



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No.807 of 7th December 2023

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	IMO Conventions. Approval Process
Reference	IMO Regulations

IMO CONVENTIONS -APPROVAL PROCESS

Adoption

In the first stage of the approval process, new conventions are adopted by the IMO assembly, council, and committees after the member states propose, develop, and discuss them in these bodies.

Signature, ratification, acceptance, and approval

By signing the convention, member states express their consent to be bound by the treaty. The signature of a member state may be subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval by its government. In this situation, the signature must be followed by depositing an instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval with the treaty's depositary.

Entry into force

When a new convention enters into force, it becomes binding upon the governments that have formally accepted the convention. Entry into force is normally established when a minimum percentage of the international fleet has been bounded by their flag member states to comply with the convention.

Accession

Accession is the method a member state uses to become a party to a treaty that it did not sign while the treaty was open for signature.

Amendments

Once the convention enters into force, the regulations may be changed or expanded using amendments. Amendments follow the approval process with adoption, acceptance, and entry into force. Amendments apply a tacit acceptance where they are accepted unless a specified number of signatory member states issue objections before the date of entry into force.

Protocols

Protocols are modifications to conventions that are already adopted but not yet entered into force. Protocols are added to the parent treaty but are a new treaty with their signatory member states and entry-into-force requirements.

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Resolutions

Resolutions are finalized documents accepted by the IMO or any of the main bodies under the IMO. The content of IMO resolutions may vary from amendments, guidelines, or communications to entire codes.

The key bodies and committees of the organization adopt IMO resolutions. They are first issued within the official IMO meeting reports and documents relating to the relevant committee or body. IMO resolutions are numbered, indicating the session and body where it was adopted. For example, MEPC.368(79) refers to resolution 368, adopted during the 79th Marine Environment Protection Committee session. Resolutions from the assembly start with the letter A, for example, Resolution A.1023(26) for the 2009 MODU Code.

Resolutions that are most relevant to engineering plan review are those issued by the MSC, MEPC, and occasionally the assembly.

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REFERENCES:

- IMO Regulations

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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