

No. 5598

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention (No. 108) concerning Seafarers' National Identity Documents. Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its forty-first session, Geneva, 13 May 1958

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 5 March 1961.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention (n° 108) concernant les pièces d'identité nationales des gens de mer. Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa quarante et unième session, Genève, 13 mai 1958

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 5 mars 1961.

No. 5598. CONVENTION (No. 108)¹ CONCERNING SEAFARERS' NATIONAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS FORTY-FIRST SESSION, GENEVA, 13 MAY 1958

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 Forty-first Session on 29 April 1958, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the reciprocal or international recognition of seafarers' national identity cards, which is the seventh item on the agenda of the session, and

Having decided that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,
adopts this thirteenth day of May of the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight the following Convention, which may be cited as the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 :

Article 1

1. This Convention applies to every seafarer who is engaged in any capacity on board a vessel, other than a ship of war, registered in a territory for which the Convention is in force and ordinarily engaged in maritime navigation.

2. In the event of any doubt whether any categories of persons are to be regarded as seafarers for the purpose of this Convention, the question shall be determined by the competent authority in each country after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organisations concerned.

Article 2

1. Each Member for which this Convention is in force shall issue to each of its nationals who is a seafarer on application by him a seafarer's identity

¹ In accordance with article 8, the Convention came into force on 19 February 1961, twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office. Thereafter, the Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered. The ratifications on behalf of the following Members have been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated :

Tunisia	26 October 1959	Honduras	20 June 1960
Ghana	19 February 1960	Guatemala	28 November 1960

document conforming with the provisions of Article 4 of this Convention : Provided that, if it is impracticable to issue such a document to special classes of its seafarers, the Member may issue instead a passport indicating that the holder is a seafarer and such passport shall have the same effect as a seafarer's identity document for the purpose of this Convention.

2. Each Member for which this Convention is in force may issue a seafarer's identity document to any other seafarer either serving on board a vessel registered in its territory or registered at an employment office within its territory who applies for such a document.

Article 3

The seafarer's identity document shall remain in the seafarer's possession at all times.

Article 4

1. The seafarer's identity document shall be designed in a simple manner, be made of durable material, and be so fashioned that any alterations are easily detectable.

2. The seafarer's identity document shall contain the name and title of the issuing authority, the date and place of issue, and a statement that the document is a seafarer's identity document for the purpose of this Convention.

3. The seafarer's identity document shall include the following particulars concerning the bearer :

- (a) full name (first and last names where applicable);
- (b) date and place of birth;
- (c) nationality;
- (d) physical characteristics;
- (e) photograph; and
- (f) signature or, if bearer is unable to sign, a thumbprint.

4. If a Member issues a seafarer's identity document to a foreign seafarer it shall not be necessary to include any statement as to his nationality, nor shall any such statement be conclusive proof of his nationality.

5. Any limit to the period of validity of a seafarer's identity document shall be clearly indicated therein.