

Description: Convention concerning Accommodation on Board Fishing Vessels (Note: Date of coming into force: 06.11.1968.)

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See the ratifications for this Convention

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The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having held its Fifth Session on 1 June 1966, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to accommodation on board fishing vessels, which is included in the sixth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention, adopting on 21st day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Accommodation of Crews (Fishermen) Convention, 1966:

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

1. The Convention applies to all sea-going mechanically propelled ships and boats, of any nature whatsoever, whether publicly or privately owned, which are engaged in maritime fishing in salt waters and are registered in a territory for which this Convention is in force.

2. National laws or regulations shall determine when ships and boats are to be regarded as sailing ships or fishing vessels for the purposes of this Convention, in so far as is reasonable and practicable.

3. This Convention does not apply to ships and boats of less than 75 tons. Provided that the Convention shall be applied to ships and boats of between 25 and 75 tons where the competent authority determines, after consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, that this is reasonable and practicable.

4. The competent authority may, after consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, use length instead of tonnage as a parameter for the purposes of this Convention, in which event the Convention does not apply to ships and boats of less than 24.4 metres in length. Provided that the Convention shall be applied to ships and boats of between 45 and 80 feet (13.7 and 24.4 metres) in length where the competent authority determines, after consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, that this is reasonable and practicable.

5. This Convention does not apply to--

(a) ships and boats normally employed in fishing for sport or recreation

(b) ships and boats primarily propelled by sail but having auxiliary engines

(c) ships and boats engaged in whaling or similar pursuits

(d) fishery research and fishery protection vessels.

6. The following provisions of this Convention do not apply to vessels which normally remain at and without perforations for periods of less than 36 hours and in which the crew does not live permanently on board when in port.

(a) Article 9, paragraph 4

(b) Article 10

(c) Article 11

(d) Article 12

(e) Article 13, paragraph 1

(f) Article 14

(g) Article 16

Provided that in such vessels adequate sanitary installations as well as messing and cooking facilities are accessible to the crew when the vessel is in port.

7. The provisions of Part III of this Convention may be varied in the case of any vessel if the competent authority is satisfied, after consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, that the variations to be made provide corresponding advantages to the crew as a result of which the over-all conditions are no less favourable than those that would result from the full application of the provisions of the Convention.

Article 2

In this Convention--

(a) the term fishing vessel or vessel means a ship or boat to which the Convention applies

(b) the term tons means gross registered tons

(c) the term length means the length measured from the fore part of the stem on the line of the forecastle deck to the after side of the head of the sternpost, or to the foreline of the rudderstock where no sternpost exists

(d) the term officer means a person other than a skipper ranked as an officer by national laws or regulations or, in the absence of any relevant laws or regulations, by collective agreement or custom

(e) the term rating means a member of the crew other than an officer

(f) the term crew accommodation includes such sleeping rooms, mess rooms and sanitary accommodation as are provided for the use of the crew of the vessel

(g) the term prescribed means prescribed by national laws or regulations, or by the competent authority

(h) the term approved means approved by the competent authority

(i) the term re-registered means re-registered on the occasion of a simultaneous change in the territory of registration and in the flag of the vessel.

Article 3

1. Each Member for which this Convention is in force undertakes to maintain in force laws or regulations which ensure the application of the provisions of Parts II, III and IV of this Convention.

2. The laws or regulations shall--

(a) require the competent authority to bring them to the notice of all persons concerned

(b) define the persons responsible for compliance therewith

(c) provide for the maintenance of a system of inspection adequate to ensure effective enforcement

(d) prescribe adequate penalties for any violation thereof

(e) require the competent authority to consult periodically the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations, where such exist, in regard to the framing of regulations, and to collaborate so far as practicable with such parties in the administration thereof.

