

## **E-1: C 147 CONVENTION CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARD IN MERCHANT SHIPS**

**Name of the convention:** C 147 Convention concerning minimum standard in Merchant Ships

**Acronym or short name:** Merchant Shipping

**International organisation in charge of it:** International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Summary description (in plain language):** This convention provides the minimum internationally acceptable labour standards in merchant shipping. It aims to eliminate the operation of substandard ships and to improve the safety of navigation and enhance measures to protect the marine environment and also to advance seafarers' interests in the fields of health and safety, working conditions. The convention essentially applies to sea going ship employed for any commercial purpose (art.1 ).

This convention requires to flag states to adopt minimum standards relating to safety, social security, and shipboard conditions of employment and living arrangements (art.2). The convention covers minimum age, medical examination, articles of agreement, officers' competency certificates, food and catering on board ship, crew accommodation, prevention of occupational accidents, sickness or injury benefits, repatriation, freedom of association, the protection of the right to organize, and collective bargaining (Annex). Moreover, the convention refers to standards of hours of works and manning to ensure the safety of life aboard ships.

**Date of first approval:** 29 october 1976

**Date of coming into force:** 28 november 1981

**Dates of revision:** no

**Reasons of revisions:** no

**Applicability (situation of ratification):** 44 countries. This convention shall come into force 12 months after the date on which there have been registered ratifications by at least 10 members with a total share in the world shipping gross tonnage of 25 per cent and this convention shall come into force for any member 12 months after the date on which its ratification has been enregistered (art.6).

**Stakes for ports:** Port State authorities have to exercise their controlby inspections:

- So, the convention requires ratifying States to ensure that the competent authorities exercise jurisdiction or control over ships which are registered in their territory with regard to ([art.2 b](#)): safety standards, social security measures prescribed by national laws or regulations, and shipboards conditions of employment and shipboard living arrangements prescribed by national laws or laid down by competent courts in a manner equally binding on shipowners and seafarers.

- Ratifying flag States must ensure that the competent authority verifies by inspection or other appropriate means that nationally registered ships comply with national laws which apply the standards prescribed by the Convention ([art.2 f](#)).

- The Port State Control provisions of the convention provide that a ratifying state may on the basis of a complaint or evidence that ship does not conform to the standards of the convention inspect any foreign ship calling at its ports regardless of whether the flag state has ratified convention ([art.4](#)).

- An inspection may be made by the Port State whenever it obtains evidence that a ship does not conform to the standards of the convention or when it receives a complaint from a member of the crew or any other person or entity concerned with the safety of the ship and the well-being of its crew.

The Port State may prepare a report addressed to the government of the flag state. Moreover, the port state can take action including detention to rectify any conditions on board which are clearly hazardous to safety or health, even if the ship is registered in a country which is not bound by the convention.

**Links with other conventions:** [STCW 1978](#), [LL](#), [COLREG](#), [SOLAS](#), [ParisMou](#), [MedMou](#), [TokyoMou](#), [Indian Ocean Mou](#), [Caribbean Mou](#), [West and Central African Mou](#), [Black Sea Mou](#), [Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping \(Minimum Standards\) Convention](#).

**Key-words:** safety standards, social security measures, shipboard conditions, shipboard living, merchant ship

**Internet hyperlink with other website:**

(full text) [www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convdepl?c147](http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convdepl?c147)