

# AFS convention

<b>Official reference</b>	International convention on the control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships	
<b>Official website</b>	www.imo.org	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	5/10/2001
	Entry into force	17/09/2008
	Ratification by Belgium	16/02/2009
	Ratification by Flanders	9/05/2008
<b>Policy level</b>	International	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Convention	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	World seas	
<b>International contact point</b>	International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	
<b>Federal ratification law</b>	Wet van 16 februari 2009 houdende instemming met het Internationaal Verdrag van 2001 betreffende de controle op schadelijke aangroeiwerende systemen op schepen, en met de Bijlagen, gedaan te Londen op 5 oktober 2001	
<b>Flemish ratification decree</b>	Decreet van 9 mei 2008 houdende instemming met het Internationaal Verdrag betreffende de controle van schadelijke aangroeiwerende systemen op schepen, opgemaakt in Londen op 5 oktober 2001	

## // abstract:

The AFS convention forbids the use of harmful organotin in anti-fouling paints for ships and introduces a mechanism that prevents the future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems. One of the most effective anti-fouling paints contains the organotin, tributyltin (TBT), of which the regulated use, including the associated data, is discussed in Annex 1 of the convention. Moreover, Annex 1 stipulates that ships are not allowed to reapply any organotin compounds that act as biocides in anti-fouling systems. The convention also establishes a 'technical group' that will regulate new or other proposals for chemicals used in anti-fouling systems that can be considered harmful. The convention, furthermore, stipulates that the Partner States need to take the necessary measures with the aim of removing the anti-fouling paints in an appropriate and environmentally friendly way. The convention also demands that the partners facilitate measures that enable scientific research on the effects of anti-fouling paint and that enable the monitoring of these effects. The agreement discusses the exchange of relevant information between the partners, as well as the information to be communicated to the IMO annually. Additionally, the inspection of ships and the detection of violations are also discussed. Finally, the convention includes a clause stipulating that a ship can apply for a compensation for the losses suffered in case the ship is innocently detained or delayed by the inspection for possible violations.

Regulation (EC) No 782/2003 on the prohibition of organotin compounds on ships is the European implementation of the AFS Convention's obligations.