PART II. PLANNING AND CONTROL OF CREW ACCOMMODATION

Article 4

Before the construction of a fishing vessel is begun, and before the crew accommodation of an existing vessel is substantially altered or reconstructed, detailed plans of, and information concerning, the accommodation shall be submitted to the competent authority for approval.

Article 5

1. On every occasion when--

(a) a fishing vessel is registered or re-registered,

(b) the crew accommodation of a vessel has been substantially altered or reconstructed, or

(c) complaint that the crew accommodation is not in compliance with the terms of this Convention has been made to the competent authority, in the prescribed manner and in time to prevent any delay to the vessel, by a recognised fishermen's organisation representing all or part of the crew or by a prescribed number or proportion of the members of the crew of the vessel,

the competent authority shall inspect the vessel and satisfy itself that the crew accommodation complies with the requirements of the laws and regulations.

2. Periodical inspections may be held at the discretion of the competent authority.

PART III. CREW ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Article 6

1. The location, means of access, structure and arrangement of crew accommodation in relation to other spaces shall be such as to ensure adequate security, protection against weather and sea and insulation from heat or cold, undue noise or effluvia from other spaces.

2. Emergency escapes shall be provided from all crew accommodation spaces as necessary.

3. Every effort shall be made to exclude direct openings into sleeping rooms from fish holds and fish meal rooms, and to provide spaces for machinery, from galleys, lamp and paint rooms or from engine, deck and other bulk store rooms, drying rooms, communal wash places or water closets. That part of the bulkhead separating such places from sleeping rooms and external bulkheads shall be efficiently constructed of steel or other approved substance and shall be watertight and gas-tight.

4. External bulkheads of sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be adequately insulated. All machinery casings and all boundary bulkheads of galleys and other spaces in which heat is produced shall be adequately insulated when there is a possibility of resulting heat effects in adjoining accommodation or passageways. Care shall also be taken to provide protection from heat effects of steam and/or hot-water service pipes.

5. Internal bulkheads of mess rooms shall be of approved material which is not likely to harbour vermin.

6. Sleeping rooms, mess rooms, recreation rooms and passageways in the crew accommodation space shall be adequately insulated to prevent condensation or over-heating.

7. Main steam and exhaust pipes for winches and similar gear shall, whenever technically possible, not pass through crew accommodation or through passageways leading to crew accommodation.

8. Inside panelling or sheeting shall be of material with a surface easily kept clean. Tongued and grooved boarding or any other form of construction likely to harbour vermin shall not be used.

9. The competent authority shall decide to what extent fire prevention or fire retarding measures shall be required to be taken in the construction of the accommodation.

10. The wall surface and ceilings in sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be easily kept clean and, if painted, shall be light in colour.

11. The wall surfaces shall be renewed or restored as necessary.

12. The decks in all crew accommodation shall be of approved material and construction and shall provide a surface impervious to damp and easily kept clean.

13. Overhead exposed decks over crew accommodation shall be sheathed with wood or equivalent insulation.

14. Where the floorings are of composition the joinings with sides shall be rounded to avoid crevices.

15. Sufficient drainage shall be provided.

16. All practicable measures shall be taken to protect crew accommodation against the admission of flies and other insects.

Article 7

1. Sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be adequately ventilated.

2. The system of ventilation shall be controlled so as to maintain the air in a satisfactory condition and to ensure a sufficiency of air movement in all conditions of weather and climate.

3. Vessels regularly engaged on voyages in the tropics and other areas with similar climatic conditions shall, as required by such conditions, be equipped both with mechanical means of ventilation and with electric fans. Provided that one only of these means need be adopted in spaces where this ensures satisfactory ventilation.

4. Vessels engaged elsewhere shall be equipped either with mechanical means of ventilation or with electric fans. The competent authority may exempt vessels normally employed in the cold waters of the northern or southern hemispheres from this requirement.

5. Power butane or propane gas for the operation of the aids to ventilation required by paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article shall, when practicable, be available at all times when the crew is living or working on board and conditions so require.

