

Agreement concerning maritime signals.

The Contracting Governments, represented by the undersigned, having decided to unify certain descriptions of maritime signals, have agreed on the following provisions:

ARTICLE 1.

In all cases in which competent authorities in the territories of the Contracting Governments communicate to navigators by means of visual signals the information or warnings dealt with in the annexed Regulations, each of these Governments undertakes that only measures in conformity with the provisions of these said Regulations will be taken by such authorities for the particular purposes in question. The necessary measures to that effect shall be taken within two months of the entry into force of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 2.

The provisions of the annexed Regulations may be departed from Only in cases when, owing to local conditions or exceptional circumstances, they cannot reasonably be carried into effect and particularly where their adoption might endanger navigation or where the expenditure involved be out of proportion to the traffic concerned. Such departures from the Regulations should, moreover, be as limited as the exigencies of the situation allow. Proper notice of them should be given to mariners. All possible steps should be taken in such cases to avoid confusion with the other signals provided for in the Regulations.

ARTICLE 3.

The present Agreement should not be considered as in any way modifying the legal situation in the different countries as regards the relations between the public and the authorities who exhibit the signals in question.

ARTICLE 4.

The present Agreement, of which the English and French texts are both authentic, shall bear to-day's date. Until and including April 30th 1931, it shall be open for signature on behalf of any Government represented at or invited to the Conference which elaborated the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 5.

Governments May accept the present Agreement by signature only, when the latter is not

made subject to ratification, by ratification or by accession.

The instruments of ratification shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify their receipt to all the Governments concerned.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the ninetieth day following its acceptance by five Governments.

ARTICLE 6.

As from May 1st, 1931, the present Agreement shall be open to accession on behalf of any Government referred to in Article 4.

The instruments of accession shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify their receipt to all the Governments concerned.

ARTICLE 7.

After the coming into force of the Agreement in concordance with Article 5, each subsequent signature, ratification or accession shall take effect on the ninetieth day from the date of signature, or of the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the instruments of ratification or of the notification of accession.

ARTICLE 8.

The present Agreement may be denounced on behalf of any Contracting Government after a period of seven years from the date when it came into force in respect of that Government. Denunciation shall be effected by a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will inform all the Governments referred to in Article 4. Such denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and shall operate only in respect of the Government on whose behalf it was notified.

On the expiration of each period of seven years after the coming into force of the present Agreement its revision may be demanded by any Contracting Government. At all other times revision of the present Agreement may be demanded by one-fourth of the Contracting Governments.

ARTICLE 9.

Any Contracting Government may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Agreement, it does not assume any obligations in respect of all

or any colony, protectorate or territory under suzerainty or mandate; and the present Agreement shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any Contracting Government may give notice to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations at any time subsequently that it desires that the Agreement shall apply to all or any of the territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Agreement shall apply to all the territories named in such notice ninety days after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Any Contracting Government may declare, either after a period of seven years from the date of the notification provided for in the preceding paragraph or at the time of the denunciation provided for in Article 8, that it desires that the present Agreement shall cease to apply to all or any colony, protectorate or territory under suzerainty or mandate, and the Agreement shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration one year after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. In default of such a declaration, the denunciation of the Convention under Article 8 will not affect the application of the Convention to any territories referred to in the present Article.

ARTICLE 10.

Each Contracting Government may make the acceptance of the present Agreement conditional on its acceptance by one or several of the Governments mentioned in Article 4.

ARTICLE 11.

Each of the Contracting Governments may declare, when signing, ratifying, or acceding, that it only regards itself as bound by the undertaking mentioned in Article 1 in respect of the provisions of any specific chapter or chapters of the annexed Regulations. In that case, it may only invoke the undertakings entered into by the other Contracting Governments in respect of the chapter or chapters, the obligations of which it has itself accepted.

ARTICLE 12.

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the date of its coming into force.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned have affixed their signatures to the present Agreement. DONE at Lisbon, the twenty-third day of October, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, in a single copy, which remain deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and of which certified copies will be transmitted to all the Governments referred to in

Article 4.

Germany:

Gustav Meyer.

Subject to ratification.

Belgium :

F. Urbain.

Subject to ratification.

Union of South Africa:

F. F. Pienaar.

Subject to ratification.

China :

Woo Kaiseng

Subject to ratification

Cuba:

Arturo Loynaz del Castillo.

Subject to ratification.

Free City of Danzig:

Solski.

Capitaine de frégate

Subject to ratification.

