

*Article 1*

This Convention shall apply to all seagoing vessels registered in the country of any Member ratifying this Convention, and to the owners, masters and seamen of such vessels.

It shall not apply to:

- ships of war,
- Government vessels not engaged in trade,
- vessels engaged in the coasting trade,
- pleasure yachts,
- Indian country craft,
- fishing vessels,
- vessels of less than 100 tons gross registered tonnage or 300 cubic metres, nor to vessels engaged in the home trade below the tonnage limit prescribed by national law for the special regulation of this trade at the date of the passing of this Convention.

*Article 2*

For the purpose of this Convention the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them, viz.:

- (a) The term "vessel" includes any ship or boat of any nature whatsoever, whether publicly or privately owned, ordinarily engaged in maritime navigation.
- (b) The term "seaman" includes every person employed or engaged in any capacity on board any vessel and entered on the ship's articles. It excludes masters, pilots, cadets and pupils on training ships and duly indentured apprentices, naval ratings, and other persons in the permanent service of a Government.
- (c) The term "master" includes every person having command and charge of a vessel except pilots.
- (d) The term "home trade vessel" means a vessel engaged in trade between a country and the ports of a neighboring country within geographical limits determined by the national law.

*Article 3*

Articles of agreement shall be signed both by the shipowner or his representative and by the seaman. Reasonable facilities to examine the articles of agreement before they are signed shall be given to the seaman and also to his adviser.

The seaman shall sign the agreement under conditions which shall be prescribed by national law in order to ensure adequate supervision by the competent public authority.

The foregoing provisions shall be deemed to have been fulfilled if the competent authority certifies that the provisions of the agreement have been laid before it in writing and have been confirmed both by the shipowner or his representative and by the seaman.

National law shall make adequate provision to ensure that the seaman has understood the agreement.

The agreement shall not contain anything which is contrary to the provisions of national law or of this Convention.

National law shall prescribe such further formalities and safeguards in respect of the completion of the agreement as may be considered necessary for the protection of the interests of the shipowner and of the seaman.