Article 8

1. An adequate system of heating the crew accommodation shall be provided as required by climatic conditions.

2. The heating system shall, when practicable, be in operation at all times when the crew is living or working on board and conditions so require.

3. Heating by means of open fires shall be prohibited.

4. The heating system shall be capable of maintaining the temperature in crew accommodation at a satisfactory level under normal conditions of weather and climate likely to be met with on service.

5. Radiators and other heating apparatus shall be so placed and, where necessary, shielded and fitted with safety devices as to avoid risk of fire or danger or discomfort to the occupants.

Article 9

1. All crew spaces shall be adequately lighted. The minimum standard for natural lighting in living rooms shall be such as to permit a person with normal vision to read on a clear day an ordinary newspaper in any part of the space available for free movement. When it is not possible to provide adequate natural lighting, artificial lighting of the above minimum standard shall be provided.

2. In all vessels electric lights shall, as far as practicable, be provided in the crew accommodation. If there are not two independent sources of electricity for lighting, additional lighting shall be provided by properly constructed lamps or lighting apparatus for emergency use.

3. Artificial lighting shall be so disposed as to give maximum benefit to the occupants of the room.

4. Adequate reading light shall be provided for every berth in addition to the normal lighting of the cabin.

5. A permanent blue light shall, in addition, be provided in the sleeping room during the night.

Article 10

1. Sleeping rooms shall be situated amidships or aft.

2. The floor area per person of sleeping rooms, excluding space occupied by berths and lockers, shall not be less than--

(a) in vessels of 25 tons but below 50 tons

5.4 sq.ft. (0.5 sq.m.)

(b) in vessels of 50 tons but below 100 tons

8.1 sq.ft. (0.75 sq.m.)

(c) in vessels of 100 tons but below 250 tons

9.7 sq.ft. (0.9 sq.m.)

(d) in vessels of 250 tons or over

10.8 sq.ft. (1.0 sq.m.)

3. Where the competent authority decides, as provided for in Article 1, paragraph 4, of this Convention, that length shall be the parameter for this Convention, the floor area per person of sleeping rooms, excluding space occupied by berths and lockers, shall not be less than--

(a) in vessels of 45 feet (13.7 m.) but below 65 feet (19.8 m.) in length

5.4 sq.ft. (0.5 sq.m.)

(b) in vessels of 65 feet (19.8 m.) but below 88 feet (26.8 m.) in length

8.1 sq.ft. (0.75 sq.m.)

(c) in vessels of 88 feet (26.8 m.) but below 115 feet (35.1 m.) in length

9.7 sq.ft. (0.9 sq.m.)

(d) in vessels of 115 feet (35.1 m.) in length or over

10.8 sq.ft. (1.0 sq.m.)

4. The clear head room in the crew sleeping room shall, wherever possible, be not less than 6 feet 3 inches (1.90 metres).

5. There shall be a sufficient number of sleeping rooms to provide a separate room or rooms for each department. Provided that the competent authority may relax this requirement in the case of small vessels.

6. The number of persons allowed to occupy sleeping rooms shall not exceed the following maxima:

(a) officers: one person per room wherever possible, and in no case more than two

(b) ratings: two or three persons per room wherever possible, and in no case more than the following:

(i) in vessels of 250 tons and over, four persons

(ii) in vessels under 250 tons, six persons.

7. Where the competent authority decides, as provided for in Article 1, paragraph 4, of this Convention, that length shall be the parameter for this Convention, the number of ratings allowed to occupy sleeping rooms shall in no case be more than the following:

(a) in vessels of 115 feet (35.1 m.) in length and over, four persons

(b) in vessels under 115 feet (35.1 m.) in length, six persons.

8. The competent authority may permit exceptions to the requirements of paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Article in particular cases if the size, type or intended service of the vessel make these requirements unreasonable or impracticable.

9. The maximum number of persons to be accommodated in any sleeping room shall be legibly and indelibly marked in some place in the room where it can conveniently be seen.

