

“*The Merchant Shipping Act, 1873.*”

AN ACT to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts.

[5th August, 1873.]

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2. This Act shall be construed as one with “*The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854,*” and the Acts amending the same,

Construction
of Act.

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Registry (Part II. of “Merchant Shipping Act, 1854”).

3. Every British ship registered after the passing of this Act shall before registry, be permanently and conspicuously marked to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade, as follows :—

Particulars to
be marked on
British ships.

Her name shall be marked on each of her bows, and her name and the name of her port of registry shall be marked on her stern, on a dark ground in white or yellow letters, or on a light ground in black letters, such letters to be of a length not less than four inches, and of proportionate breadth :

Her official number and the number denoting her registered tonnage shall be cut in on her main beam :

A scale of feet denoting her draught of water shall be marked on each side of her stem and of her stern-post in Roman capital letters or in figures, not less than six inches in length, the lower line of such letters or figures to coincide with the draught line denoted thereby. Such letters or figures shall be marked by being cut in

36 & 37 Vict.,
c. 85.

and painted white or yellow on a dark ground, or in such other way as the Board of Trade may from time to time approve.

The Board of Trade may, however, exempt any class of ships from the requirements of this section or any of them.

If the scale of feet showing the ship's draught of water is in any respect inaccurate, so as to be likely to mislead, the owner of the ship shall incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

The marks required by this section shall be permanently continued, and no alteration shall be made therein, except in the event of any of the particulars thereby denoted being altered in the manner provided by the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1873.

Any owner or master of a British ship who neglects to cause his ship to be marked as aforesaid, or to keep her so marked, and any person who conceals, removes, alters, defaces, or obliterates, or suffers any person under his control to conceal, remove, alter, deface, or obliterate, any of the said marks, except in the event aforesaid, or except for the purpose of escaping capture by an enemy, shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds, and any officer of Customs on receipt of a certificate from a Surveyor or Inspector of the Board of Trade that a ship is insufficiently or inaccurately marked may detain the same until the insufficiency or inaccuracy has been remedied.

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Provided also that if any registered British ship is not within a port of the United Kingdom at any time before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, she shall be marked as by this section required within one month after her next return to a British port of registry subsequent to that date.

Particulars to
be entered in
record of
draught of
water.

4. The record of the draught of water of any sea-going ship required under section five of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1871," shall, in addition to the particulars thereby required, specify the extent of her clear side in feet and inches.

The term "clear side" means the height from the water to the upper side of the plank of the deck from which the depth of hold as stated in the register is measured, and the measurement of the clear side is to be taken at the lowest part of the side.

Every master of a sea-going ship shall, upon the request of any person appointed to record the ship's draught of water, permit such person to enter the ship and to make such inspections and take such measurements as may be requisite for the purpose of such record, and any master who fails so to do, or impedes or suffers any one under his control to impede any

person so appointed in the execution of his duty, shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding five pounds. 36 & 37 Vict., c. 85.

5. Where a foreign ship, not having at any previous time been registered as a British ship, becomes a British ship, no person shall apply to register and no Registrar shall knowingly register such ship, except by the name which she bore as a foreign ship immediately before becoming a British ship, unless with the permission of the Board of Trade granted in manner directed by section six of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1871." Rules as to names of foreign ships placed on British register.

Any person who acts or suffers any person under his control to act in contravention of this section shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

6. Where a ship has ceased to be registered as a British ship by reason of having been wrecked or abandoned, or for any reason other than capture by the enemy or transfer to a person not qualified to own a British ship, such ship shall not be re-registered until she has, at the expense of the applicant for registration, been surveyed by one of the surveyors appointed by the Board of Trade and certified by him to be seaworthy. Restrictions on re-registration of abandoned ships.

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