



## AN OVERVIEW

---

### Summary

The Country & Territory Profiles provide a summary of spill response arrangements and resources within maritime states. They were originally developed in 1993 to help shipowners produce the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (SOPEPs) required under the MARPOL Convention, but have also proved useful to other organisations involved in the production, transport or handling of oil and chemicals, and for preparing for and responding to spills.

There are approximately 160 Profiles, each 2-4 pages in length. They include information on command structures, preparedness for spill response policy, the availability of government and privately-owned equipment, previous spill experience, HNS preparedness and response, and the status of relevant conventions and agreements.

### Content

Information in the Profiles is provided under the following headings: -

#### **Spill Notification Point**

This is the government authority officially designated as the agency or administrative body within the coastal state for the receipt and processing of reports of oil spill incidents. Details of coastal radio stations and individual port contacts are generally not included.

#### **Competent National Authority**

This is the government authority within the coastal state which, it is understood, has overall (lead) responsibility for establishing arrangements to deal with oil spills from ships and to which routine requests for advice or information should be directed. This information is provided in order, for example, to facilitate information exchange and cooperation before an incident to aid the preparation of a contingency plan.

#### **Response Arrangements**

This section briefly describes the arrangements within the particular country for responding to an oil spill incident. The organisational arrangements are described within the context of the national contingency plan, if one exists, with distinctions drawn as appropriate for response to spills at sea, within ports or other specific locations, and for oil that reaches shorelines.

#### **Response Policy**

This section details the basic spill response policy of a country and its attitudes towards, for example, the use of dispersants, containment and collection of oil at sea, protection of sensitive resources, and shoreline clean up.

#### **Equipment**

This section provides a general indication of the types and amounts of oil spill clean-up equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country. This includes internationally available oil industry spill response resources.



## AN OVERVIEW

---

### **Previous Spill Experience**

This section comprises a broad and brief overview of the response to, and damage caused by, previous oil spills in each country. The intention is to give an indication of the approach which may be followed in the event of a future spill in that country and the particular problems that may be encountered.

### **Hazardous & Noxious Substances (HNS)**

This section briefly describes contingency arrangements and other preparations for spills of HNS in each country and outlines past experience.

### **Conventions**

This section provides a table of the country's ratification or otherwise of the most relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in the areas of pollution prevention, oil spill response and compensation.

### **Regional and Bilateral Agreements**

This section provides a list of the relevant regional and bilateral agreements of which the country is a member. This includes freestanding and UNEP Regional Seas Conventions.

### **Updating**

The Profiles are updated as new information becomes available. Sources include press reports, IMO (primarily for convention information), conference/seminar proceedings, attendance at spills or training courses, direct contact with authorities. Useful information is also obtained from the internet, in particular from the official sites of national authorities, from regional agencies such as EMSA, and from industry bodies such as WACAF, REMPEITC and REMPEC.

If information is received for one of the above headings only, attempts are made to check the rest of the information in the Profile. However, information is not always readily available under every heading and each Profile has therefore not necessarily been completely verified or updated as at the stated date of issue.