

SOLAS

Official reference	International Convention for the safety of life at sea	
Official website	www.imo.org	
Relevant dates	Document	1/11/1974
	Entry into force	25/05/1980
	Ratification by Belgium	10/08/1979
Policy level	International	
Type of instrument	Convention	
Geographical reach	World seas	
International contact point	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal authorities; FPS Mobility and Transport; DG Shipping	
Federal ratification	Wet van 10 augustus 1979 houdende goedkeuring van het Internationaal Verdrag van 1974 voor de beveiliging van mensenlevens op zee, en van de Bijlage, opgemaakt te Londen op 1 november 1974, en van het Protocol van 1978 betreffende dit Verdrag, en van de Bijlage, opgemaakt te Londen op 17 februari 1978	

// abstract:

The SOLAS Convention is regarded as the most important convention on the safety of merchant ships. The main purpose of the convention is to specify the minimum standards for the construction, equipment and the operation of ships in order to guarantee the safety of life at sea. Flag States need to make sure that their ships meet these requirements, and a number of certificates are prescribed as proof that this has been done. Contracting Parties can inspect ships of other Contracting Parties, when they suspect that the ship and its equipment do not meet the standards. This procedure is known as 'port state control'. The topics discussed in the SOLAS Convention concern: ship construction, life-saving appliances and arrangements, safety equipment, radiocommunications, safety of navigation, carriage of cargoes and carriage of dangerous goods, nuclear ships, management for the safe operation of ships, safety measures for high-speed crafts, special measures to enhance maritime security, and additional safety measures for bulk carriers.