

# TONNAGE

<b>Official reference</b>	International Convention on tonnage measurement of ships	
<b>Official website</b>	www.imo.org	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	23/06/1969
	Entry into force	18/07/1982
	Ratification by Belgium	7/04/1975
<b>Policy level</b>	International	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Convention	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	World seas	
<b>International contact point</b>	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	
<b>Competent authorities in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Mobility and Transport; DG Shipping	
<b>Federal ratification</b>	Wet van 7 april 1975 houdende goedkeuring van het Internationaal Verdrag van 1969 betreffende de meting van schepen, en van de Bijlagen, opgemaakt te Londen op 23 juni 1969	

## // abstract:

This convention was the first successful attempt to introduce a universal tonnage measurement system for ships. The ships to which the convention does not apply are listed in article 4. This convention provides for gross and net tonnages, both of which are calculated independently by the respective administrations or their acknowledged organisations. Each ship needs to receive an 'International Tonnage Certificate', drawn up according to the convention. The TONNAGE Convention also treats the issues that render the certificate invalid (e.g. construction changes, number of passengers, ships sailing under a different flag, etc.). The ships sailing under the flag of a Contracting Party will be subjected to inspections in the ports of the other Contracting Parties.

The regulations apply to all ships constructed after the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1982, while ships built before that date were allowed to retain their existing tonnage up to the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1994 (12 years after entry into force). This rule was intended to ensure decent economic protection for these ships, since port and other dues are charged according to ship tonnage regardless of the date of construction. At the same time, and as far as possible, the convention tries to ensure that the gross and net tonnages calculated under the new system do not differ too much from those calculated under the previous system.