10. Members of the crew shall be provided with individual berths.

11. Berths shall not be placed side by side in such a way that access to one berth can be obtained only over another.

12. Berths shall not be arranged in tiers of more than two

13. The lower berth in a double tier shall not be less than 12 inches (0.30 metre) above the floor

14. The minimum inside dimensions of a berth shall wherever practicable be 6 feet 3 inches (1.92 metres) by 3 feet 3 inches (1.00 metres) by 0.68 metre.

15. The framework and the lee-board, if any, of a berth shall be of approved material, hard, smooth and not likely to corrode or to harbour vermin.

16. If tubular frames are used for the construction of berths, they shall be completely sealed and without perforations which would give access to vermin.

17. Each berth shall be fitted with a spring mattress of approved material or with a spring bottom and a mattress of approved material. Stuffing of straw or other material likely to harbour vermin shall not be used.

18. When one berth is placed over another a dust-proof bottom of wood, canvas or other suitable material shall be fitted beneath the upper berth.

19. Sleeping rooms shall be so planned and equipped as to ensure reasonable comfort for the occupants and to facilitate tidiness.

20. The furniture shall include a clothes locker for each occupant, fitted with a hasp for a padlock and a rod for hanging clothes on hangers. The competent authority shall ensure that the locker is as commodious as practicable.

21. Each sleeping room shall be provided with a table or desk, which may be of the fixed, drop-leaf or slide-out type, and with comfortable seating accommodation as necessary.

22. The furniture shall be of smooth, hard material not liable to warp or corrode, or to harbour vermin.

23. The furniture shall include a drawer or equivalent space for each occupant, or which shall, wherever practicable, be not less than 2 cubic feet (0.056 cubic metre).

24. Sleeping rooms shall be fitted with curtains for the side-lights.

25. Sleeping rooms shall be fitted with a mirror, small cabinets for toilet requisites, a book rack and a sufficient number of coat hooks.

26. As far as practicable, berthing of crew members shall be so arranged that watches are separated and that no day-men share a room with sleepkeepers.

Article 11

1. Mess room accommodation separate from sleeping quarters shall be provided in all vessels carrying a crew of more than ten persons. Wherever possible it shall be provided also in vessels carrying a smaller crew.

2. In vessels engaged in fishing on the high seas and carrying a crew of more than 20, separate mess room accommodation may be provided for the skipper and officers.

3. The dimensions and equipment of each mess room shall be sufficient for the number of persons likely to use it at any one time.

4. Mess rooms shall be equipped with tables and approved seats sufficient for the number of persons likely to use them at any one time.

5. Mess rooms shall be as close as practicable to the galley.

6. Where pantries are not accessible to mess rooms, adequate lockers for mess utensils and proper facilities for washing them shall be provided.

7. The tops of tables and seats shall be of damp-resisting material without cracks and easily kept clean.

8. Wherever practicable mess rooms shall be planned, furnished and equipped to give recreational facilities.

Article 12

1. Sufficient sanitary accommodation, including washbasins and tub and/or shower baths, shall be provided in all vessels.

2. Sanitary facilities for all members of the crew who do not occupy rooms to which private facilities are attached shall, wherever practicable, be provided for each department of the crew on the following scale:

(a) one tub and/or shower bath for every eight persons or less

(b) one water closet for every eight persons or less

(c) one wash basin for every six persons or less

Provided that when the number of persons in a department exceeds an even multiple of the specified number by not less than one-half of the specified number, this surplus may be ignored for the purpose of this paragraph.

3. Cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water shall be available in all communal wash places. The competent authority, in consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, may fix the minimum amount of fresh water which shall be supplied per man per day.

4. Wash basins and tub baths shall be of adequate size and constructed of approved material with a smooth surface not liable to crack, flake or corrode.

