

No. 597

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**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

**Convention concerning the application of the weekly rest in industrial undertakings, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its third session, Geneva, 17 November 1921, 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.*

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**ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL**

**Convention concernant l'application du repos hebdomadaire dans les établissements industriels, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa troisième session, Genève, 17 novembre 1921, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant révision 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. 597. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE WEEKLY REST IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION CONVENTION, 1946<sup>2</sup>

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 Third Session on 25 October 1921, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the weekly rest day in industrial employment, which is included in the seventh item of the agenda of the Session, and

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

adopts the following Convention, which may be cited as the Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921, 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*

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the term "industrial undertakings" includes—

- (a) mines, quarries, and other works for the extraction of minerals from the earth;
- (b) industries in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, ornamented, finished, adapted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed; including shipbuilding and the generation, transformation and transmission of electricity or motive power of any kind;
- (c) construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, alteration, or demolition of any building, railway, tramway, harbour, dock, pier, canal, inland waterway, road, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, sewer, drain, well, telegraphic or telephonic installation, electrical undertaking, gas work, water work, or other work of construction, as well as the preparation for or laying the foundations of any such work or structure;

<sup>1</sup> For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications see Certified Statement on page 198.

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

(d) transport of passengers or goods by road, rail, or inland waterway, including the handling of goods at docks, quays, wharves or warehouses, but excluding transport by hand.

2. This definition shall be subject to the special national exceptions contained in the Washington Convention limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings to eight in the day and forty-eight in the week, so far as such exceptions are applicable to the present Convention.

3. Where necessary, in addition to the above enumeration, each Member may define the line of division which separates industry from commerce and agriculture.

#### *Article 2*

1. The whole of the staff employed in any industrial undertaking, public or private, or in any branch thereof shall, except as otherwise provided for by the following Articles, enjoy in every period of seven days a period of rest comprising at least twenty-four consecutive hours.

2. This period of rest shall, wherever possible, be granted simultaneously to the whole of the staff of each undertaking.

3. It shall, wherever possible, be fixed so as to coincide with the days already established by the traditions or customs of the country or district.

#### *Article 3*

Each Member may except from the application of the provisions of Article 2 persons employed in industrial undertakings in which only the members of one single family are employed.

#### *Article 4*

1. Each Member may authorise total or partial exceptions (including suspensions or diminutions) from the provisions of Article 2, special regard being had to all proper humanitarian and economic considerations and after consultation with responsible associations of employers and workers, wherever such exist.

2. Such consultation shall not be necessary in the case of exceptions which have already been made under existing legislation.

#### *Article 5*

Each Member shall make, as far as possible, provision for compensatory periods of rest for the suspensions or diminutions made in virtue of Article 4, except in cases where agreements or customs already provide for such periods.

*Article 6*

1. Each Member will draw up a list of the exceptions made under Articles 3 and 4 of this Convention and will communicate it to the International Labour Office, and thereafter in every second year any modifications of this list which shall have been made.

2. The International Labour Office will present a report on this subject to the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation.

*Article 7*

In order to facilitate the application of the provisions of this Convention, each employer, director, or manager, shall be obliged—

- (a) where the weekly rest is given to the whole of the staff collectively, to make known such days and hours of collective rest by means of notices posted conspicuously in the establishment or any other convenient place, or in any other manner approved by the Government;
- (b) where the rest period is not granted to the whole of the staff collectively, to make known, by means of a roster drawn up in accordance with the method approved by the legislation of the country, or by a regulation of the competent authority, the workers or employees subject to a special system of rest, and to indicate that system.

*Article 8*

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 9*

1. This Convention shall come into force at the date on which the ratifications of two Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered by the Director-General.

2. It shall be binding only upon those Members whose ratifications have been registered with the International Labour Office.

3. Thereafter, the Convention shall come into force for any Member at the date on which its ratification has been registered with the International Labour Office.

*Article 10*

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. He shall likewise notify them of the registration of ratifications which may be communicated subsequently by other Members of the Organisation.

*Article 11*

Each Member which ratifies this Convention agrees to bring the provisions of Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 into operation not later than 1 January 1924 and to take such action as may be necessary to make these provisions effective.

*Article 12*

Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention engages to apply it to its colonies, possessions and protectorates, in accordance with the provisions of Article 35 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

*Article 13*

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 14*

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 15*

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

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946.

The original text of the Convention was authenticated on 20 November 1921 by the signatures of Lord Burnham, President of the Conference, and Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office.

The Convention first came into force on 19 June 1923.

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 Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921, adopted by the International Labour Conference on 17 November 1921, at its Third Session, and which entered into force on 19 June 1923, 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>
Afghanistan .....	12. 6.1939	Lithuania .....	19. 6.1931
Argentina .....	26. 5.1936	* Luxembourg .....	16. 4.1928
* Belgium .....	19. 7.1926	* Mexico .....	7. 1.1938
Bulgaria .....	6. 3.1925	Nicaragua .....	12. 4.1934
* Canada .....	21. 3.1935	* Norway .....	7. 7.1937
Chile .....	15. 9.1925	* New Zealand .....	29. 3.1938
* China .....	17. 5.1934	Peru .....	8. 11.1945
* Colombia .....	20. 6.1933	* Poland .....	21. 6.1924
Czechoslovakia .....	31. 8.1923	Portugal .....	3. 7.1923
* Denmark .....	30. 8.1935	Rumania .....	18. 8.1923
Estonia .....	29. 11.1923	Spain .....	20. 6.1924
* Finland .....	19. 6.1923	* Sweden .....	22. 12.1931
* France .....	8. 9.1926	* Switzerland .....	16. 1.1935
Greece .....	11. 5.1929	* Turkey .....	8. 7.1946
* India .....	11. 5.1923	Uruguay .....	6. 6.1933
* Ireland .....	22. 7.1930	* Venezuela .....	20. 11.1944
* Italy .....	8. 9.1924	Yugoslavia .....	1. 4.1927
Latvia .....	9. 9.1924		

The Convention is also in force for Pakistan, which became a Member of the International Labour Organisation on 31 October 1947, on which date the Director-General of the International Labour Office received a letter from the Government of Pakistan accepting the obligations of the Constitution of the Organisation; this declaration states that the Government of Pakistan recognises that the obligations resulting from the ratification by India of International Labour Conventions before 15 August 1947 continue to be binding upon Pakistan in accordance with the terms of these Conventions.

The Convention is also in force for Burma. In 1937 the United Kingdom Government delegate declared at the Twenty-third Session of the Conference that Burma had ceased to form a part of India on 1 April 1937 but would continue to observe the International Labour Conventions ratified up to that date by India and would participate in the future in the work of the International Labour Organisation through the medium of the Government of the United Kingdom

<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.

which was empowered to accept on behalf of and with the consent of the Government of Burma the obligations arising from future international Conventions. Burma became a Member of the International Labour Organisation on 18 May 1948, on which date the Director-General of the International Labour Office received the instrument of acceptance by the Government of the Union of Burma of the obligations of the Constitution of the Organisation; this instrument states that the Government of Burma recognises that the obligations resulting from the ratification by India as regards Burma of International Labour Conventions before 1 April 1937 continue to be binding on the Union of Burma in accordance with the terms of these Conventions.

Geneva, 10 August 1949.

For the Director-General

C. W. JENKS  
*Legal Adviser*