

No. 8564

**ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BELGIUM,
BRAZIL, CANADA, etc.**

**Convention on facilitation of international maritime traffic
(with annex). Signed at London, on 9 April 1965**

Official texts: English and French.

*Registered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on
9 March 1967.*

**ALGÉRIE, ARGENTINE, BELGIQUE,
BRÉSIL, CANADA, etc.**

**Convention visant à faciliter le trafic maritime international
(avec annexe). Signée à Londres, le 9 avril 1965**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

*Enregistrée par l'Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation
maritime le 9 mars 1967.*

No. 8564. CONVENTION¹ ON FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRAFFIC. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 9 APRIL 1965

The Contracting Governments :

Desiring to facilitate maritime traffic by simplifying and reducing to a minimum the formalities, documentary requirements and procedures on the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged in international voyages;

Have agreed as follows :

Article I

The Contracting Governments undertake to adopt, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention and its Annex, all appropriate measures to facilitate and expedite international maritime traffic and to prevent unnecessary delays to ships and to persons and property on board.

Article II

(1) The Contracting Governments undertake to co-operate, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention, in the formulation and application of measures for the facilitation of the arrival, stay and departure of ships. Such measures shall be, to the fullest extent practicable, not less favourable than measures applied in respect of other means of international transport; however, these measures may differ according to particular requirements.

¹ Came into force on 5 March 1967, sixty days after the date on which the following ten States had either signed it without reservation as to acceptance or deposited with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization an instrument of acceptance or accession (a) on the dates indicated below, in accordance with article XI :

Monaco	9 April 1965*	Norway	8 September 1966
Ghana	5 November 1965	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (with a declaration**)	25 October 1966
Zambia	14 December 1965 (a)	Czechoslovakia (with a declaration**)	19 December 1966 (a)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	24 February 1966	Belgium	4 January 1967
Dominican Republic	11 July 1966		
Yugoslavia	18 July 1966		

Subsequently came into force in respect of the following States sixty days after the date on which their instruments of acceptance or accession (a) were deposited :

State	Date of deposit	Date of entry into force
Iceland	24 January 1967 (a)	25 March 1967
Nigeria	24 January 1967 (a)	25 March 1967
Ivory Coast	16 February 1967	17 April 1967

* Without reservation as to acceptance.

** For the text of these declarations, see p. 296 of this volume.

- (2) The measures for the facilitation of international maritime traffic provided for under the present Convention and its Annex apply equally to the ships of coastal and non-coastal States the Governments of which are Parties to the present Convention.
- (3) The provisions of the present Convention do not apply to warships or pleasure yachts.

Article III

The Contracting Governments undertake to co-operate in securing the highest practicable degree of uniformity in formalities, documentary requirements and procedures in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve international maritime traffic and keep to a minimum any alterations in formalities, documentary requirements and procedures necessary to meet special requirements of a domestic nature.

Article IV

With a view to achieving the ends set forth in the preceding Articles of the present Convention, the Contracting Governments undertake to co-operate with each other or through the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (hereinafter called the "Organization") in matters relating to formalities, documentary requirements and procedures, as well as their application to international maritime traffic.

Article V

- (1) Nothing in the present Convention or its Annex shall be interpreted as preventing the application of any wider facilities which a Contracting Government grants or may grant in future in respect of international maritime traffic under its national laws or the provisions of any other international agreement.
- (2) Nothing in the present Convention or its Annex shall be interpreted as precluding a Contracting Government from applying temporary measures considered by that Government to be necessary to preserve public morality, order and security or to prevent the introduction or spread of diseases or pests affecting public health, animals or plants.
- (3) All matters that are not expressly provided for in the present Convention remain subject to the legislation of the Contracting Governments.

Article VI

For the purposes of the present Convention and its Annex :

- (a) "Standards" are those measures the uniform application of which by Contracting Governments in accordance with the Convention is necessary and practicable in order to facilitate international maritime traffic;
- (b) "Recommended Practices" are those measures the application of which by Contracting Governments is desirable in order to facilitate international maritime traffic.

Article VII

(1) The Annex to the present Convention may be amended by the Contracting Governments, either at the proposal of one of them or by a conference convened for that purpose.

(2) Any Contracting Government may propose an amendment to the Annex by forwarding a draft amendment to the Secretary-General of the Organization (hereinafter called the "Secretary-General") :

- (a) Upon the express request of a Contracting Government, the Secretary-General shall communicate any such proposal directly to all Contracting Governments for their consideration and acceptance. If he receives no such express request, the Secretary-General may proceed to such consultations as he deems advisable before communicating the proposal to the Contracting Governments;
- (b) Each Contracting Government shall notify the Secretary-General within one year from the receipt of any such communication whether or not it accepts the proposal;
- (c) Any such notification shall be made in writing to the Secretary-General who shall inform all Contracting Governments of its receipt;
- (d) Any amendment to the Annex under this paragraph shall enter into force six months after the date on which the amendment is accepted by a majority of the Contracting Governments;
- (e) The Secretary-General shall inform all Contracting Governments of any amendment which enters into force under this paragraph, together with the date on which such amendment shall enter into force.

(3) A conference of the Contracting Governments to consider amendments to the Annex shall be convened by the Secretary-General upon the request of at least one-third of these Governments. Every amendment adopted by such conference by a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Governments present and voting shall enter into force six months after the date on which the Secretary-General notifies the Contracting Governments of the amendment adopted.

- (4) The Secretary-General shall notify promptly all signatory Governments of the adoption and entry into force of any amendment under this Article.

Article VIII

(1) Any Contracting Government that finds it impracticable to comply with any Standard by bringing its own formalities, documentary requirements or procedures into full accord with it or which deems it necessary for special reasons to adopt formalities, documentary requirements or procedures differing from that Standard, shall so inform the Secretary-General and notify him of the differences between its own practice and such Standard. Such notification shall be made as soon as possible after entry into force of the present Convention for the Government concerned, or after the adoption of such differing formalities, documentary requirements or procedures.

(2) Notification by a Contracting Government of any such difference in the case of an amendment to a Standard or of a newly adopted Standard shall be made to the Secretary-General as soon as possible after the entry into force of such amended or newly adopted Standard, or after the adoption of such differing formalities, documentary requirements or procedures and may include an indication of the action proposed to bring the formalities, documentary requirements or procedures into full accord with the amended or newly adopted Standard.

(3) Contracting Governments are urged to bring their formalities, documentary requirements and procedures into accord with the Recommended Practices insofar as practicable. As soon as any Contracting Government brings its own formalities, documentary requirements and procedures into accord with any Recommended Practice, it shall notify the Secretary-General thereof.

(4) The Secretary-General shall inform the Contracting Governments of any notification made to him in accordance with the preceding paragraphs of this Article.

Article IX

The Secretary-General shall convene a conference of the Contracting Governments for revision or amendment of the present Convention at the request of not less than one-third of the Contracting Governments. Any revision or amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Conference and then certified and communicated by the Secretary-General to all Contracting Governments for their acceptance. One year after the acceptance of the revision or amendments by two-thirds of the Contracting Governments, each revision or amendment shall enter into force for all Contracting Governments except those which, before its entry into force, make a declaration that they do not accept the revision or amendment. The Conference may by a two-thirds majority vote determine at the time of its adoption that a revision or amendment