AMSA REGULATORY REVIEW

Draft Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025 is open for consultation until 31 March 2025

Who does this Order apply to?

Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 (MO19) gives effect to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (Tonnage Convention) and deals with the certification of vessels as evidence of compliance with the Tonnage Convention. The marine order applies to regulated Australian vessels, foreign vessels and to other vessels as prescribed.

Background

The International Tonnage Convention is applicable to all vessels ≥ 24m in tonnage length on international voyages. However, it has been identified that the current MO19 does not capture all Australian vessels to which the International Tonnage Convention applies. Consequently, the issuing body (AMSA or recognised organisations) is not provided with the necessary power to issue International Tonnage Certificates to Australian recreational vessels that are proceeding on an international voyage. MO19 therefore needs to be amended to provide the necessary power.

From time to time a DCV may need to undertake an overseas voyage for dry-docking, and when they do so they travel as a regulated Australian vessel (RAV). Providing an option for a domestic commercial vessel (DCV) owner to apply for an International Tonnage Certificate if they want to, will simplify the process for the owner and AMSA.

MO19 was last issued in 2014 and it is appropriate to have a full review of the marine order for any necessary updating and to reissue it in the current drafting style, which will improve its usability.

What are the key changes?

Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025 will be issued to provide the necessary power to the issuing body to issue an International Tonnage Certificates to Australian recreational vessels and will allow a DCV owner to apply for an International Tonnage Certificate if the owner so wishes. Other stylistic and editorial updates will be made as appropriate.

A summary of the main changes are:

- a. providing the necessary power to AMSA or a recognised organisation (RO) to issue International Tonnage Certificates to applicable Australian flagged vessels;
- b. providing an option for a DCV owner to apply for an International Tonnage Certificate if they want to; and
- c. making the marine order up to date, consistent with the current drafting style, and easy to understand.

Commencement

It is intended that Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025 will commence on 1 July 2025.

The table below compares the current Marine Order 19 (2014) and the draft Marine Order 19 (2025).

All Changes are vellow highlighted and deleted texts from the current MO19 are shown as strikethrough

Existing text of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 MO19 issue F2014L01101 (140811Z)		Tex	tt as modified by draft <i>Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025</i>	Reason
			MO19 issue 250130A	
1 1A 1B 2 3 4 5 6 7 Division 2 8 9 10 11 12 13 Division 3	Preliminary	1A 1B 2 3 4 5 6 7 Division 2 8 9 10 11 12 13 Division 3 14 Division 4	Name of Marine Order	Updated table as necessary.

Exis	ting text of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 MO19 issue F2014L01101 (140811Z)		Text as modified by draft <i>Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025</i> MO19 issue 250130A	Reason
Divis	ion 1 Preliminary	Divis	ion 1 Preliminary	
1	Name of Order This Order is Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014.	1	Name of Marine Order This Marine Order is Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement 2025	Issue date updated. Added the word "Marine" before the word "Order" throughout as appropriate.
1A	Commencement This Order commences on 1 September 2014.	1A	Commencement This Marine Order commences on 1 July 2025	Commencement date updated.
1B	Repeal of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2003 Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2003 is repealed.	1B	Repeal of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 is repealed.	Last issue date updated.
2	Purpose This Order: (a) gives effect to the Tonnage Convention; and (b) deals with the certification of vessels as evidence of compliance with the Tonnage Convention.	2	Purpose This Marine Order: (a) gives effect to the Tonnage Convention; and (b) deals with the certification of vessels as evidence of compliance with the Tonnage Convention.	Added the word "Marine" before the word "Order" throughout as appropriate.
3 (1)	 Power The following provisions of the Navigation Act provide for this Order to be made: (a) subsection 153(1) which provides that regulations may give effect to the Tonnage Convention and otherwise provide for the tonnage of vessels; (b) subsection 153(2) which provides that regulations may provide for the issuing of certificates, assigning tonnages to vessels and measuring of the tonnage of vessels; 	3 (1)	 Power The following provisions of the Navigation Act provide for this Marine Order to be made: (a) subsection 153(1) which provides that regulations may give effect to the Tonnage Convention and otherwise provide for the tonnage of vessels; (b) subsection 153(2) which provides that regulations may provide for the issuing of certificates, assigning tonnages to vessels and measuring of the tonnage of vessels; 	

