

No. 1303

---

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

**Convention (No. 74) concerning the certification of able seamen, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its twenty-eight session, Seattle, 29 June 1946, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946**

*Official texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 14 July 1951.*

---

## ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

**Convention (n° 74) concernant les certificats de capacité de matelot qualifié, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa vingt-huitième session, Seattle, 29 juin 1946, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant révision des articles finals, 1946**

*Textes officiels anglais et français.*

*Enregistré par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 14 juillet 1951.*

No. 1303. CONVENTION (No. 74)<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF ABLE SEAMEN, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION, SEATTLE, 29 JUNE 1946, AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION CONVENTION, 1946<sup>2</sup>

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,  
Having been convened at Seattle by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Twenty-eighth Session on 6 June 1946, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the certification of able seamen, which is included in the fifth item on the agenda of the Session, and

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

adopts this twenty-ninth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 :

#### Article 1

No person shall be engaged on any vessel as an able seaman unless he is a person who by national laws or regulations is deemed to be competent to perform any duty which may be required of a member of the crew serving in the deck department (other than an officer or leading or specialist rating) and unless he holds a certificate of qualification as an able seaman granted in accordance with the provisions of the following articles.

#### Article 2

1. The competent authority shall make arrangements for the holding of examinations and for the granting of certificates of qualification.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 6, the Convention came into force on 14 July 1951, twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two members of the International Labour Organisation, i.e., France and the Netherlands, had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office. Thereafter the Convention comes into force for any member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been so registered.

The Convention has been ratified by the following States and these ratifications were registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated :

France . . . . .	9 December 1948
Netherlands . . . . .	14 July 1950
Canada . . . . .	19 March 1951

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 38, p. 3; Vol. 44, p. 343; Vol. 54, p. 400; Vol. 66, p. 349, and Vol. 71, p. 322.

2. No person shall be granted a certificate of qualification unless—

- (a) he has reached a minimum age to be prescribed by the competent authority;
- (b) he has served at sea in the deck department for a minimum period to be prescribed by the competent authority; and
- (c) he has passed an examination of proficiency to be prescribed by the competent authority.

3. The prescribed minimum age shall not be less than eighteen years.

4. The prescribed minimum period of service at sea shall not be less than thirty-six months: Provided that the competent authority may—

- (a) permit persons with a period of actual service at sea of not less than twenty-four months who have successfully passed through a course of training in an approved training school to reckon the time spent in such training, or part thereof, as sea service; and
- (b) permit persons trained in approved sea-going training ships who have served eighteen months in such ships to be certificated as able seamen upon leaving in good standing.

5. The prescribed examination shall provide a practical test of the candidate's knowledge of seamanship and of his ability to carry out effectively all the duties that may be required of an able seaman, including those of a lifeboatman; it shall be such as to qualify a successful candidate to hold the special lifeboatman's certificate provided for in Article 22 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1929,<sup>1</sup> or in the corresponding provision of any subsequent Convention revising or replacing that Convention for the time being in force for the territory concerned.

### Article 3

A certificate of qualification may be granted to any person who, at the time of the entry into force of this Convention for the territory concerned is performing the full duties of an able seaman or leading deck rating or has performed such duties.

### Article 4

The competent authority may provide for the recognition of certificates of qualification issued in other territories.

<sup>1</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXXXVI, p. 81; Vol. CXLII, p. 393; Vol. CXLVII, p. 354; Vol. CLVI, p. 257; Vol. CLX, p. 417; Vol. CLXIV, p. 394; Vol. CLXXII, p. 423; Vol. CLXXVII, p. 420; Vol. CLXXXV, p. 406; Vol. CC, p. 513; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 34, p. 427, and Vol. 92, p. 434.

*Article 5*

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

*Article 6*

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organisation whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General.

2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.

3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

*Article 7*

1. A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention 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.

2. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article, will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter, may denounce this Convention at the expiration of each period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.

*Article 8*

1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all the Members of the International Labour Organisation of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations communicated to him by the Members of the Organisation.

2. When notifying the Members of the Organisation of the registration of the second ratification communicated to him, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organisation to the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

*Article 9*

The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance

with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and acts of denunciation registered by him in accordance with the provisions of the preceding articles.

#### Article 10

At the expiration of each period of ten years after the coming into force of this Convention, 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 in whole or in part.

#### Article 11

1. Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides,

- (a) the ratification by a Member of the new revising Convention shall *ipso jure* involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force;
- (b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

#### Article 12

The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946.

The original text of the Convention was authenticated on 30 August 1946 by the signatures of Henry M. Jackson, President of the Conference, and Edward J. Phelan, Director of the International Labour Office.

The Convention had not come into force on 1 January 1947.

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 thirty-first day of August 1948 two original copies of the text of the Convention as modified.

Edward PHELAN  
Director-General  
of the International Labour Office