Spain:

José Herbeila.

Rafael Estrada.

Subject to ratification.

Estonia:

T. Gutman.

Subject to ratification.

Finlande:

Sakari Tainio.

Subject to ratification.

France:

P. H. Watier.

Subject to ratification.

Maroeco:

A. de Rouville.

Subject to ratification.

Tunis:

A. de Rouville.

Subject to ratification.

Greece

D. Rasi Kotsicas.

Subject to ratification.

Monaco:

Comte C. J. H. de Bobone.

Subject to ratification.

The Netherlands:

P. van Braam van Vloten.

Subject to ratification.

The present signature does not include the Netherlands East Indies, Surinam and Curaçao.

Lanyeler.

Reserving ratification

and understanding that this signature does not assume any obligations of the Netherlands Government in respect of the Netherlands Colonial Territories in the East and West Indies.

Poland

Solsky.

Capitaine de frégate

Subject to ratification.

Portugal:

Ernesto de Vasconcellos.

Manuel Norton.

Roumania:

C. Antontade.

Subject to ratification.

(The signature by Roumania was made definitive as from June 1er 1931).

Sweden:

Erik Hågg.

Subject to ratification.

Jugoslavia:

J. Choumenkovitch,

Subject to ratification.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

S. J. Bratman Brodowsky.

Subject to ratification.

Regulations concerning certain descriptions of maritime signals.

CHAPTER 1

Warning of gale expected to affect the Locality

A. Direction of the wind.

The signals are as follows:

1. Gale commencing with wind in the N. W. quadrant:

By day : One cone, point upward

By night: Two red lights, one above the other.

2. Gale commencing with wind in the S. W. quadrant:

By day : One cone, point downward ;

By night : Two white light, one above the other.

3. Gale commencing with wind in the N. E. quadrant:

By day: Two cones, one above the other, points upward :

By night: A red light above a white light.

4. Gale commencing with wind in the S. E. quadrant.

By day: Two cones, one above the other, points downward;

By night: A white light above a red light.

B. Probable bad weather, hurricane or strong gale.

The signals are as follows:

1. Probable bad weather :

By day: One black ball;

By night : One red light hoisted at the mast-head.

2. Probable hurricane or strong gale:

By day: Two black balls, one above the other:

By night: Two red lights in a horizontal line hoisted at the mast-head.

As soon as the probable direction of the wind can be predicted, the appropriate signal in paragraph A above may be hoisted in place of the signal in paragraph B, or both signals may be shown simultaneously.

C. Change of direction of wind.

The signals are as follows:

1. Change of wind to the right (clockwise) : A black flag, or a black cylinder.

2. Change of wind to the left (counter-clockwise): Two black flags, one above the other, or two black cylinders, one above the other.

The signal regarding change of direction of wind will be hoisted alongside the signal indicating the direction of the wind.

The vertical distance between two shapes constituting a day signal must be not less than the greatest dimension of one of the shapes.

Lights disposed vertically must be at least two metres (6 feet) apart.

The use of the signals prescribed in the foregoing regulations does not preclude the use of other signals which may be found necessary, and particularly of typhoon signals, such as those prepared by the Zi-Ke-Wei Observatory in consultation with the Marine Department of the Chinese Maritime Customs.

CHAPTER II

Tide and depth signals.

A. Vertical movement of the tide.

1. A falling tide is indicated:

By day: By an elongated cone, point downward;

By night: By a white light above a green light.

2. A rising tide is indicated:

3. By day : By an elongated cone, point upward;

By night: By a green light above a white light.

The height of the cone shall be not less than three times the diameter of its base.

A. Height of water-level.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Sailing Directions, the height of water-level shall be measured as from the zero of the charts.

The units adopted shall be 2 decimetres in countries using the metric system and the English foot in other countries.

A height of water-level equivalent to one unit (2 decimetres or 1 foot) shall be indicated :

By day: By a cone, point downward, or by a sphere;

By night: By a green light or by a white light.

A height of water-level equivalent to five units (1 metre or 5 feet) shall be indicated :

By day: By a cylindrical shape;

By night : By a red light.

A height of water-level equivalent to twenty-five units (5 metres or 25 feet) shall be indicated :

By day : By a sphere ;

By night : By a white light.

If necessary, a height of water-level equivalent to half a unit (1 decimetre or ½ foot) shall be indicated :

By day: By a cylinder;

By night : By a red light.

