

Client Alert



New Maritime Law in the UAE

By Bashir Ahmed, Mevan Bandara and Nazim Hashim | 17 November 2023

The UAE issued a new Maritime Law this week. The new Maritime Law, Federal Decree-Law No 43 of 2023 will come into force six months from publication and will repeal the 1981 Maritime Law.

As expected, the new Maritime Law significantly improves the maritime landscape in the UAE, and will no doubt seal the UAE as a shipping-hub in the region.

On the precautionary arrest of a vessel front, the new law requires the applicant seeking an arrest of the vessel to provide security to cover the expenses of the crew, and to maintain the vessel. The new law also appears to have broadened the definition of a “maritime debt” to include claims arising out of damage caused by the vessel to the environment and coastline, wreckage removal and port fees. Arrest of a sister vessel is also permitted, provided that the sister vessel was owned by the debtor at the time of submitting the application for arrest. This is a departure from the position under the 1981 law which permitted the arrest of a sister vessel if the sister vessel was owned by the debtor at the time the debt arose.

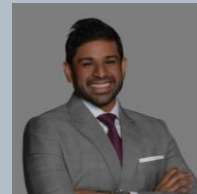
The Afridi & Angell maritime team is closely reviewing the new law and will continue to provide further updates. ■

The Authors



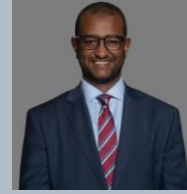
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Mevan practices in the firm's dispute resolution group. He advises and represents clients in arbitration, DIFC Court litigation and on-shore litigation. Mevan has represented clients in DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, ICC and ad hoc arbitrations seated in London, Dubai, Singapore and Sri Lanka. He specialises in cross-border disputes, tax, construction, banking, real estate, maritime and employment disputes.



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Nazim practices in the firm's dispute resolution group. He has substantial experience in all aspects of civil and criminal litigation from case intake through to final disposition at trial. He handles a heavy caseload at a busy litigation practice, which includes conducting research and drafting memoranda used to support court pleadings. Nazim is a member of the Sudanese Bar Association.

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