

# Law No. 8 of 2004 on the Protection of Maritime Petroleum and Gas Installations 8 / 2004

Number of Articles: 13

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We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;  
Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 23, 34, and 51 thereof;  
Decree-Law No. 10 of 1974 on the establishment of Qatar petroleum and its amendments;  
The Maritime Law promulgated by Law No. 15 of 1980;  
The proposal of the Minister of Energy and Industry;  
The draft law presented by the Council of Ministers; and  
Having consulted the *Shura* Council;  
Hereby promulgate the following Law:

## Articles

### Article 1

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each, unless the context requires otherwise:

“Minister” means the Minister of Energy and Industry.

“Maritime Petroleum and Gas Installations” means the fixed or mobile onshore or offshore surface and **subsurface** facilities, platforms and terminals for exploration, **prospecting**, excavation, drilling rigs, production, oil refineries and means of storage, transport, shipping and pumping of petroleum and natural gas. They also include harbours, anchorages and buoys related to the loading of gas and petroleum and their products, in addition to the navigation passages the minister determines.

“Ship” means any seaworthy craft intended or prepared for sea transport including boats, fishing and transport boats, water cycles, towage and floating docks with or without an engine. The ship’s accessories necessary for its operation shall be an integral part of the Vessel.

“Provider” means the person who possesses and invests in the ship for his account whether as an owner or a lessee. The owner shall be deemed a provider unless he proves otherwise.

“Captain” means a person having command of a ship and responsible for the supervision and management thereof.

### Article 2

Unauthorized ships are prohibited from:

1. Approaching maritime installations at a distance of less than 500 metres.
2. Anchoring at harbours, docks and buoys to load oil, gas and their products.
3. Anchoring in navigation passages identified in declared maritime maps.
4. Throwing anchors into or dredging channels containing oil and gas pipes determined in maritime maps.

### Article 3

No unauthorized person shall approach maritime facilities within a distance of less than 500 metres.

#### Article 4

Fishing or leaving fishing gear at a distance of less than 500 metres from maritime facilities is prohibited.

#### Article 5

Qatar Petroleum shall undertake to display conventional signs, such as buoys, which define the boundaries to be observed by ships and people when approaching prohibited maritime installations.

#### Article 6

The minister or his representative shall issue permits required for the acts stipulated in Articles 2 and 3 according to the conditions and regulations determined by the decisions implementing this law.

Such permit shall be issued only to ships and people whose work or public interest so requires. A copy of each permit shall be sent to Qatar Petroleum and to the competent authorities at the ministries of interior and defense

#### Article 7

1. The employees of Qatar Petroleum and the armed forces named under a decision by the Public Prosecutor, in agreement with the minister and the chief of staff of the armed forces, shall be empowered as judicial police to control any violations of this law and its implementing decisions.
1. Such employees shall be empowered to compile reports, make arrests and detain ships, their accessories and fishing gear used in the commission of any offence.

#### Article 8

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in another law, any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 4 of this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand (100,000) riyals, or to both.

1. Such penalties shall be doubled in the event of a recurrence of the violation. A convicted person shall be considered a recidivist if he commits a similar offence within five years from the date of the execution of the sentence.
2. The crimes stipulated in this Article shall be deemed similar crimes.
3. The competent court shall have the right to release temporarily on bail a ship that violates the provisions of Articles 2 and 4 of this Law.

## Article 9

1. Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in another law, any person convicted of intentionally damaging or disabling any maritime installation or part thereof shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than three years and not more than twenty years, or to a fine of not more than five hundred thousand (500000) riyals, or to both.
1. The court shall have the right to order the confiscation of the ship or other means used in the commission of the offence.
2. Where the offence results from negligence or mistake, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a term of not more than three years, or a fine of not more than two hundred thousand (200,000) riyals, or both.

## Article 10

Qatar Petroleum shall have the right to request compensation for damages caused to any maritime facilities. The provider and the captain shall be jointly liable for such damages.

## Article 11

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous Article and before the final judgment, compounding may be reached for the offences stipulated in Articles 8 and 9 (2).
1. In such case, the accused shall pay half of the maximum amount of the imposed fine. The judicial officer shall propose the compounding after informing the defendant of the charges against him and he shall record such compounding in his report.
2. The compounding shall take effect after the approval of the minister or his representative. The defendant shall pay the compounding fee within fifteen days of the date of such approval, and the lawsuit shall be closed after the fine has been paid.
3. The recurrence of the compounded crime shall be deemed a precedent.

## Article 12

The minister shall issue the necessary resolutions to execute the provisions of this law.

## Article 13

All competent authorities, each within its jurisdiction, shall execute this law which shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.