

TONNAGE MEASUREMENT TREATMENT OF SHELTER-DECK AND OTHER 'OPEN' SPACES

Recommendations adopted by the IMO Assembly

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PREFACE

Following a decision of the First Assembly of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the Maritime Safety Committee established in June 1959 a sub-committee to investigate national rules for tonnage measurement and to work out an internationally acceptable universal system of tonnage measurement.

The International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, emphasized, in Recommendation 17, the desirability of dispensing with the prescribed closing appliances for tonnage openings, or of substituting them by watertight closing appliances, and the desirability of altering the present methods of tonnage measurement, in order to improve the safety of ships. Similar views were expressed at a meeting of tonnage experts of the Oslo Convention countries in Reykjavik in 1961 and in a Resolution of the Conference of Classification Societies in 1959.

In this connexion, it was decided to deal with the problem of the treatment of shelter-deck and other 'open' spaces as a matter of urgency.

The relevant proposals were worked out and submitted by the Maritime Safety Committee to the Third IMCO Assembly which endorsed the Recommendations on 18 October 1963. Certain details which were necessary for the implementation of the Recommendations were left to be developed and approved by the Maritime Safety Committee.

The Assembly recommended Governments to include in their national tonnage measurement requirements provisions to give effect to the Recommendations and invited Governments to exchange through the Secretariat relevant information as to their practices in the matters covered by these Recommendations, the object being to ensure international uniformity, as far as practicable, in their interpretation and application.

As authorized by the Assembly, the Maritime Safety Committee on 20 April 1964 approved the 'details' containing definitions of the form and position of the tonnage mark and the tonnage mark table which now constitute an integral part of the 'Recommendations on the treatment of shelter-deck and other "open" spaces'. Both are contained in this booklet.

The principle underlying the Recommendations is that certain spaces in the 'tween deck would be exempted provided a tonnage mark on the ship's side, placed below the second deck, is not submerged. The minimum distance of the tonnage mark below the second deck is given in the tonnage mark table.