

Countdown Explainer

How IMO process works for the NZF

Countdown to IMO NZF
2025

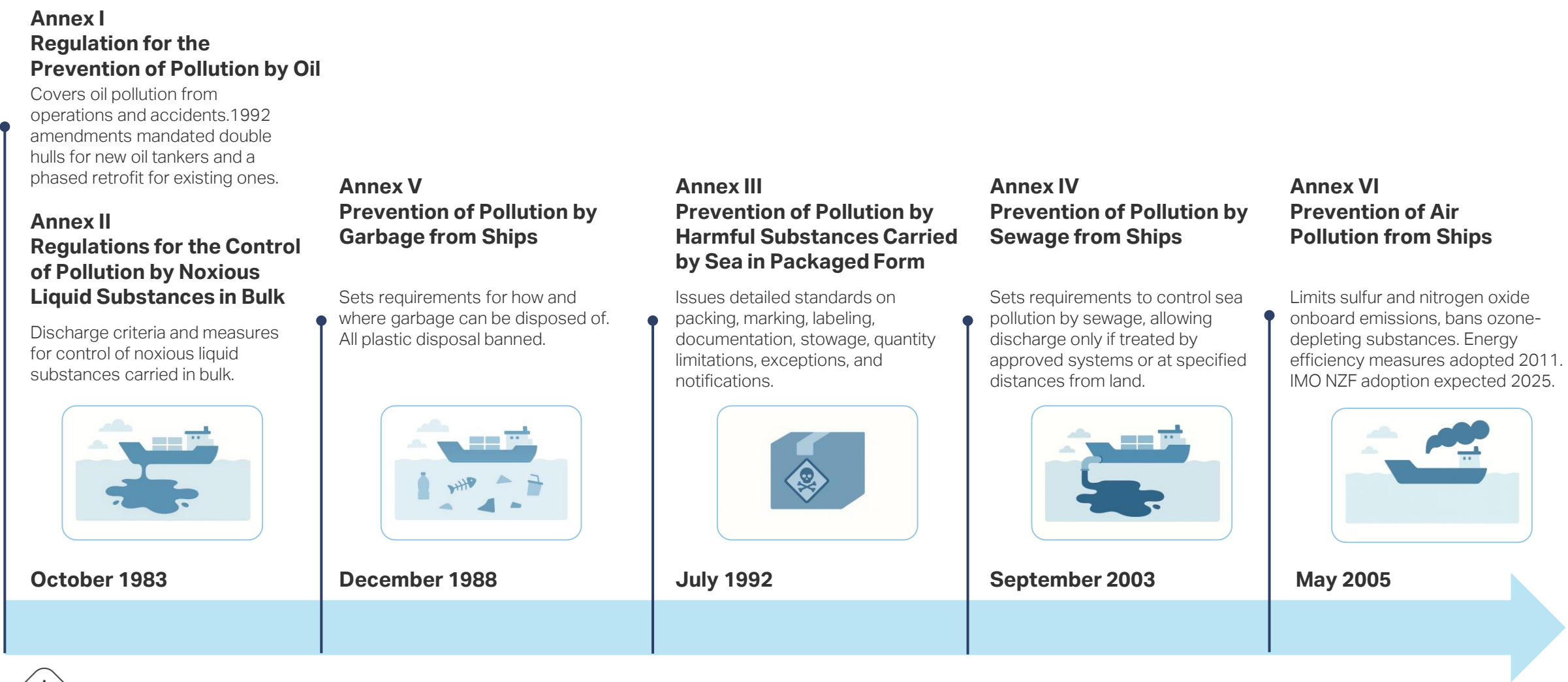


Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center
for Zero Carbon Shipping

9/9/2025

Overview of MARPOL Annexes

Fig 1



IMO NZF timeline: from approval to first reporting

Fig 2



Approval at MEPC 83

11 April 2025

Two-thirds majority approved IMO Net Zero Framework.



Adoption at MEPC ES.2

14 – 17 October 2025

Adoption if two-thirds vote in favor – must be party to MARPOL Annex VI, abstentions don't count in tally



Acceptance

August 2026 *

Accepted unless one-third parties to Annex VI or 50% global tonnage objects



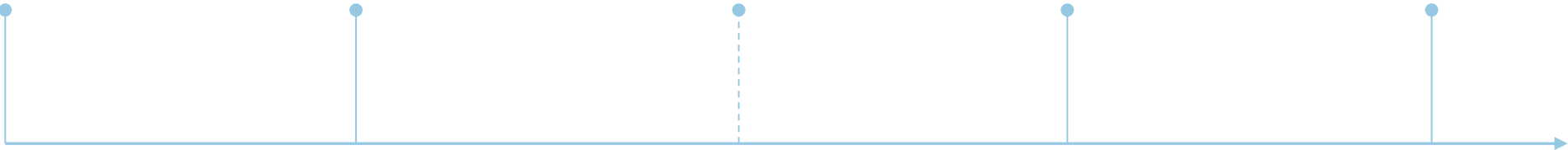
Entry into force

1 March 2027



GHG Fuel Intensity (GFI) reporting period begins

1 January 2028



* Tacit acceptance period to be confirmed at MEPC ES.2, with a minimum of 10 months.



