

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

**Convention concerning the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its third session, Geneva, 11 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'examen médical obligatoire des enfants et jeunes gens employés à bord des bateaux, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa troisième session, Genève, 11 novembre 1921, 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. 599. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SEA, 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 compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea, which is included in the eighth 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 Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) 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*

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*

The employment of any child or young person under eighteen years of age on any vessel, other than vessels upon which only members for the same family are employed, shall be conditional on the production of a medical certificate attesting fitness for such work, signed by a doctor who shall be approved by the competent authority.

<sup>1</sup> For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications see Certified Statement on page 224.

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

*Article 3*

The continued employment at sea of any such child or young person shall be subject to the repetition of such medical examination at intervals of not more than one year, and the production, after each such examination, of a further medical certificate attesting fitness for such work. Should a medical certificate expire in the course of a voyage, it shall remain in force until the end of the said voyage.

*Article 4*

In urgent cases, the competent authority may allow a young person below the age of eighteen years to embark without having undergone the examination provided for in Articles 2 and 3 of this Convention, always provided that such an examination shall be undergone at the first port at which the vessel calls.

*Article 5*

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 6*

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

*Article 8*

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

*Article 9*

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 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 Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) 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 20 November 1922.

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 Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921, adopted by the International Labour Conference on 11 November 1921, at its Third Session, and which entered into force on 20 November 1922, 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<br/>of ratification</i> | <i>Country</i>        | <i>Date of registration<br/>of ratification</i> |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Argentina .....   | 26. 5.1936                                      | * India .....         | 20.11.1922                                      |
| * Australia ..... | 28. 6.1935                                      | * Ireland .....       | 5. 7.1930                                       |
| * Belgium .....   | 19. 7.1926                                      | * Italy .....         | 8. 9.1924                                       |
| * Brazil .....    | 8. 6.1936                                       | Japan .....           | 7. 6.1924                                       |
| Bulgaria .....    | 6. 3.1925                                       | Latvia .....          | 9. 9.1924                                       |
| * Canada .....    | 31. 3.1926                                      | * Luxembourg .....    | 16. 4.1928                                      |
| Chile .....       | 18.10.1935                                      | * Mexico .....        | 9. 3.1938                                       |
| * China .....     | 2.12.1936                                       | * Netherlands .....   | 9. 3.1928                                       |
| * Colombia .....  | 20. 6.1933                                      | Nicaragua .....       | 12. 4.1934                                      |
| Cuba .....        | 7. 7.1928                                       | * Poland .....        | 21. 6.1924                                      |
| * Denmark .....   | 23. 4.1938                                      | Rumania .....         | 18. 8.1923                                      |
| Estonia .....     | 8. 9.1922                                       | Spain .....           | 20. 6.1924                                      |
| * Finland .....   | 10.10.1925                                      | * Sweden .....        | 14. 7.1925                                      |
| * France .....    | 22. 3.1928                                      | * United Kingdom .... | 8. 3.1926                                       |
| Germany .....     | 11. 6.1929                                      | Uruguay .....         | 6. 6.1933                                       |
| Greece .....      | 28. 6.1930                                      | Yugoslavia .....      | 1. 4.1927                                       |
| Hungary .....     | 1. 3.1928                                       |                       |   |

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*