5. All water closets shall have ventilation to the open air, independently of any other part of the accommodation.

6. The sanitary equipment to be placed in water closets shall be of an approved pattern and provided with an ample flush of water, available at all times and independently controllable.

7. Soil pipes and waste pipes shall be of adequate dimensions and shall be so constructed as to minimise the risk of obstruction and to facilitate cleaning. They shall not pass through fresh water or drinking water tanks.

8. Sanitary accommodation intended for the use of more than one person shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) floors shall be of approved durable material, easily cleaned and impervious to damp, and shall be properly drained

(b) bulkheads shall be of steel or other approved material and shall be watertight up to at least 9 inches (0.23 metre) above the level of the deck

(c) the accommodation shall be sufficiently lighted, heated and ventilated

(d) water closets shall be situated convenient to, but separate from, sleeping rooms and washrooms, without direct access from the sleeping rooms or from a passage between sleeping rooms and water closets to which there is any other access. Provided that this requirement shall not apply where a water closet is located between two sleeping rooms having a total of not more than four persons

(e) where there is more than one water closet in a compartment, they shall be sufficiently screened to ensure privacy.

9. Facilities for washing and drying clothes shall be provided on a scale appropriate to the size of the crew and the normal duration of the voyage.

10. The facilities for washing clothes shall include suitable sinks equipped with drainage which may be installed in washrooms if separate laundry accommodation is not reasonably practicable. The sinks shall be provided with an adequate supply of cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water.

11. The facilities for drying clothes shall be provided in a compartment separate from sleeping rooms, mess rooms and water closets, adequately ventilated and heated and equipped with lines or other fittings for hanging clothes.

Article 13

1. Wherever possible, an isolated cabin shall be provided for a member of the crew who suffers from illness or injury. On vessels of 500 tons or over there shall be a sick bay. Where the competent authority decides, as provided for in Article 1, paragraph 4, of this Convention, that length shall be the parameter for this Convention, there shall be a sick bay on vessels of 150 ft (45.7 metres) in length or over.

2. An appointed medical chest with clearly understandable instructions shall be carried in every vessel which does not carry a doctor. In this connection the competent authority shall give consideration to the Ships' Medicine Chests Recommendation, 1958, and the Medical Advice at Sea Recommendation, 1958.

Article 14

Sufficient and adequately ventilated accommodation for the hanging of oilskins shall be provided outside but convenient to the sleeping rooms.

Article 15

Crew accommodation shall be maintained in a clean and decently habitable condition and shall be kept free of goods and stores which are not the personal property of the occupants.

Article 16

1. Satisfactory cooking equipment shall be provided on board and shall, wherever practicable, be fitted in a separate galley.

2. The galley shall be of adequate dimensions for the purpose and shall be well lighted and ventilated.

3. The galley shall be equipped with cooking utensils, the necessary number of cupboards and shelves, and sinks and dish racks of rust-proof material and with satisfactory drainage. Drinking water shall be supplied to the galley by means of pipes.

4. The galley shall be provided with suitable facilities for the preparation of hot drinks for the crew at all times.

5. A provision storeroom of adequate capacity shall be provided which can be kept dry, cool and well ventilated in order to avoid deterioration of the stores. Where necessary, refrigerators or other low-temperature storage space shall be provided.

6. Where butane or propane gas is used for cooking purposes in the galley the gas containers shall be kept on the open deck.

PART IV. APPLICATION TO EXISTING SHIPS

Article 17

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article, this Convention applies to vessels the keels of which are laid down subsequent to the coming into force of the Convention for the territory of registration.

2. In the case of a vessel which is fully complete on the date of the coming into force of this Convention for the territory of registration and which is below the registration set by Part III of this Convention, the competent authority may, after consultation with the fishing-vessel owners' and fishermen's organisations where such exist, require such alterations for the purpose of bringing the vessel into conformity with the requirements of the Convention as it deems possible having regard to the practical problems involved, to be made when--

(a) the vessel is re-