

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships (revised 1932), adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its sixteenth session, Geneva, 27 April 1932, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946

English and French official texts communicated by the Director-General of the International Labour Office. The registration took place on 15 September 1949.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention concernant la protection des travailleurs occupés au chargement et au déchargement des bateaux contre les accidents (révisée en 1932), adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa seizième session, Genève, 27 avril 1932, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant révision des articles finals, 1946

Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le Directeur général de l'Organisation internationale du Travail. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 15 septembre 1949.

No. 614. CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AGAINST ACCIDENTS OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN LOADING OR UNLOADING SHIPS (REVISED 1932), AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION CONVENTION, 1946²

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 Sixteenth Session on 12 April 1932, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the partial revision of the Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships adopted by the Conference at its Twelfth Session, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the Session, and

Considering that these proposals must take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this twenty-seventh day of April of the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two the following Convention, which may be cited as Protection the against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised), 1932, for ratification by the Members of the International Labour Organisation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation :

Article 1

For the purpose of this Convention—

(1) the term “processes” means and includes all or any part of the work performed on shore or on board ship of loading or unloading any ship whether engaged in maritime or inland navigation, excluding ships of war, in, on, or at any maritime or inland port, harbour, dock, wharf, quay or similar place at which such work is carried on; and

(2) the term “worker” means any person employed in the processes.

Article 2

1. Any regular approach over a dock, wharf, quay or similar premises which workers have to use for going to or from a working place at which the

¹ For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications see Certified Statement on page 130.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume 38, page 3.

processes are carried on and every such working place on shore shall be maintained with due regard to the safety of the workers using them.

2. In particular,

(1) every said working place on shore and any dangerous parts of any said approach thereto from the nearest highway shall be safely and efficiently lighted;

(2) wharves and quays shall be kept sufficiently clear of goods to maintain a clear passage to the means of access referred to in Article 3;

(3) where any space is left along the edge of any wharf or quay, it shall be at least 3 feet (90 cm.) wide and clear of all obstructions other than fixed structures, plants and appliances in use; and

(4) so far as is practicable having regard to the traffic and working,

(a) all dangerous parts of the said approaches and working places (e.g. dangerous breaks, corners and edges) shall be adequately fenced to a height of not less than 2 feet 6 inches (75 cm.);

(b) dangerous footways over bridges, caissons and dockgates shall be fenced to a height of not less than 2 feet 6 inches (75 cm.) on each side, and the said fencing shall be continued at both ends to a sufficient distance which shall not be required to exceed 5 yards (4 m. 50).

(5) The measurement requirements of paragraph (4) of this Article shall be deemed to be complied with, in respect of appliances in use at the date of the ratification of this Convention, if the actual measurements are not more than 10 per cent. less than the measurements specified in the said paragraph (4).

Article 3

(1) When a ship is lying alongside a quay or some other vessel for the purpose of the processes, there shall be safe means of access for the use of the workers at such times as they have to pass to or from the ship, unless the conditions are such that they would not be exposed to undue risk if no special appliance were provided.

(2) The said means of access shall be—

(a) where reasonably practicable, the ship's accommodation ladder, a gangway or a similar construction;

(b) in other cases a ladder.

(3) The appliances specified in paragraph (2) (a) of this Article shall be at least 22 inches (55 cm.) wide, properly secured to prevent their displacement, not inclined at too steep an angle, constructed of materials of good quality and in good condition, and securely fenced throughout to a clear height of not less than 2 feet 9 inches (82 cm.) on both sides, or in the case of the ship's accommodation ladder securely fenced to the same height on one side, provided that the other side is properly protected by the ship's side.

Provided that any appliances as aforesaid in use at the date of the ratification of this Convention shall be allowed to remain in use—

- (a) until the fencing is renewed if they are fenced on both sides to a clear height of at least 2 feet 8 inches (80 cm.);
- (b) for two years from the date of ratification if they are fenced on both sides to a clear height of at least 2 feet 6 inches (75 cm.).

(4) The ladders specified in paragraph (2) (b) of this Article shall be of adequate length and strength, and properly secured.

(5) (a) Exceptions to the provisions of this Article may be allowed by the competent authorities when they are satisfied that the appliances specified in the Article are not required for the safety of the workers.

(b) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to cargo stages or cargo gangways when exclusively used for the processes.

(6) Workers shall not use, or be required to use, any other means of access than the means specified or allowed by this Article.

Article 4

When the workers have to proceed to or from a ship by water for the processes, appropriate measures shall be prescribed to ensure their safe transport, including the conditions to be complied with by the vessels used for this purpose.

Article 5

(1) When the workers have to carry on the processes in a hold the depth of which from the level of the deck to the bottom of the hold exceeds 5 feet (1 m. 50), there shall be safe means of access from the deck to the hold for their use.

(2) The said means of access shall ordinarily be by ladder, which shall not be deemed to be safe unless it complies with the following conditions :

- (a) provides foothold of a depth, including any space behind the ladder, of not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches ($11\frac{1}{2}$ cm.) for a width of not less than 10 inches (25 cm.) and a firm handhold;
- (b) is not recessed under the deck more than is reasonably necessary to keep it clear of the hatchway;
- (c) is continued by and is in line with arrangements for secure handhold and foothold on the coamings (e.g. cleats or cups);
- (d) the said arrangements on the coamings provide foothold of a depth, including any space behind the said arrangements, of not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches ($11\frac{1}{2}$ cm.) for a width of not less than 10 inches (25 cm.);
- (e) if separate ladders are provided between the lower decks, the said ladders are as far as practicable in line with the ladder from the top deck.

Where, however, owing to the construction of the ship, the provision of a ladder would not be reasonably practicable, it shall be open to the competent authorities to allow other means of access, provided that they comply with the conditions laid down in this Article for ladders so far as they are applicable.

In the case of ships existing at the date of the ratification of this Convention the measurement requirements of subparagraphs (a) and (d) of this paragraph shall be deemed to be complied with, until the ladders and arrangements are replaced, if the actual measurements are not more than 10 per cent. less than the measurements specified in the said subparagraphs (a) and (d).

(3) Sufficient free passage to the means of access shall be left at the coamings.

(4) Shaft tunnels shall be equipped with adequate handhold and foothold on both sides.

(5) When a ladder is to be used in the hold of a vessel which is not decked it shall be the duty of the contractor undertaking the processes to provide such ladder. It shall be equipped at the top with hooks or with other means for firmly securing it.

(6) The workers shall not use, or be required to use, other means of access than the means specified or allowed by this Article.

(7) Ships existing at the date of ratification of this Convention shall be