These signals shall be hoisted in the following manner :

The cones or spheres indicating the units may be placed either in one vertical line or in two vertical lines. The cylindrical shape indicating the subdivision of the unit may be placed either in the same vertical line and below the units or to the left of the vertical lines of the units.

The cylindrical shapes indicating five units each will be placed in a vertical line to the right of the line or lines of the units.

The spheres indicating twenty-five units will be placed in a vertical line on the extreme right.

Left and right shall be interpreted from the point of view of the incoming navigator.

The same rules apply to night signals.

The indication of tide and depth signals by semaphore, or visually by means of the Morse Code, the International Code of Signals, or by wireless telegraphy or telephony, and the indication of the water level by figures, are also permissible either concurrently with or in place of the system of signals prescribed in the present regulations.

CHAPITRE III

Signals concerning the movements of vessels at the entrances to harbours or important channels.

A. In Cases of serious emergency.,

The fact that entrance is absolutely prohibited, in cases of serious emergency, is indicated :

By day: By three balls disposed vertically;

By night : By three red lights disposed vertically.

B. In normal circumstances.

1. «Entrance prohibited» is indicated:

By day: By a cone, point upward, between two balls disposed vertically;

By night : By a white light between two red lights disposed vertically.

2. “Entrance and departure prohibited” is indicated:

By day: By a cone, point upward, having above it a cone, point downward, and below it a ball.

By night: By a white light, having above it a green light and below it a red light.

3. “Departure prohibited” is indicated:

By day: By a cone, point upward, between two cones, points downward, disposed vertically.

By night: By a white light between two green lights, disposed vertically.

These signals must be exhibited at a sufficient height to prevent any confusion with other harbour signals.

The distance between the shapes or lights should be sufficient for them to be clearly distinguishable at the distance at which they are normally required to be seen.

Agreement concerning manned lightships not on their stations

The Contracting Government, represented by the undersigned, having decided to unify certain rules concerning manned lightships which are not on their stations, have agreed to the following provisions :

ARTICLE 1.

The Contracting Governments undertake to put into force the provisions of the Regulations annexed hereto concerning lightships which are not on their stations. The necessary measures to that effect should be taken within one year from the coming into force of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 2.

The present Agreement should not be considered as in any way modifying the legal situation in the different countries as regards the relations between the public and the authorities responsible for the lightship services.

ARTICLE 3.

The present Agreement, of which the English and French texts are both authentic, shall bear to-day's date. Until and including April 30th, 1931, it shall be open for signature on behalf of any Government represented at or invited to the Conference which elaborated the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 4.

Governments may accept the present Agreement by signature only, when the latter is not made subject to ratification, by ratification or accession.

The instruments of ratification shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify their receipt to all the Governments concerned.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the ninetieth day following its acceptance by five Governments.

ARTICLE 5.

As from May 1st, 1931, the present Agreement shall be open to accession on behalf of any Government referred to in Article 3.

The instruments of accession shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify their receipt to all the Governments concerned.

ARTICLE 6.

After the coming into force of the Agreement in accordance with Article 4, each subsequent

signature, ratification or accession shall take effect on the ninetieth day from the date of signature, or of the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the instruments of ratification, or of the notification of accession.

ARTICLE 7.

The present Agreement may be denounced on behalf of any Contracting Government after a period of seven years from the date when it came into force in respect of that Government. Denunciation shall be effected by a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will inform all the Governments referred to in Article 3. Such denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and shall operate only in respect of the Government on whose behalf it was notified.

On the expiration of each period of seven years after the coming into force of the present Agreement, its revision may be demanded by any Contracting Government. At all other times, revision of the present Agreement may be demanded by one-fourth of the Contracting Governments.

ARTICLE 8.

Any Contracting Government may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Agreement, it does not assume any obligations in respect of all or any colony, protectorate or territory under suzerainty or mandate ; and the present Agreement shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any Contracting Government may give notice to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations at any time subsequently that it desires that the Agreement shall apply to all or any of the territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Agreement shall apply to all the territories named in such notice ninety days after its receipt by the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

Any Contracting Government may declare, either after a period of seven years from the date of the notification provided for in the preceding paragraph or at the time of the denunciation provided for in Article 7, that it desires that the present Agreement shall cease to apply to all or any colony protectorate or territory under suzerainty or mandate, and the Agreement shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration one year after its receipt by the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

In default of such a declaration, the denunciation of such a declaration, the denunciation of the Convention under Article 7 will not affect the application of the Convention to any territories referred to in the present Article.