Summary and scheduled adoption of IMO NZF guidelines

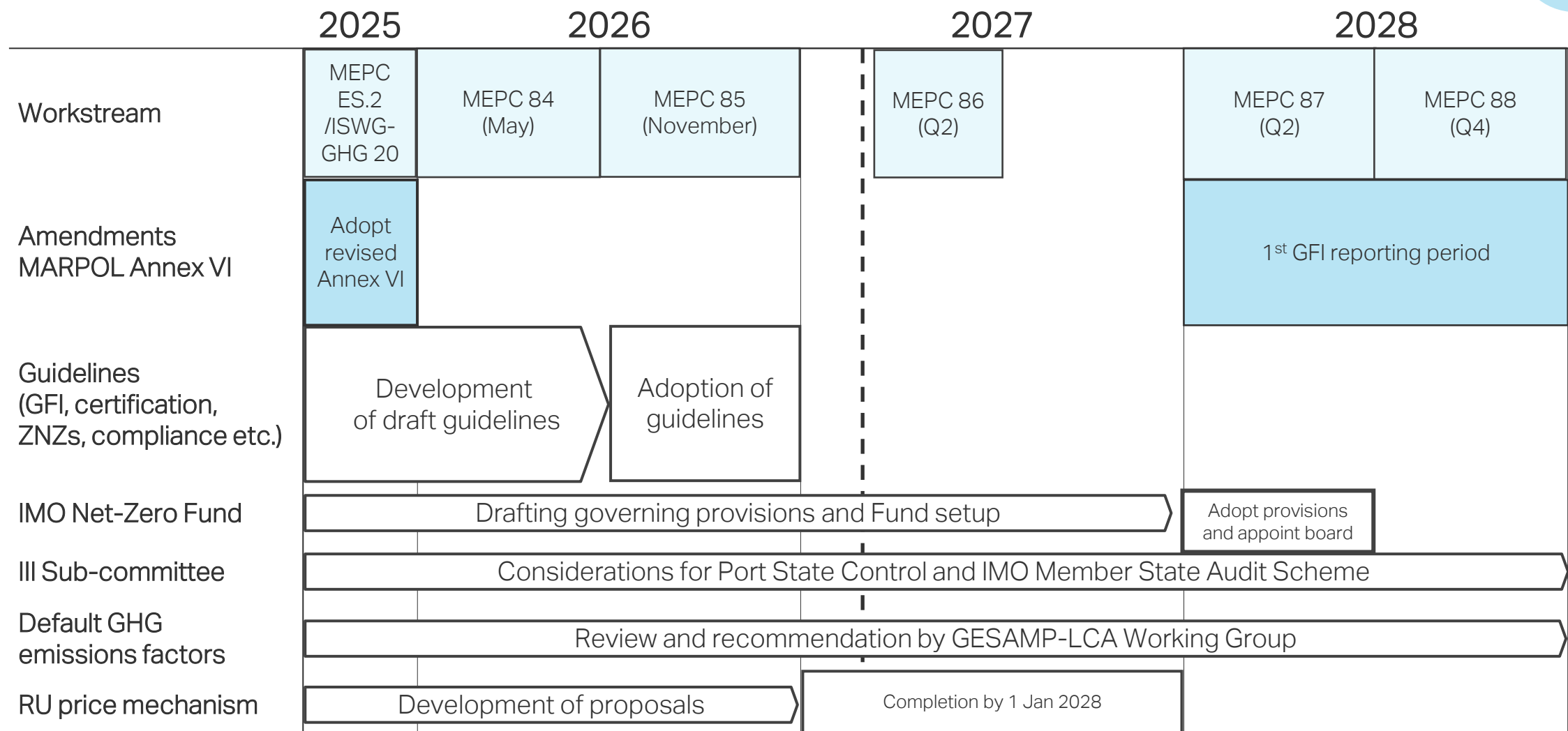
Table 1

Category	Guideline(s)	Expected Adoption
GHG Fuel Intensity (GFI) and GFI compliance approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Calculation of the attained annual GFIAnnual GFI compliance approachesReporting and verification of the annual GFI(Submission of data for GFI of ships from a state not party to MARPOL Annex VI -- guidance rather than guideline))	MEPC 85 (November 2026)
"Zero- or near-zero GHG emission technologies, fuels and/or energy sources" (ZNZs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluation, approval, and monitoring of ZNZ uptakeDefinition of ZNZ rewards and methodology for rewards	MEPC 85
GFI Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development, management, and operation of IMO GFI RegistryDetermination of the annual IMO GFI Registration administration feeFunctioning and access to the IMO GFI Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MEPC 85MEPC 86 (Q2 2027)MEPC 85
Further development of the GHG Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) Framework and emissions measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requirements and procedures for recognition of certification schemes and reporting of certification activities of the OrganizationTestbed and onboard measurements of methane (CH₄) and/or nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions from marine diesel enginesCertification and circulation of information in the fuel life cycle label.Amendments to the LCA Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MEPC 84 (May 2026)MEPC 84MEPC 85MEPC 86
Amendments to existing guidelines and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2024 Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) GuidelinesGuidelines for the verification and company audits by Administration of Part III of the SEEMPHarmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)	MEPC 85
Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage (OCCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Testing, survey, and certification of OCCS	MEPC 85



Overview of the key IMO NZF workstreams

Fig 3



1 March
Entry into force

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The current series, **Countdown to IMO NZF**, is looks at the historic regulations coming out of the IMO. Find more on the IMO NZF and read previous editions on the [Net-Zero Framework](#) homepage.

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