STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1973 No. 1979

MERCHANT SHIPPING

The Merchant Shipping (Metrication) Regulations 1973

Made - - -	*27th November* 1973
Laid before Parliament	*5th December* 1973
Coming into Operation	*1st January* 1974

The Secretary of State in exercise of powers conferred by section 90 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970(**a**) and now vested in him (**b**) hereby makes the following Regulations:

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Metrication) Regulations 1973 and shall come into operation on the 1st day of January 1974.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2.—(1) In section 7(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894(**d**)—

(*a*) in paragraph (*a*), for the words "four inches" there shall be substituted the words "one decimetre";

(*b*) at the beginning of paragraph (*c*) there shall be inserted the words "In the case of every such ship registered before the 1st day of January 1974".

(2) After the said paragraph (*c*) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

"(*d*) In the case of every such ship registered on or after that date, a scale of decimetres, or of metres and decimetres, denoting a draught of water shall be marked on each side of her stem and of her stern post—

(i) in figures at two-decimetre intervals, if the scale is in decimetres; and

(ii) in figures at each metre interval and at intervening two-decimetre intervals, if the scale is in metres and decimetres;

the capital letter "M" being placed after each metre figure; the top figure of the scale showing both the metre and (except where it marks a full metre interval) the decimetre figure; the lower line of the figures, or figures and letters (as the case may be), coinciding with the draught

(**a**) 1970 c. 36.
(**b**) *See* S.I. 1970/1537 (1970 III, p. 5293).
(**c**) 1889 c. 63.
(**d**) 1894 c. 60.

line denoted thereby; the figures and letters being not less than one decimetre in length and being marked by being cut in and painted white or yellow on a dark ground, or in such other way as the Secretary of State approves.

(*e*) In the case of every such ship registered after that date but before the 31st day of December 1974 a scale shall be marked either in accordance with paragraph (*c*) of this sub-section, or in accordance with paragraph (*d*) of this sub-section."

(3) In section 7(3) of the said Act of 1894 the words "of feet" shall be deleted.

(4) In section 436(1) of the said Act of 1894, the words "of feet" and "in feet and inches" shall be deleted.

3. The Pilotage Act 1913(**a**) is hereby adapted as follows:

In section 39(1)(*a*) the words "one inch broad and three inches long" shall be replaced by the words "twenty-five millimetres broad and seventy-five millimetres long".

Michael Heseltine,
Minister for Aerospace and Shipping,
Department of Trade and Industry.

27th November 1973.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note is not part of the Regulations.*)

These Regulations adapt certain measurement provisions of the Merchant Shipping Acts, dealing with the marking on ships' sides, to the metric scale.

(**a**) 2 & 3 Geo. 5. c. 31.

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