ARTICLE 9.

Each Contracting Government may make the acceptance of the present Agreement conditional on its acceptance by one or several of the Governments mentioned in Article 3.

ARTICLE 10.

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the date of its coming, into force.

In faith whereof the undersigned have affixed their signature to the present Agreement.

Done at Lisbon, the twenty third of October, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, in a single copy which will remain deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and of which certified copies will be transmitted to all the Governments referred to in Article 3.

Germany

Gustav Meyer.

Subject to ratification.

Belgium :

F. Urbain.

Subject to ratification.

Great Britain and Northern Ireland: and all parts of the British Empire which are not separate Members of the League of Nations.

I declare that my signature does not include any colonies, protectorates or territories under suzerainty or mandato.

John Baldwin.

India:

I declare that my signature does not include any of the Indian States under British suzerainty.

Edward Headlam.

China:

Woo Kaiseng.

Subject to ratification.

Cuba:

Arturo Loynaz del Castillo

Subject to ratification.

Denmark :

William Borberg.

Free City of Danzig:

Solski.

Capitaine de frégate.

Subject to ratification.

Spain.

José Herbella;

Rafael Estrada.

Subject to ratification.

Estónia :

T. Gutman.

Subject to ratification.

Finland :

Sakari Tainio.

Subject to ratification.

France:

P. H. Watter.

Marocco:

A. de Rouville.

Tupis:

A. de Rouville.

Greece:

D. Rasi-Kotsicas.

Monaco:

Comte C. J. H. de Bobone.

The Netherlands:

P. van Braam von Vloten

The present signature does not include the Netherlands East Indies, Surinam and Curaçao.

Langelier.

Understanding that this signature does not assume any obligations of the Netherlands Government in respect of the Netherlands Colonial Territories in the East and Weste Indies.

Poland :

Solski.

Capitaine de frégate.

Subject to ratification.

Portugal :

Ernesto de Vasconcelos.

Manuel Norton.

Roumania

C. Antontade.

Subject to ratification.

(The signature by Roumania was made definitive as from June 1st 1931).

Sweden

Erik Hagg.

Subject to ratification.

Yugoslavia :

1. Choumenkovitch.

Subject to ratification.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

S. S. Bratman Brodowsky.

Regulations relating to signals for manned lightsips not ou their stations

1. When a lightship is not on its station, whether it has dragged or broken adrift from its moorings or is proceeding towards its station or towards a ports. it should not show its characteristic light nor make its characteristic fog-signals.
2. A lightship which has dragged or broken adrift from its moorings should hoist a special signal, which preferably should be:
By day: Two large black spheres, one forward and one aft ;
By night: Two red lights, one forward and one aft.

It should furthermore, strike its characteristic topmarks, if they are fitted to permit of this. When circumstances do not permit of the use of the foregoing day signals, or when these are employed as the normal characteristics of the lightship, red flags should be used instead of black spheres.

3. In addition, as a supplementary measure of precaution, a lightship which has dragged or broken adrift from its moorings should:

a) By day, fly a flag signal signifying :

“I am not in my correct position”, as laid down in the International Code of Signals.

b) By night, show at least every quarter of an hour and simultaneously two flares, one red and the other white.

When circumstances render it impracticable to use flares, a red and a white light shall be displayed simultaneously.

4. Lastly, a lightship under way must carry the same lights and make the same sound signals as other vessels under way and, if self-propelled should hoist by day the signal provided for in paragraph 2.

Recommendations on lighthouse characteristics and radio-beacons

A. Lighthouse characteristics

The present recommendations have been framed with the object of providing in a rational and uniform manner for the organisation of new lighthouse systems, or the improvement of existing lighthouse systems, by means of a proper distribution of the available characteristics. They must not be regarded as laying down absolute rules or as necessitating in the near future any changes in existing systems which are not in accordance with these rules.

1. The spacing of lights or groups of lights of the same character should be kept as wide as the number of lights on the coast permits, and as is practicable having regard to the particular circumstances in any given country, and especially to the various angles at which the navigator may approach the coast;

II. (a) The following preferential order is recommended for the characteristics of *the main landfall light-houses*:

1. White flashes in groups of two;

2. Single white flashes
3. White flashes in groups of three or four ;
4. White flashes in groups of five;
5. A group of white flashes alternating with a single white flash;
6. White flashes in groups of six;
7. A group of white flashes alternating with another group of white flashes differing from the first.

