

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954

as amended in 1962 and 1969

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INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
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FOREWORD

This volume contains the text of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, including the amendments adopted by the International Conference on Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1962, and those adopted by the sixth session of the Assembly of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on 21 October 1969 (resolution A.175(VI)).

The original text of the Convention, which was done by the International Conference on Pollution of the Sea by Oil in London on 12 May 1954, entered into force on 26 July 1958. The 1962 amendments have been in force since 28 June 1967 and the 1969 amendments became effective on 20 January 1978.

The resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1962, contained in a previous publication (sales number 72.13.B) are not included in this edition.

The amendments adopted by the seventh session of the Assembly of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on 12 October 1971 (resolution A.232(VII)) and on 15 October 1971 (resolution A.246(VII)) are contained in a separate booklet, sales number 81.07.E. These amendments will come into force twelve months after the date on which they have been accepted by two thirds of the Contracting Governments. As at 1 April 1981, these conditions had not been met.

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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION
OF POLLUTION OF THE SEA BY OIL, 1954**

as amended in 1962 and 1969

The Governments represented at the International Conference on Pollution of the Sea by Oil held in London from 26 April 1954 to 12 May 1954,

Desiring to take action by common agreement to prevent pollution of the sea by oil discharged from ships, and considering that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Convention,

Have accordingly appointed the undersigned plenipotentiaries*, who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

** Signatures omitted.*

Article I

(1) For the purposes of the present Convention, the following expressions shall (unless the context otherwise requires) have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them that is to say:

‘The Bureau’ has the meaning assigned to it by Article XXI;

‘Discharge’ in relation to oil or to oily mixture means any discharge or escape howsoever caused;

‘Heavy diesel oil’ means diesel oil, other than those distillates of which more than 50 per cent by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 340°C. when tested by A.S.T.M. Standard Method D.86/59;

‘Instantaneous rate of discharge of oil content’ means the rate of discharge of oil in litres per hour at any instant divided by the speed of the ship in knots at the same instant;

‘Mile’ means a nautical mile of 6,080 feet or 1,852 metres;

‘Nearest land’. The term ‘from the nearest land’ means ‘from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the territory in question is established in accordance with the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, 1958’;

‘Oil’ means crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil and lubricating oil, and ‘oily’ shall be construed accordingly;

‘Oily mixture’ means a mixture with any oil content;

‘Organization’ means the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization;

‘Ship’ means any sea-going vessel of any type whatsoever, including floating craft, whether self-propelled or towed by another vessel, making a sea voyage; and ‘tanker’ means a ship in which the greater part of the cargo space is constructed or adapted for the carriage of liquid cargoes in bulk and which is not, for the time being, carrying a cargo other than oil in that part of its cargo space.

(2) For the purposes of the present Convention, the territories of a Contracting Government mean the territory of the country of which it is the Government and any other territory for the international relations of which it is responsible and to which the Convention shall have been extended under Article XVIII.

Article II

(1) The present Convention shall apply to ships registered in any of the territories of a Contracting Government and to unregistered ships having the nationality of a Contracting Party, except: