

FLAG STATE = Country of registration of the vessel

| Offence zones | International conventions | Description |
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| Territorial waters of the coastal State | Art 4 MARPOL Art 228 UNCLOS | The flag State is responsible for beginning proceedings if it receives a request from a coastal State. This does not suspend the action taken by the coastal State. |
| High seas, EEZ, territorial waters, inland waters of the coastal State | Art 6 MARPOL | The flag State can request that a port State carries out an inspection. |
| | Art 4 MARPOL Art 217 UNCLOS | If the flag State is informed of a breach of the regulations on discharge or any other aspect of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and is certain that the evidence obtained is sufficient to be able to take legal action, it must then begin proceedings as quickly as possible, in the conditions laid out by its own legislation. The flag State must promptly inform the party which indicated the presumed offence, as well as the International Maritime Organisation, of the measures taken. |
| | Art 218 UNCLOS | A flag State can request that a port State takes action if the offence takes place in the jurisdiction of a coastal State. |
| | Art 228 UNCLOS | A flag State can usually suspend proceedings by another State against an offence breaching the MARPOL Convention outside of its territorial sea boundary if it takes legal action within the six months following the date at which the proceedings originally began. |
| | Art 231 UNCLOS | States must promptly notify the flag State and any other State affected of the measures taken against foreign vessels, and convey all the official reports relating to these measures to the flag State. |