(b) For *lighthouses of secondary importance*, where the adoption of white flashes might lead to confusion with the characteristics of neighbouring main landfall lighthouses, the following characteristics, in order of preference, are recommended:

Red flashes grouped in accordance with any of the combinations indicated above for white flashes.

A white occulting light, the occultations being as simple as circumstances permit

c) For secondary lights it may be an advantage to use quick flashing lights — *i.e.*, lights showing at least forty flashes a minute.

d) It is recommended that, in the lighthouses referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, fixed lights varied by flashes or lights showing flashes of different colours, having materially different ranges, should not in future be adopted ; it is desirable that such characteristics should gradually be eliminated.

(e) In the larger ports, it is desirable to avoid the use of fixed white lights.

(f) In the choice of characteristics of leading lights, or range lights, in which considerable latitude is necessary, particularly where there are other lights in the vicinity or where there are several lines of leading lights in the same locality, it is merely desirable to avoid a combination of flashing lights with very short flashes involving too long a period during which both lights are not simultaneously visible. The use of quick flashing lights is considered admissible.

III. In establishing aero-lighthouses, care should be taken to avoid interference and risk of confusion with coast lights.

B. *Radio beacons.*

I. It is recommended that, so far as circumstances and resources permit, radio-beacons should be established throughout the world at all points where they would be useful to maritime

navigation.

II. The equipment of radio-beacons on coats and lightships should satisfy the following requirements, which are the result of experience:

(a) The system preferred is that which permits of the bearing of the radio-beacon being taken from the ship.

(b) The system used should, as far possible, be sufficiently simple to enable the navigator to use it himself.

(c) In order to avoid confusion, a margin of 1.25 per cent (or less where found possible) should be allowed by radio-beacons at, either extremity of the band assigned to them.

On the other hand, the band of radio-frequencies reserved for radio-beacons, which is at present from 285 to 315 kilocycles, should not be encroached upon by other wireless stations.

(d) Transmissions of neighbouring, radio-beacons should be made on wave-lengths sufficiently different to avoid mutual interference and should be kept under close observation in respect of their characteristics, periods and times of transmission.

(e) The power of radio-beacons should not exceed that which is strictly necessary for their purpose and must depend, in particular, on the distance of the neighbouring stations (whether situated in the same country or not), due consideration being given to the difference of power between clear weather and fog-signal transmissions.

(f) The duration of each period of continuous signalling must be sufficient to allow the station to be easily identified (at least one minute).

On the other hand, the duration of each period and the total time of transmission should not be longer than is essential for the requirements of navigation.

III. In order to facilitate the application of the foregoing proposals, regional agreements might, with advantage, be made between the Governments or authorities concerned with a view to laying down the conditions of transmission of radio-beacons and, in particular, their timetables.

IV. It is desirable that the appropriate authorities in different countries should study the characteristics best suited for the special purpose of radio-beacons, and that they should communicate to each other the results of their investigations.

V. Although a large proportion of the receiving sets in ships are not at present adapted for taking bearings on continuous waves, it seems desirable that radio-beacons should in future be equipped so as to be able to transmit such waves.

Lisboa, October 23rd, 1930.

Germano:

Gustax Meyer.

United Stats of América:

G. R. Gutnam.

Belgium :

F. Urbain.

Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

and all parts of the British Empire which are not separate Membres of the League of Nations.

John Baldwin.

Brazil:

F. Xavier da Costa.

China :

L. Tweedie-Stodart.

L. R. Carrel.

Cuba :

Arturo Loynaz del Castillo

Free City of Donzig

Solski.

Spain :

José Herbella.

Rafael Estrada.

Estonia

T. Gutman.

Finland :

Sakari Tainio.

France:

P. H. Watier.

A. de Rouville.

J. Jaillant.

Grece :

D. Rasi-Kotsicas.

India:

I declare that my signature does not include any of the Indian States under British suzerainty.

Edward Headlam.

Italy:

Periane Pietro.

Dom G. Biancheri.

Aristide Luria.

Luigi Spalice.

Japan :

M. Hattori.

S. Chiba.

Marocco:

A. de Rouville.

Mexico:

O. G. Barreda.

Monaco:

Comte C. J. H. de Bobone.

The Netherlands:

P. van Braan van Vloten.

Laugeler.

Poland:

Solski

Portugal

Ernesto de Vasconcelos.

Manuel Norton.

Roumania:

A.M. Guranesco.

Sweden:

Eriki Hägg.

Tunis:

A. de Rouville.