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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966

Equivalent arrangement accepted under article 8

Communication by the Government of the United States

The Secretary-General has the honour to refer to article 8(2) of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, and to state that the attached communication has been received from the Government of the United States concerning equivalent arrangement accepted under article 8(1) of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.



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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966
AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988**

Equivalent arrangement accepted under Article 8

Submitted by the United States

In accordance with Article 8(2) of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as modified by the Protocol of 1988, this notice informs the Organization that this Administration will, on a case-by-case basis, authorize the operation of unmanned open hopper barges without cargo hatch covers. The basis for this authorization is that the special stability characteristics of certain barges provide an equivalent level of safety to the requirement for hatch covers in Regulation 14.

The requirement for weathertight hatch covers per Regulation 14 is to ensure the seaworthiness of the vessel. However, certain open hopper barges (such as dredging spoils barges and similar dump scows) are designed for normal operations with flooded hoppers. The stability of these barges is evaluated in a fully loaded condition with flooded hopper(s). If the barge meets the intact stability criteria, then hatch covers in way of the hoppers are considered unnecessary.

Accordingly, on a case-by-case basis and upon evidence of satisfactory stability as an equivalent level of safety, the U.S. Coast Guard will authorize the operation of unmanned open hopper barges without the cargo hatch covers required by Regulation 14. This authorization will be noted on the barge's International Load Line Certificate.