



Captain Abdullah Al Hayyas, Director of Maritime Transport, UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure unveiled details of the UAE's new ship recycling regulations at the TradeWinds Ship Recycling Forum on Wednesday. Photo: Jonathan Boonzaier

United Arab Emirates to ban the beaching of ships flying its flag

New recycling regulation is part of broader maritime law that will allow foreign owners to register ships under UAE flag

The United Arab Emirates has drafted robust legislation that will include a ban on domestically flagged ships being recycled using the beaching method.

The legislation, which in many ways matches that of the European Union, will require the recycling of UAE-flag vessels sold to yards outside the country to be undertaken at facilities with a dry dock or equivalent infrastructure having impermeable flooring where no beaching takes place.

In addition, each UAE-flag newbuilding will be required to have on board an inventory of hazardous materials.

Details of the legislation were revealed by the UAE director of maritime transport, Captain Abdulla Al Hayyas, who said they are part of a broader new UAE Maritime Law that is undergoing final approvals to replace the existing law that was implemented 40 years ago.

The legislation, formulated by the Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure under which Al Hayyas's department falls, applies to all ships above 500 gt that fly the UAE flag, or foreign ships that are recycled in the UAE.

"The UAE recognises uncontrolled ship recycling constitutes a serious threat to the environment and possible irreversible health hazard," Al Hayyas said.