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TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF CERTAIN SHIPS RELEVANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION  
AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978

1 At its sixty-third session (16 to 25 May 1994), the Maritime Safety Committee recalled resolution A.540(13) on tonnage measurement for certain ships relevant to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, by which the thirteenth Assembly agreed that the revised interim scheme for tonnage measurement for certain ships, adopted by resolution A.494(XII), should also be applicable in respect of the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention and invited Member Governments and States Parties to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 to accept the use of resolution A.494(XII) for application of the 1978 STCW Convention.

2 The Committee also recalled that, at its fiftieth session (MSC 50/27, paragraph 23.7), it agreed that the interim measurement schemes (resolution A.494(XII) and resolution A.540(13)) should be interpreted as follows:

- .1 all ships to which resolution A.494(XII) applies and which are assigned a certain value of gross tonnage, as determined by national systems, may retain that tonnage value for the purposes of the application of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for the life of the ship; and
- .2 under resolution A.540(13), the same principle applies in relation to "gross register tons" for the 1978 STCW Convention.

3 The Committee, recognizing that the interim scheme in resolutions A.494(XII) and A.540(13) will expire on 18 July 1994, agreed that, pending the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and possible changes in the tonnage thresholds, measures should be taken to allow seafarers who have served on board small ships to continue to serve on cargo ships of equivalent physical size\* and type built after 18 July 1994 and measured under the

\* The most appropriate guidance for defining "equivalent physical size" is the gross tonnage according to the 1969 Tonnage Convention.

Tonnage Convention of 1969. For this purpose, the Administration, when applying the STCW Convention to seafarers wishing to serve on board such ships, may have the discretion to give them credits for qualifying sea service on existing ships and, if appropriate, also the level of knowledge acquired, for service on equivalent ships measured under the Tonnage Convention of 1969. In making such determinations, the Administration should take into account the size and type of the existing and new ships and consider the matter on a case-by-case basis. Administrations which have allowed seafarers to serve on the above-mentioned new ships by using such discretion should reflect this by issue of an appropriate endorsement or equivalent document to them for the purpose of the port State control.

4 Member Governments and States Parties to the aforementioned Conventions are invited to take recognizance of, and to accept, this decision for the purpose of the application of the 1978 STCW Convention.

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