMENT

SECTION 1 THE SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ARTICLE 17

Protection of water environment from pollution aims to achieve the following:

1. Protection of the coasts, beaches and seaports of the State from all kinds and forms of pollution.
2. Protection of the marine environment and its living and non-living natural resources by prevention, reduction and control of pollution regardless of its source.
3. Protection of drinking water and ground water and development of water resources.

ARTICLE 18

Parties licensed to prospect, extract or exploit onshore or offshore oil and gas fields are prohibited from discharging any polluting substance resulting from drilling, exploring, testing of wells or production into the water environment or land area in the vicinity of activities re 22.9f10.9782 0 0 10.9782 2

ARTICLE 22

The captain or officer in charge of the marine means of transportation shall take sufficient measures of protection from the effects of pollution in the event of the occurrence of an accident involving a means that carries oil which may result or likely to result in pollution of the marine environment of the State and shall implement the orders of the inspectors of the administrative parties or, in this case, the judicial officers.

ARTICLE 23

In the event of a collision accident involving oil tankers, marines means, installations or carriers of hazardous substances, whether by deliberate action from the officer in charge of the marine means or as a result of his fault or negligence or the fault or negligence of his assistants, the captain shall be responsible for the operations to stop the spillage and the owner and transporter jointly responsible for the payment of all costs of damages, compensation and control incurred as a result of spillage into the marine environment, coastal areas and beaches.

ARTICLE 24

1. The owner, captain or any person in charge of the marine means of transportation, the persons responsible for the transportation of oil located within the seaports or the marine environment of the State and the officials of parties involved in oil extraction, shall immediately and in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Executive Order, inform the Ports Authorities, Coast Guards and other Competent Authorities of any oil spillage accident and circumstances of the accident, the nature of the leaking substance and actions taken to stop or control the leakage .
2. In all cases, the Ports Authority and Coast Guards shall immediately inform the Agency and the Concerned Parties and provide complete information about the accident.

ARTICLE 25

The owner or captain of any marine means transporting oil and entering the marine environment of the State shall maintain in that means a record of all operations pertaining to oil. The Executive Order shall determine the nature of information in such record.

ARTICLE 26

Marine means transporting oil and entering the marine environment of the State shall be equipped with the necessary equipment to undertake combating operations during the occurrence of pollution from the same marine means in accordance with the terms of the Executive Order.

ARTICLE 27

Marine means transporting hazardous substances are prohibited from discharging or draining harmful substances or wastes, directly or indirectly into the marine environment.

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ARTICLE 29

The captain of marine means entering the seaports of the State shall notify of hazardous substances on board the marine means according to the type, quantity, location in the marine means, shipment origin and unloading destinations of such substances.

ARTICLE 30

The captain or officer in charge of the marine means shall take the necessary measures for protection against the effects of pollution in the case of occurrence of an accident to any marine means carrying harmful or hazardous substances which may pollute the marine environment and shall in this case implement orders of the administrative parties inspectors or, in this case, the judicial officers.

ARTICLE 31

Marine means carrying harmful substances are prohibited from dumping hazardous waste and polluting materials into the marine environment.

The Concerned Parties in coordination with the Agency shall issue lists of hazardous wastes and polluting materials referred to in the previous paragraph.

ARTICLE 32

Marine means and marine establishments identified in the Executive Order are prohibited from draining sewage water into the marine environment and such water shall be disposed of according to the standards and regulations specified in the Executive Order.

Marine means are also prohibited from depositing wastes into the marine environment.

ARTICLE 33

Marine means transporting oil and entering the marine environment shall be in possession of a valid International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (I.O.P.P) accompanied by a statement showing the last location of unloading of sludge and their quantities and date of unloading.

ARTICLE 34

Marine means and marine establishments undertaking prospecting for exploring and exploiting natural and mineral resources in the marine environment and marine means using the seaports of the State shall not throw garbage or wastes in the marine environment and should deliver their garbage and wastes to the sites according to the conditions specified by the Competent Authorities. The Competent Authorities of the seaports in cooperation with Coast Guards shall prepare p

CHAPTER 3 SOIL PROTECTION

ARTICLE 42

The Competent Authorities shall take into consideration the environmental standards and factors specified by the Agency in coordination with the Competent Authorities and the Concerned Parties at the preparation and implementation of the plans for land-utilization for construction, agricultural, industrial areas, reserve areas and others.