Exis	ting text of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 MO19 issue F2014L01101 (140811Z)		Text as modified by draft <i>Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025</i> MO19 issue 250130A	Reason
(2)	 (c) section 314 which provides for particular matters relating to certificates; (d) paragraph 340(1)(e) which also provides that the regulations may give effect to the Tonnage Convention. Subsection 339(1) of the Navigation Act provides for regulations to be made prescribing matters required or permitted to be prescribed, or that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out or giving effect to the Navigation Act. Subsection 342(1) of the Navigation Act provides that AMSA may make a Marine Order about anything that may or must be made by regulation. 	(2) (3) (4)	 (c) section 314 which provides for particular matters relating to certificates; (d) paragraph 340(1)(e) which also provides that the regulations may give effect to the Tonnage Convention. Subsection 339(1) of the Navigation Act provides for regulations to be made prescribing matters required or permitted to be prescribed, or that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out or giving effect to the Navigation Act. Subsection 342(1) of the Navigation Act provides that AMSA may make a Marine Order about anything that may or must be made by regulation. Subsection 342(4) of the Navigation Act allows a Marine Order to provide for a matter by applying, 	New power added as appropriate to ensure
		_	adopting or incorporating any matter contained in any instrument or document in force or existing from time to time.	there is power to say, "as in force from time to time".
4	Definitions	4	Definitions	
	In this Order:		In this Marine Order:	
	repealed regulations means the Navigation (Tonnage Measurement) Regulations in force on 5 September 1994.		repealed regulations means the Navigation (Tonnage Measurement) Regulations in force on 5 September 1994.	
	Tonnage Convention country means a country or territory to which the Tonnage Convention applies.		Tonnage Convention country means a country or territory to which the Tonnage Convention applies.	
	Note 1 Some terms used in this Order are defined in Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013, including:		Note 1 Some terms used in this Marine Order are defined in Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013, including:	
	 Australian General Shipping Register 		 Australian General Shipping Register 	
	 Australian International Shipping Register 		 Australian International Shipping Register 	
	• IMO		• IMO	
	• MARPOL		• MARPOL	

Exi	Sting text of Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2014 MO19 issue F2014L01101 (140811Z)		Text as modified by draft <i>Marine Order 19 (Tonnage measurement) 2025</i> MO19 issue 250130A	Reason
	 SOLAS. Note 2 Other terms used in this Order are defined in the Navigation Act, including: International Tonnage Certificate (1969) recognised organisation regulated Australian vessel Tonnage Convention. Note 3 For delegation of AMSA's powers under this Order — see the AMSA website Marine Orders link at http://www.amsa.gov.au .		 SOLAS. Note 2 Other terms used in this Marine Order are defined in the Navigation Act, including: domestic commercial vessel International Tonnage Certificate (1969) recognised organisation recreational vessel regulated Australian vessel Tonnage Convention. Note 3 Information on obtaining any IMO document mentioned in this Marine Order is available from AMSA's website at www.amsa.gov.au. The text of the original Tonnage Convention, SOLAS and MARPOL, and any amendments in force, are accessible through the Australian Treaties Library on the AustLII website at www.austlii.edu.au Note 4 For delegation of AMSA's powers under this Marine Order — see the AMSA website Marine Orders link at www.amsa.gov.au. 	New definitions added as necessary. New Note 3 added directing to relevant websites for accessing IMO documents and conventions.
5	In this Order: (a) a reference in the Tonnage Convention to the Administration is taken to mean AMSA; and (b) a term that is used but not defined for this Order, and is defined in the Tonnage Convention, has the same meaning as given by the Tonnage Convention; and (c) a vessel is taken to have its keel laid when the lesser of 50 tonnes, or 1% of the estimated total mass of all structural material, of the vessel is assembled; and	5 (1) (2)	Interpretation For a provision of the Tonnage Convention applied, adopted or incorporated by this Marine Order, the Administration is: (a) for a regulated Australian vessel — AMSA; or (b) for a foreign vessel — the Administration of the country where the vessel is registered. If an expression used in this Marine Order is also used in a provision of an instrument (such as the Tonnage Convention) or other writing applied, adopted or incorporated by this Marine Order, the expression has the same meaning as in that instrument or other writing, unless the contrary intention appears.	Re-drafted for clarity and consistency with current drafting style.

