



news release

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CANADA JOINS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Transport Minister Douglas Young today announced that Canada has signed an Instrument of Acceptance of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.

"Canada is pleased to adhere officially to this Convention which brings much needed discipline and fairness to the international maritime shipping industry," said Mr. Ouellet.

"This Convention means that Canadian shipowners and port authorities will now be able to rely on universally accepted rules to conduct their business," said Mr. Young.

The purpose of the Convention, which was adopted by an International Conference sponsored by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in June 1969, is to provide a universal tonnage measurement system enabling standardized measurements of each ship's gross and net tonnages. The Convention, which came into force in 1982, provided for a 12-year transition period that allowed owners of ships engaged in international voyages to adapt to the new rules. Canada had signed the Convention in 1969 "subject to acceptance."

The Convention applies only to merchant ships making international voyages. Warships and ships less than 24 metres in length are exempted, as are ships navigating only the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River up to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for the application of the Convention in Canadian waters.

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