ARTICLE 43

It is prohibited in accordance with the Executive Order to undertake any activity contributing directly or indirectly, to damaging, disturbing the natural properties or polluting the soil in any way that may affect its productivity.

ARTICLE 44

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ARTICLE 47

The Agency shall in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Competent Authorities and other Concerned Parties, establish controls and conditions to be followed for the disposal of pesticide wastes or chemical compounds used in their manufacture or the compounds which were expired.

CHAPTER IV PROTECTION OF AIR FROM POLLUTION

ARTICLE 48

Establishments, in practicing their activities, shall ensure that air pollutants must not exceed the acceptable permissible limits specified in the Executive Order.

ARTICLE 49

Machines, engines or vehicles producing exhaust gases that exceed the limits specified in the Executive Order shall not be used.

ARTICLE 50

It is prohibited to throw, treat or burn garbage and solid wastes except in places designated for such purposes away from residential, industrial and agricultural areas and the water environment. The Executive Order shall determine the specifications, regulations and minimum distance of the designated places from such areas.

ARTICLE 51

It is prohibited to spray or use pesticides or any other chemical compounds for agriculture, public health requirements or other purposes except after satisfying the conditions, controls and safeguards specified in the Executive Order to avoid the direct or indirect, immediate or late exposure of human, animal, plant, water courses or any other components of the environment to the harmful effects of such pesticides or chemical compounds.

ARTICLE 52

All parties and individuals shall, at the time of exploration, drilling, construction, demolition or transportation of wastes or dusts produced as a result undertake, during these activities, take the necessary precautions in addition to the precautions required for storage or safe transportation to prevent dispersion of such wastes and dusts as specified in the Executive Order.

ARTICLE 53

The emission of smoke, vapors and fumes resulting from burning of fuels or other substances at the time of exploration, drilling, extraction and production of crude oil, industry, generation of power, construction or any other commercial purpose shall be within the permissible limits, and the person in charge of such activity shall take the necessary precautions to reduce the amount of pollutants in combustion emissions and keep a registry in which measurements of the amounts of pollutants resulting from such combustion are recorded.

The Executive Order shall specify the precautions and permissible limits for chimneys and other means of controlling smoke, gases and vapors emitted as a result of combustion, permissible limits for measuring the amounts of pollutants resulting from combustion and the parties authorized to audit the recorded measurements.

ARTICLE 54

All parties and individuals undertaking the production or service or other activities specially when operating machines, equipments, warning devices and loud-speakers, shall not exceed the permissible limits for noise.

The Executive Order shall indicate the permissible limits for the intensity and exposure time of noise.

ARTICLE 55

Enterprises and establishments shall ensure adequate ventilation in the work place and take the necessary precautions and measures to prevent the leakage or emission of air pollutants unless it is within the permissible limits specified in the Executive Order no matter the whether the leakage is resulting from the normal practices of these establishments or malfunction in the equipments. Such enterprises and establishments shall also provide the necessary means of protection to the workers in accordance with conditions of safety and occupational health including choice of machines, equipments and suitable types of fuel, taking into consideration the time of exposure to such pollutants.

ARTICLE 56

Closed and semi-closed public places shall have sufficient means of ventilation proportionate to the size and capacity of the place and type of activity to ensure the circulation, cleanliness and adequate temperature of the air.

ARTICLE 57

Public and tourism establishments shall undertake the necessary measuresj10910.9782 0 0 10.z8ll undert

CHAPTER V HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND WASTES AND MEDICAL WASTES

ARTICLE 58

Handling or dealing with hazardous substances, hazardous wastes and medical wastes is prohibited without license from the Competent Authorities. The Executive Order shall specify the conditions and regulations for license issuance.

ARTILCE 59

Disposal of hazardous wastes and medical wastes shall be undertaken in accordance with the conditions and criteria specified by the Executive Order. It is prohibited to establish any facilities for the treatment of hazardous wastes without a license issued by the Competent Authorities.

ARTICLE 60

Inspection of the transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes across land and marine environment water borders and air shall be undertaken in accordance with the controls stipulated in the Executive Order.

ARTICLE 61

Persons in charge of the production or handling of hazardous substances, whether in gas, liquid or solid states, shall take all the necessary precautions to ensure that no damage to the environment occurs. The Executive Order shall stipulate such precautions.

