

1968 No. 1116

**MERCHANT SHIPPING**

**SAFETY**

**The Merchant Shipping (Load Lines)  
(Exemption) Order 1968**

<i>Made</i>	- - -	12th July 1968
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		19th July 1968
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		21st July 1968

The Board of Trade in exercise of their powers under section 18(2) of the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Act 1967(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf hereby make the following Order:—

1.—(1) Ships under 80 tons register engaged solely in the coasting trade, being ships of the following classes, shall be exempt from the provisions of the Act while not carrying cargo:—

- (a) tugs and salvage ships;
- (b) ships engaged in the surveying of harbours or the approaches thereto;
- (c) hopper barges and dredgers;
- (d) ships which are pilot boats within the meaning of section 38 of the Pilotage Act 1913(b);
- (e) ships used by or on behalf of—
  - (i) a general or local lighthouse authority for the purpose of the authority's functions as such;
  - (ii) a Government department for fishery protection purposes, or a local fishery committee for the regulation of sea fisheries within its district;
  - (iii) a Government department for fishery or scientific research;
  - (iv) the Secretary of State for Defence for the purpose of ensuring safety in the use of firing ranges or weapons at sea;
- (f) sailing ships;
- (g) ships in respect of which passenger steamer certificates are in force specifying limits beyond which the ship must not ply, and which operate solely within those limits;
- (h) ships carrying not more than 12 passengers on voyages in the course of which they are at no time more than 15 miles (exclusive of any smooth waters) from the point of departure or more than 3 miles from land.

(2) Ships coming within class (g) in paragraph (1) of this Article shall also be exempt from the provisions of the Act while carrying cargo in accordance with the terms, if any, of the ship's passenger steamer certificate expressly authorising the carriage of cargo.

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(a) 1967 c. 27.

(b) 1913 (2 & 3 Geo. 5) c. 31.

2.—(1) In this Order—

“local fisheries committee” means a local fisheries committee constituted under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966(a);

“sailing ship” means a ship designed to carry sail, whether as the sole means of propulsion or as a supplementary means;

“smooth waters” has the meaning assigned to it in the rules (b) made under section 1 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949(c) as amended by section 8 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1964(d).

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(e) shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(3) This Order may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) (Exemption) Order 1968 and shall come into operation on 21st July 1968.

12th July 1968

*William Rodgers*  
Minister of State,  
Board of Trade.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order exempts from the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Act 1967 classes of ships under 80 tons register engaged solely in the coasting trade, while not carrying cargo, and passenger steamers under 80 tons register so engaged while carrying cargo in accordance with the terms of their passenger steamer certificates.

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(a) 1966 c. 38.

(c) 1949 c. 43.

(b) See S.I. 1965/1103 (1965 II, p. 2826).

(d) 1964 c. 47.

(e) 1889 c. 63.

