

International Maritime Conventions

International Maritime Conventions Glossary

AIS (Automatic Identification System)

- Related Terms: Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Explanation: AIS is a tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services to identify and locate vessels. It transmits information such as vessel identity, position, course, and speed to other ships and shore stations to improve maritime safety and security.

Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC)

- Related Terms: Ballast water, Invasive species
- Explanation: BWMC is an international treaty adopted by the IMO to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water. It requires ships to manage their ballast water to minimize the transfer of invasive species.

Collision Regulations (COLREGs)

- Related Terms: Navigation rules, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (1972)
- Explanation: COLREGs are a set of rules established by the IMO to prevent collisions between vessels at sea. They define the actions and responsibilities of ship operators to ensure safe navigation and avoid accidents.

Detention of Ships

- Related Terms: Port State Control (PSC), Flag State, Detention order
- Explanation: Detention of ships occurs when a port state authority prohibits a vessel from leaving port due to non-compliance with international maritime conventions or regulations. It is a measure to ensure maritime safety and environmental protection.

ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System)

- Related Terms: Electronic navigation, Chart datum
- Explanation: ECDIS is a computer-based navigation system that integrates electronic navigational charts and navigation data to provide real-time information to mariners. It enhances situational awareness and improves navigational safety.

FONAR (Failure of Necessary Action to Avoid Collision)

- Related Terms: Collision avoidance, Close-quarters situation
- Explanation: FONAR is a report submitted by a ship's master to the relevant authorities when another vessel fails to take necessary action to avoid a collision. It is used to investigate and prevent similar incidents in the future.

Garbage Management Plan

- Related Terms: MARPOL Annex V, Garbage record book

- Explanation: A garbage management plan is a document outlining procedures for collecting, storing, and disposing of ship-generated garbage in compliance with MARPOL Annex V regulations. It aims to prevent pollution of the marine environment.

Hague-Visby Rules

- Related Terms: Carriage of Goods by Sea, Limitation of liability, Bill of lading

- Explanation: The Hague-Visby Rules are an international convention that governs the carriage of goods by sea. They establish rights and responsibilities of carriers and shippers, including liability limitations for loss or damage to cargo.

Incident Investigation

- Related Terms: Casualty investigation, Marine accident

- Explanation: Incident investigation involves examining the circumstances surrounding a maritime incident to determine its causes and contributing factors. It aims to improve safety and prevent similar accidents in the future.

Jones Act

- Related Terms: Cabotage, Maritime law, US Merchant Marine

- Explanation: The Jones Act is a US federal law that regulates maritime commerce in US waters and between US ports. It requires vessels engaged in domestic trade to be built, owned, and crewed by US citizens.

Kyoto Protocol

- Related Terms: Climate change, Greenhouse gas emissions, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- Explanation: The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty under the UNFCCC that sets binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development.

Load Line Convention

- Related Terms: Freeboard, Plimsoll line, International Load Line Certificate

- Explanation: The Load Line Convention is an international treaty that establishes minimum safety requirements for the loading and stability of ships. It aims to prevent overloading and ensure the seaworthiness of vessels.

MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)

- Related Terms: Annexes, Oil pollution, Ballast water management

- Explanation: MARPOL is an international treaty adopted by the IMO to prevent pollution of the marine environment by ships. It sets standards for the prevention of oil spills, garbage disposal, and emissions from vessels.

NOx (Nitrogen Oxides) Emissions

- Related Terms: IMO Tier III, Selective catalytic reduction (SCR), Emission control areas (ECAs)

- Explanation: NOx emissions are a type of air pollution produced by combustion engines in ships. IMO regulations, such as Tier III standards, limit the amount of NOx emissions to reduce environmental impact.

Oil Pollution Act (OPA)

- Related Terms: Oil spill response, Liability, Environmental damages

- Explanation: The Oil Pollution Act is a US federal law that addresses oil spill prevention, response, and liability for damages to natural resources. It aims to protect the environment and ensure compensation for pollution incidents.

Port State Control (PSC)

- Related Terms: Flag State, Detention of ships, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Explanation: PSC is a maritime regulatory system where port states inspect foreign-flagged vessels to ensure compliance with international maritime conventions and safety standards. It helps to enforce maritime regulations and prevent substandard shipping.

Quarantine Measures

- Related Terms: Public health, Disease prevention, International Health Regulations (IHR)

- Explanation: Quarantine measures are restrictions imposed on ships to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. They involve isolation, inspection, and health monitoring of crew and passengers to protect public health.

Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll-off) Ships

- Related Terms: Vehicle carrier, Cargo handling, Stabilization devices

- Explanation: Ro-Ro ships are vessels designed to carry wheeled cargo, such as cars, trucks, and trailers, that can be driven on and off the ship. They facilitate efficient cargo handling and transportation.

SOLAS (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea)

- Related Terms: Safety standards, Life-saving appliances, Fire protection

- Explanation: SOLAS is an international treaty that establishes minimum safety requirements for the construction, equipment, and operation of ships. It aims to ensure the safety of life at sea and prevent maritime accidents.

Tonnage Measurement

- Related Terms: Gross tonnage (GT), Net tonnage (NT), International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (ITC)

- Explanation: Tonnage measurement is a system for calculating and registering the size of ships based on their volume and capacity. It is used for regulatory purposes, such as determining port dues and safety requirements.

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

- Related Terms: Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Territorial waters, International seabed authority

- Explanation: UNCLOS is an international treaty that governs the use of the world's oceans and resources. It establishes maritime boundaries, rights and obligations of states, and conservation principles for sustainable ocean management.

Vessel Inspection Program

- Related Terms: Classification societies, Flag State, Port State Control
- Explanation: A vessel inspection program is a systematic process for assessing the condition, safety, and compliance of ships with international maritime regulations. It helps to ensure the seaworthiness and regulatory compliance of vessels.

Wreck Removal Convention

- Related Terms: Salvage, Removal of wrecks, Liability
- Explanation: The Wreck Removal Convention is an international treaty that establishes legal obligations for states to remove wrecks posing a hazard to navigation or the marine environment. It aims to prevent accidents and pollution from abandoned ships.

X-Ray Container Inspection

- Related Terms: Cargo security, Non-intrusive inspection, Radiation detection
- Explanation: X-ray container inspection is a technology used to scan shipping containers for contraband, explosives, or other illicit materials. It enhances port security and helps prevent smuggling and terrorism.

Yacht Registration

- Related Terms: Flag State, Bareboat charter, Tonnage tax
- Explanation: Yacht registration is the process of flagging a recreational vessel under a specific country to establish its nationality and legal status. It determines the jurisdictional requirements, taxes, and regulations applicable to the yacht.

Zero Discharge Policy

- Related Terms: Environmental protection, Pollution prevention, Waste management
- Explanation: A zero discharge policy prohibits the release of pollutants, waste, or harmful substances into the marine environment. It promotes sustainable practices and compliance with international regulations to protect the oceans.