

# R155 - Merchant Shipping (Improvement of Standards) Recommendation, 1976 (No. 155)

*Recommendation concerning the Improvement of Standards in Merchant Ships* Adoption: Geneva, 62nd ILC session (29 Oct 1976) - Status: Up-to-date instrument (Technical Convention).

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## Preamble

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and having met in its Sixty-second Session on 13 October 1976, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to substandard vessels, particularly those registered under flags of convenience, which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a Recommendation supplementing the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976,

adopts this twenty-ninth day of October of the year one thousand nine hundred seventy-six, the following Recommendation, which may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Improvement of Standards) Recommendation, 1976:

- 1.
  - (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, this Recommendation applies to every sea-going ship, whether publicly or privately owned, which is engaged in the transport of cargo or passengers for the purpose of trade or is employed for any other commercial purpose.
  - (2) National laws or regulations should determine when ships are to be regarded as sea-going ships for the purpose of this Recommendation.
  - (3) This Recommendation applies to sea-going tugs.

- (4) This Recommendation does not apply to--
  - (a) ships primarily propelled by sail, whether or not they are fitted with auxiliary engines;
  - (b) ships engaged in fishing or in whaling or in similar pursuits;
  - (c) small vessels and vessels such as oil-rigs and drilling platforms when not engaged in navigation, the decision as to which vessels are covered by this clause to be taken by the competent authority in each country in consultation with the most representative organisations of shipowners and seafarers.
- (5) Nothing in this Recommendation should be deemed to extend the scope of the instruments referred to in the Appendix to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976, or in the Appendix to this Recommendation.
- 2. Members should--
  - (a) ensure that the provisions of the laws and regulations provided for in Article 2, subparagraph (a), of the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976, and
  - (b) satisfy themselves that such provisions of collective agreements as deal with shipboard conditions of employment and shipboard living arrangements, are at least equivalent to the Conventions or Articles of Conventions referred to in the Appendix to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976.
- 3. In addition, steps should be taken, by stages if necessary, with a view to such laws or regulations, or as appropriate collective agreements, containing provisions at least equivalent to the provisions of the instruments referred to in the Appendix to this Recommendation.
- 4.
  - (1) Pending steps for such revision of the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976, as may become necessary in the light of changes in the circumstances and needs of merchant shipping, cognisance should be taken in the application of that Convention, after consultation with the most representative organisations of shipowners and seafarers, of any revision of individual Conventions referred to in the Appendix thereto that has come into force.
  - (2) Cognisance should be taken in the application of this Recommendation, after consultation with the most representative organisations of shipowners and seafarers, of any revision of individual Conventions referred to in the Appendix thereto that has come into force and of any revision of other instruments therein referred to that has been adopted.

Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936 (No. 53);

Food and Catering (Ships' Crews) Convention, 1946 (No. 68);

Accommodation of Crews (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1970 (No. 133);

Prevention of Accidents (Seafarers) Convention, 1970 (No. 134);

Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135);

Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 91); or Seafarers' Annual Leave Convention, 1976 (No. 146);

Social Security (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 70);

Vocational Training (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1970 (No. 137);

IMCO/ILO Document for Guidance, 1975.