The owner of the establishment undertaking activities resulting in the production of hazardous wastes according to this Law, shall keep a registry for such hazardous wastes, methods of disposal and the parties contracted to receive such wastes. The Executive Order shall indicate the information and the party authorized to review the registry to ensure that the information conforms with applied practices.

ARTICLE 62

1. No public or private party or qualified or unqualified persons are allowed to import or bring, bury or dispose of hazardous wastes in any form in the environment of the State.
2. Such parties or persons are not allowed to import or bring nuclear substances or wastes or bury, dump, store or dispose of such wastes in any form in the environment of the State.
3. No means of marine, air or land transportation carrying hazardous or nuclear wastes in the marine, air or land environment are allowed to pass without a written permit from the Agency.

CHAPTER VI NATURAL RESERVES

ARTICLE 63

Reserve areas in the State and the boundaries of each area shall be determined by a decree issued by the Cabinet of Ministers or the Competent Authorities. Certain areas may be considered reserve areas in accordance with a proposal from the Agency.

ARTILCE 64

Works, activities and acts prohibited in reserve areas which may

1. Contributing to the preparation of programmes and studies needed for the development of the reserves.
2. Establishment of the standards and controls for monitoring environmental phenomena and confining and registering land and marine creatures in the reserves.
3. Coordination of activities for the management and development of the reserves.
4. Informing and educating the public about the objectives and purposes of the establishment of natural reserves.
5. Exchange of information and experience in this field with other countries, international organizations and concerned parties in the State.

ARTICLE 68

Research centers, scientific institutions, universities and other specialized parties shall, in coordination with the Agency take interest in the issues of biological diversity, preservation of the indigenous of species, conducting studies and research and proposing the controls and procedures to be followed for the preservation and investment in such species without leading to their depletion and protecting the moral, social and economic lawful rights of the State.

CHAPTER VII LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES

SECTION I JUDICIAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES

ARTILCE 69

The Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf , in agreement with the Minister of Health shall issue a resolution determining the employees of the Agency and the Competent Authorities, whose incumbents shall have judicial control powers for the inspection of establishments and other places to verify their compliance with the application of the provisions of this Law and resolutions issued for its enforcement.

And employees of the Agency and the Competent Authorities so determined shall be entitled to control any violation of the provisions of this Law, and refer the violating party to the Competent Judicial Authorities in accordance with the procedures applied in the State.

ARTICLE 70

If the captain or the person in charge of a violating marine means of transportation wishes to leave the seaport urgently, the Judicial control officer shall collect an immediate fine on temporary basis for the account of enforcement of fine or comp

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ARTILCE 79

Any person who violates the provisions of article (49) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than One Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 1000).

ARTICLE 80

Any person who violates the provisions of article (51) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than Ten Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 10,000) and not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 50,000).

ARTICLE 81

Any person who violates the provisions of article (35) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than Ten Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 10,000) and not exceeding Hundred Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 100,000).

ARTICLE 82

Any person who violates the provisions of articles (48), (50), ((53), (54) and (55) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than Two Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 2000) and not exceeding Twenty Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 20,000).

ARTICLE 83

Any person who violates the provisions of articles (12) of this Law, shall be punished by imprisonment and fine not less than Two Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 2000) and not exceeding Twenty Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 20,000) or either of the two penalties and the confiscation of the captured birds and animals.

ARTILCE 84

Any person who violates the provisions of articles (43) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than One Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 1000) and not exceeding Twenty Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 20,000).

ARTICLE 85

Any person who violates the provisions of articles (66) of this Law, shall be punished by fine not less than Five Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 5000) and not exceeding Twenty Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 20,000).

ARTICLE 86

Violation of any other provisions of this Law, shall be punishable by fine not less than Five Hindered Dirhams (Dh. 500) and not exceeding Ten Thousand Dirhams (Dh. 10,000).

ARTICLE 87

The application of the penalties stipulated in this Law shall not contravene any more severe penalties stipulated in another Law.

ARTILCE 88

In the event of repetition of the crimes stipulated in this Law, the penalties determined for such crimes shall be doubled.

ARTICLE 89

The penalties stipulated in this Law shall not be applied in the event of pollution resulting from:

1. Securing the safety of the marine means of transportation or safety of lives on board.
2. Unloading as a result of damage to the marine means of transportation or any of its equipments provided that such damage did not occur with the knowledge of the captain or the person in charge and was not intentional or a result of negligence and provided that in any case the captain or person in charge of the means shall take all precautions for preventing or

