

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

**Convention fixing the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its second session, Genoa, 9 July 1920, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946**

*English and French official texts communicated by the Director-General of the International Labour Office. The registration took place on 15 September 1949.*

---

**ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL**

**Convention fixant l'âge minimum des enfants au travail maritime, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa deuxième session, Gênes, 9 juillet 1920, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant revision des articles finals, 1946**

*Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le Directeur général de l'Organisation internationale du Travail. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 15 septembre 1949.*

No. 590. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> FIXING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR  
ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO EMPLOYMENT AT  
SEA, AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVI-  
SION CONVENTION, 1946<sup>2</sup>

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,  
Having been convened at Genoa by the Governing Body of the Inter-  
national Labour Office, on the 15th day of June 1920, and  
Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard  
to the "application to seamen of the Convention adopted at  
Washington last November prohibiting the employment of children  
under fourteen years of age", which is the third item in the agenda  
for the Genoa meeting of the Conference, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an  
international Convention,

adopts the following Convention, which may be cited as the Minimum Age  
(Sea) Convention, 1920, for ratification by the Members of the International  
Labour Organisation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution  
of the International Labour Organisation :

*Article 1*

For the purpose of this Convention, the term "vessel" includes all  
ships and boats, of any nature whatsoever, engaged in maritime navigation,  
whether publicly or privately owned; it excludes ships of war.

*Article 2*

Children under the age of fourteen years shall not be employed or  
work on vessels, other than vessels upon which only members of the same  
family are employed.

*Article 3*

The provisions of Article 2 shall not apply to work done by children  
on school-ships or training-ships, provided that such work is approved and  
supervised by public authority.

<sup>1</sup> For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications  
see Certified Statement on page 116.

<sup>2</sup> See page 3.

*Article 4*

In order to facilitate the enforcement of the provisions of this Convention, every shipmaster shall be required to keep a register of all persons under the age of sixteen years employed on board his vessel, or a list of them in the articles of agreement, and of the dates of their births.

*Article 5*

1. Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention engages to apply it to its colonies, protectorates, and possessions which are not fully self-governing—

- (a) except where owing to the local conditions its provisions are inapplicable; or
- (b) subject to such modifications as may be necessary to adapt its provisions to local conditions.

2. Each Member shall notify to the International Labour Office the action taken in respect to each of its colonies, protectorates, and possessions which are not fully self-governing.

*Article 6*

The formal ratifications of this Convention, under the conditions set forth in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

*Article 7*

As soon as the ratifications of two Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered with the International Labour Office, the Director-General of the International Labour Office shall so notify all the Members of the International Labour Organisation.

*Article 8*

This Convention shall come into force at the date on which such notification is issued by the Director-General of the International Labour Office, but it shall then be binding only upon those Members which have registered their ratifications with the International Labour Office. Thereafter this Convention will come into force for any other Member at the date on which its ratification is registered with the International Labour Office.

*Article 9*

Subject to the provisions of Article 8, each Member which ratifies this Convention agrees to bring its provisions into operation not later than 1 July 1922, and to take such action as may be necessary to make these provisions effective.

*Article 10*

A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered with the International Labour Office.

*Article 11*

At least once in ten years, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention, and shall consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision or modification.

*Article 12*

The French and English texts of this Convention shall both be authentic.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946.

The original text of the Convention was authenticated on 10 July 1920 by the signatures of Baron E. Mayor des Planches, President of the Conference, and Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office.

The Convention first came into force on 27 September 1921.

IN FAITH WHEREOF I have, in pursuance of the provisions of Article 6 of the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946, authenticated with my signature this thirtieth day of April 1948 two original copies of the text of the Convention as modified.

Edward PHELAN  
Director-General  
of the International Labour Office

## CERTIFIED STATEMENT

This is to certify that the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920, adopted by the International Labour Conference on 9 July 1920 at its Second Session, and which entered into force on 27 September 1921, has to date been ratified by the following countries<sup>1</sup>, and that these ratifications were duly registered on the dates indicated<sup>2</sup>:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date of registration of ratification</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Date of registration of ratification</i>
Argentina.....	30.11.1933	* Ireland .....	4. 9.1925
* Australia .....	28. 6.1935	* Italy .....	14. 7.1932
* Belgium .....	2. 2.1925	Japan .....	7. 6.1924
* Brazil .....	8. 6.1936	Latvia .....	8. 6.1926
Bulgaria .....	16. 3.1923	* Luxembourg .....	16. 4.1928
* Canada .....	31. 3.1926	* Mexico .....	17. 8.1948
Chile .....	18.10.1935	* Netherlands <sup>3</sup> .....	26. 3.1925
* China .....	2.12.1936	Nicaragua .....	12. 4.1934
* Colombia .....	20. 6.1933	* Norway .....	7.10.1927
Cuba .....	6. 8.1928	* Poland .....	21. 6.1924
* Denmark .....	12. 5.1924	Rumania .....	8. 5.1922
* Dominican Republic .	4. 2.1933	Spain .....	20. 6.1924
Estonia .....	3. 3.1923	* Sweden .....	27. 9.1921
* Finland .....	10.10.1925	* United Kingdom ....	14. 7.1921
Germany .....	11. 6.1929	Uruguay .....	6. 6.1933
Greece .....	16.12.1925	* Venezuela .....	20.11.1944
Hungary .....	1. 3.1928	Yugoslavia .....	1. 4.1927

Geneva, 10 August 1949.

For the Director-General  
C. W. JENKS  
*Legal Adviser*

<sup>1</sup> It would not be appropriate for the International Labour Office to express an opinion with regard to the complex questions of a constitutional and juridical nature which may arise in regard to the effect of political or military events on the position of certain countries which have ratified the Convention.

<sup>2</sup> The names of Members Parties to the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946, are marked by an asterisk.

<sup>3</sup> Ratification denounced on 8 July 1947, upon the ratification of the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (revised), 1936.