

No. 9728

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## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

**Convention (No. 125) concerning Fishermen's Certificates of Competency. Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its fiftieth session, Geneva, 21 June 1966**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 24 July 1969.*

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## ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

**Convention (n° 125) concernant les brevets de capacité des pêcheurs. Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa cinquantième session, Genève, 21 juin 1966**

*Textes authentiques: anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 24 juillet 1969.*

## CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING FISHERMEN'S CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

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 Fiftieth Session on 1 June 1966, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to fishermen's certificates of competency, which is included in the sixth item on the agenda of the session, and

Noting the provisions of the Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936, which provides that no person shall be engaged to perform or shall perform on board any vessel to which it applies the duties of master or skipper, navigating officer in charge of a watch, chief engineer, or engineer officer in charge of a watch, unless he holds a certificate of competency to perform such duties issued or approved by the public authority of the territory where the vessel is registered, and

Considering that experience has shown that further international standards specifying minimum requirements for certificates of competency for service in fishing vessels are desirable, and

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

adopts this twenty-first day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Fishermen's Competency Certificates Convention, 1966:

### PART I

#### SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

##### *Article 1*

For the purposes of this Convention, the term "fishing vessel" includes all ships and boats, of any nature whatsoever, whether publicly or privately

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 15 July 1969, twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of the two following Members of the International Labour Organisation had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated, in accordance with article 17 (2):

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sierra Leone..... | 6 November 1967 |
| Senegal.....      | 15 July 1968    |

Subsequently, the ratification by the Syrian Arab Republic was registered on 6 May 1969 with the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, to take effect twelve months thereafter, in accordance with article 17 (3).

owned, which are engaged in maritime fishing in salt waters and are registered in a territory for which the Convention is in force, with the exception of

- (a) ships and boats of less than 25 gross registered tons;
- (b) ships and boats engaged in whaling or similar pursuits;
- (c) ships and boats engaged in fishing for sport or recreation;
- (d) fishery research and fishery protection vessels.

### *Article 2*

The competent authority may, after consultation with the fishing vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, exempt from this Convention fishing vessels engaged in inshore fishing, as defined by national laws and regulations.

### *Article 3*

For the purpose of this Convention, the following terms have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

- (a) skipper: any person having command or charge of a fishing vessel;
- (b) mate: any person exercising subordinate command of a fishing vessel, including any person, other than a pilot, liable at any time to be in charge of the navigation of such a vessel;
- (c) engineer: any person permanently responsible for the mechanical propulsion of a fishing vessel.

## PART II

### CERTIFICATION

### *Article 4*

Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall establish standards of qualification for certificates of competency entitling a person to perform the duties of skipper, mate or engineer on board a fishing vessel.

### *Article 5*

1. All fishing vessels to which this Convention applies shall be required to carry a certificated skipper.

2. All fishing vessels over 100 gross registered tons engaged in operations and areas to be defined by national laws or regulations shall be required to carry a certificated mate.

3. All fishing vessels with an engine power above a level to be determined by the competent authority, after consultation with the fishing vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, shall be required to carry a certificated engineer: Provided that the skipper or mate of a fishing vessel may act as engineer in appropriate cases and on condition that he also holds an engineer's certificate.

4. The certificates of skippers, mates or engineers may be full or limited, according to the size, type, and nature and area of operations of the fishing vessel, as determined by national laws or regulations.

5. The competent authority may in individual cases permit a fishing vessel to put to sea without the full complement of certificated personnel if it is satisfied that no suitable substitutes are available and that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it is safe to allow the vessel to put to sea.

#### *Article 6*

1. The minimum age prescribed by national laws or regulations for the issue of a certificate of competency shall be not less than—

- (a) 20 years in the case of a skipper;
- (b) 19 years in the case of a mate;
- (c) 20 years in the case of an engineer.

2. For the purpose of service as a skipper or mate in a fishing vessel engaged in inshore fishing and for the purpose of service as an engineer in small fishing vessels with an engine power below a level to be determined by the competent authority after consultation with the fishing vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations, where such exist, the minimum age may be fixed at 18 years.

#### *Article 7*

The minimum professional experience prescribed by national laws or regulations for the issue of a mate's certificate of competency shall be not less than three years' sea service engaged in deck duties.