



ETS





ETS

Both the IMO Net-Zero Framework and the EU ETS (European Emissions Trading System) deal with maritime decarbonization.

They have completely different natures, scopes, and mechanisms.

Comparison: IMO Net-Zero Framework vs. EU ETS Maritime

Responsible institution

Nature

Main objective

Geographic scope

IMO Net-Zero Framework

International Maritime Organization (IMO), a UN agency
Global regulation under MARPOL
Annex VI, with reduction targets
and technical/policy mechanisms for all IMO member countries

Reduce absolute GHG emissions from shipping in line with **net zero by 2050**, with intermediate targets (2030 and 2040)

Global – applicable to all ships subject to MARPOL (regardless of flag or route)

EU ETS (Sea)

European Union (European Commission)

Regional **carbon trading system** (cap-and-trade), applicable to companies operating in EU ports

Make companies pay for their CO₂ emissions by encouraging carbon reduction

Regional – applies to **intra-EU** journeys **between EU ports** and partially (50%) to journeys **between the EU and non-EU countries**

Comparison: IMO Net-Zero Framework vs. EU ETS Maritime

Aspect	IMO Net-Zero Framework	EU ETS (Sea)
Instrument Type	Technical and operational regulation (energy efficiency, GHG intensity limits, reporting, future financial mechanisms)	Market instrument – buying and selling emission allowances (EUAs)
Calculation basis	GHG intensity (gCO ₂ e/t·mile) and overall reduction targets	Absolute tons of CO ₂ emitted, measured per trip (MRV)
Expected entry into force	Under discussion and vote in October 2025 (MEPC/ES.2); expected implementation from 2027–2028	It entered into force for the maritime sector on January 1, 2024 , with a transition phase until 2026

Comparison: IMO Net-Zero Framework vs. EU ETS Maritime

Aspect	IMO Net-Zero Framework	EU ETS (Sea)
Economic instrument envisaged	Still in formulation — the IMO evaluates global emissions pricing measures , such as a "GHG Levy" or "GHG Fuel Standard"	It already operates with carbon pricing , with emission quotas (USA) traded on the market
Gas Coverage	CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O and other relevant greenhouse gases	CO ₂ only (for now)
Compliance Officer	MARPOL compliant shipowner/operator	Shipowner or operator responsible for the MRV to the EU

