

TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS, 1969

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INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
DOCUMENTS
ORGANIZATION



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS, 1969

**Final Act of the Conference, with attachments, including
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS**



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MARITIME
ORGANIZATION
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FINAL ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS, 1969

1. Recognizing that the establishment of a universal system of tonnage measurement for ships engaged on international voyages should constitute an important contribution to maritime transport, a Conference was held in London from 27 May to 23 June 1969, upon the invitation of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, for the purpose of drawing up an International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships.

2. The Governments of the following States were represented by delegations at the Conference:

Argentina	Liberia
Australia	Malagasy Republic
Belgium	Mexico
Brazil	Netherlands
Bulgaria	New Zealand
Cameroon	Nigeria
Canada	Norway
China, Republic of	Pakistan
Czechoslovakia	Peru
Denmark	Philippines
Federal Republic of Germany	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	South Africa
Ghana	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Guatemala	Switzerland
Iceland	Union of Soviet
India	Socialist Republics
Indonesia	United Arab Republic
Ireland	United Kingdom
Israel	United States of
Italy	America
Japan	Venezuela
Korea, Republic of	Viet-Nam, Republic of
Kuwait	Yugoslavia

3. The Governments of the following States were represented at the Conference by observers:

Barbados	Iraq
Cambodia	Jordan
Holy See	Thailand
Hong Kong	

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the Conference by observers:

International Association of Ports and Harbors
International Chamber of Shipping
International Shipping Federation
Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses

5. The Suez Canal Authority and the Panama Canal Company were also represented at the Conference by observers.

6. Admiral Edwin J. Roland (United States of America) was elected President of the Conference.

7. Mr. W. Milewski (Poland), Captain R. J. R. de Mattos (Brazil), Mr. Y. S. Kasbekar (India) and Mr. Y. K. Quartey (Ghana) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

8. The Secretary-General of the Conference was Mr. Colin Goad (Secretary-General of the Organization); the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference was Mr. Jean Quéguiner (Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization); and the Executive Secretary of the Conference was Mr. V. Nadeinski (Secretary of the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization).

9. The Conference established four Committees for the accomplishment of its work:

General Committee

Chairman: Mr. R. Vancraeynest (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman: Dr. P. Nikolić (Yugoslavia)

Technical Committee

Chairman: Mr. L. Spinelli (Italy)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Eriksson (Sweden)

Drafting Committee

Chairman: Mr. W. J. Madigan (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. N. I. Glukhov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. A. von der Becke (Argentina)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. I. C. Edet (Nigeria)

10. The documentation of the Conference, used as a basis for its discussions, included three proposals for a universal system of tonnage measurement, each consisting of a draft text of a Convention with annexed Regulations and Tonnage Certificate prepared by the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization, together with comments thereon submitted by various Governments and additional proposals by Governments.

11. As a result of its deliberations, as recorded in the records and reports of the Committees and in the records of the Plenary sessions, the Conference prepared and opened for signature and accession the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.

12. The Conference adopted three Recommendations arising from its deliberations. These Recommendations relate to:

- (1) Acceptance of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.
- (2) Uses of gross and net tonnages.
- (3) Uniform interpretation of definitions of terms.

13. The text of this Final Act, being in a single original in the English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, together with the attached texts of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969, and of the Recommendations of the Conference, which are in the English and French languages, shall be deposited with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization. Official translations of the attached Convention and Recommendations shall be prepared in the Russian and Spanish languages and shall be deposited together with this Final Act. The Secretary-General of the Organization shall send a certified copy of this Final Act and, when they have been prepared, certified copies of the official translations of the Convention and the Recommendations, to each of the Governments invited to be represented at this Conference.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have affixed their signatures to this Final Act.*

DONE AT LONDON this twenty-third day of June one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

* Signatures omitted.

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS, 1969

The Contracting Governments,

DESIRING to establish uniform principles and rules with respect to the determination of tonnage of ships engaged on international voyages;

CONSIDERING that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Convention;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

General Obligation under the Convention

The Contracting Governments undertake to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and the Annexes hereto which shall constitute an integral part of the present Convention. Every reference to the present Convention constitutes at the same time a reference to the Annexes.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purpose of the present Convention, unless expressly provided otherwise:

- (1) "Regulations" means the Regulations annexed to the present Convention;
- (2) "Administration" means the Government of the State whose flag the ship is flying;
- (3) "international voyage" means a sea voyage from a country to which the present Convention applies to a port outside such country, or conversely. For this purpose, every territory for the international relations of which a Contracting Government is responsible or for which the United Nations are the administering authority is regarded as a separate country;
- (4) "gross tonnage" means the measure of the overall size of a ship determined in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention;
- (5) "net tonnage" means the measure of the useful capacity of a ship determined in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention;
- (6) "new ship" means a ship the keel of which is laid, or which is at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date of coming into force of the present Convention;
- (7) "existing ship" means a ship which is not a new ship;
- (8) "length" means 96 per cent of the total length on a waterline at 85 per cent of the least moulded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the fore side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that water-