
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1968 No. 1072

MERCHANT SHIPPING

SAFETY

The Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) (Length of Ship)
Regulations 1968

<i>Made</i>	- - -	8th July 1968
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		15th July 1968
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		21st July 1968

The Board of Trade in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 32(6) of the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Act 1967(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. The length of a ship for the purposes of the Act shall be ascertained in accordance with these Regulations.

2.—(1) The length of a ship shall be the greater of the following distances:—

(a) the distance between the fore side of the stem and the axis of the rudder stock; or

(b) a distance measured from the fore side of the stem, being 96 per cent. of the distance between that point and the aft side of the stern, the said points and measurements being taken respectively at and along the waterline defined in the following paragraph.

(2) The waterline referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be at 85 per cent. of the least moulded depth of the ship. In the case of a ship having a rake of keel the waterline shall be parallel to the designed waterline.

3.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“the Act” means the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Act 1967;

“moulded depth” in relation to a ship means the vertical distance measured from the top of the keel to the top of the freeboard deck beam at side:

Provided that—

(a) in the case of a wood or composite ship, it shall be measured from the lower edge of the keel rabbet;

(b) if the form at lower part of the midship section of the ship is of a hollow character, or if thick garboards are fitted, it shall be measured from the point where the line of the flat of the bottom continued inwards cuts the side of the keel;

(c) in the case of a ship having rounded gunwales, it shall be measured to the point of intersection of the moulded lines of the deck and side shell plating, the lines extending as though the gunwale were of angular design;

(d) if the freeboard deck is stepped and the raised part of the deck extends over the point at which the moulded depth is to be determined, it shall be measured to a line of reference extending from the lower part of the deck along a line parallel to the raised part of the deck, the expression "freeboard deck" having for the purposes of this definition the meaning given to it by the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Rules 1968(a); "rake of keel" means the inclination of the keel to a horizontal baseline.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(3) These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) (Length of Ship) Regulations 1968 and shall come into operation on 21st July 1968.

William Rodgers,
Minister of State,
Board of Trade.

8th July 1968.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations prescribe how the length of a ship is to be ascertained for the purposes of the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Act 1967. They give effect to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on Load Lines 1966 (Cmnd.3070).

(a) S.I. 1968/1053.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

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