

No. 19871

---

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
CANADA**

**Memorandum of Understanding concerning reciprocal  
recognition of Great Lakes load lines. Signed at Ottawa  
on 21 November 1977**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 10 June 1981.*

---

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
CANADA**

**Protocole d'entente concernant la reconnaissance réciproque  
des lignes de charge pour les Grands Lacs. Signé à  
Ottawa le 21 novembre 1977**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et français.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 10 juin 1981.*

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD CONCERNING RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF GREAT LAKES LOAD LINES

---

1. The United States Coast Guard and the Canadian Coast Guard reaffirm the reciprocal recognition of load line regulations that each country has in force on the Great Lakes of North America, recognizing that these regulations indicate the mutual desire of the United States and Canada to maintain equivalent levels of safety with respect to Great Lakes shipping.

2. The two agencies recall that from April 1938 to March 1940 the United States and Canada exchanged a series of notes recognizing that the load line regulations of both countries were equally effective. Since 1964 the two countries have undertaken a technical survey of ship strength and wave research on the Great Lakes, which is continuing under the Volpe-Jamieson Agreement of June 18, 1970. More recently, the two agencies have discussed load line regulation changes, exchanged draft regulations for review and comment, and, in May 1973, published new Great Lakes load line regulations in the *Federal Register* and the *Canada Gazette*.

3. Desiring to continue this spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, the United States Coast Guard and the Canadian Coast Guard, agree, subject to the availability of funds:

- (A) To maintain official communication between the two agencies for the purpose of identifying possible inequalities in the technical level of safety achieved or in the administration of load line regulations;
- (B) To cooperate in research programs aimed at achieving a better understanding of ship strength, stability and survival capability, subdivision and weather-tight integrity; and
- (C) To attempt to eliminate observed discrepancies and to discuss new regulations so as to maintain equivalency of the regulations.

4. The operative provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed by the United States Coast Guard and the Canadian Coast Guard at least once every three years to ensure that overall objectives are being achieved.

5. Signed and effective this 21st day of November, 1977.

[Signed]<sup>2</sup>

For the United States Coast Guard

[Signed]<sup>3</sup>

For the Canadian Coast Guard

---

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 21 November 1977 by signature, in accordance with section 5.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by W. M. Benkert.

<sup>3</sup> Signed by W. A. O'Neil.