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	(d) the unified interpretations of the Tonnage Convention, published by the IMO, are to be taken into account in complying with the requirements of the convention. Note for paragraph (a) AMSA has an agreement with each of the recognised organisations mentioned in Schedule 1 of Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013 for the provision of survey and certification services for vessels registered in Australia. These bodies are authorised to provide these services on behalf of AMSA.	(3)	A vessel is taken to have its keel laid when the lesser of 50 tonnes, or 1% of the estimated total mass of all structural material, of the vessel is assembled. The unified interpretations of the Tonnage Convention, published by the IMO, are to be taken into account in complying with the requirements of the convention. Note IMO circulars TM.5/Circ.6 and MSC.1/Circ.1546 are relevant	For simplification and consistency with other current MOs, removed the Note as not required. Added a new Note referring to relevant IMO circulars for unified interpretations.	
6	Application This Order applies to: (a) a regulated Australian vessel; and (b) other than Divisions 2 and 4 — a foreign vessel.	6	Application This Marine Order applies to: (a) a regulated Australian vessel; and (b) other than Divisions 2 and 4 — a foreign vessel; and (c) a vessel mentioned in section 16.	New subsection (c) added to capture other vessels as appropriate.	
7 (1)	Exemptions A person may apply, in accordance with the application process set out in <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> , for an exemption of a vessel mentioned in regulation 1(3) of Annex I of the Tonnage Convention from a requirement of this Order. AMSA may determine the tonnage of the vessel mentioned in subsection (1).		Exemptions A requirement of this Marine Order does not apply in tion to a regulated Australian vessel if AMSA, under this ion, exempts the vessel from the requirement. An owner of a regulated Australian vessel may apply to AMSA, in accordance with the application process set out in <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> , for an exemption of the vessel mentioned in regulation 1(3) of Annex I of the Tonnage Convention from a requirement of this Marine Order. AMSA may exempt the vessel in accordance with regulation 1(3) of Annex I of the Tonnage Convention if satisfied that:	Re-drafted the section for consistency with current drafting style. Specified the basis for the exemption.	

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			 (a) compliance with the requirement would be unreasonable or impracticable; and (b) giving the exemption would not contravene the Tonnage Convention. Note 1 Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013 deals with the following matters about exemptions: making an application seeking further information about an application the time allowed for consideration of an application imposing conditions on approval of an application notification of a decision on an application review of decisions 	
Divis	Division 2 Certificates issued under the Navigation Act		ion 2 Certificates issued under the Navigation Act	
8 (1) (2)	Certificates required A regulated Australian vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must have an International Tonnage Certificate (1969). However, subsection (1) does not apply if: (a) the vessel was previously registered in another Tonnage Convention country and has a certificate issued under Article 7 of the Tonnage Convention; and (b) within the previous 3 months, the vessel transferred to the Australian General Shipping Register or the Australian International Shipping Register.	8 (1) (2)	Certificates required A regulated Australian vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must have an International Tonnage Certificate (1969). However, subsection (1) does not apply if: (a) the vessel was previously registered in another Tonnage Convention country and has a certificate issued under Article 7 of the Tonnage Convention; and (b) within the previous 3 months, the vessel transferred to the Australian General Shipping Register or the Australian International Shipping Register.	
9 (1)	Applying for certificates For subsection 154(1) of the Navigation Act (which enables a person to apply to an issuing body for a	9 (1)	Applying for certificates For subsection 154(1) of the Navigation Act (which enables a person to apply to an issuing body for a	

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(2)	tonnage certificate specified in the regulations), an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) is specified. Division 3 of <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> (other than section 17) applies to an application to AMSA for a certificate mentioned in subsection (1). <i>Note</i> Division 3 of <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> prescribes some general rules about the making and determination of various kinds of applications. Section 17 of that Order provides for internal review of decisions about applications. That section does not apply to decisions about tonnage certificates because those decisions are reviewable under subsection 313(1) of the Navigation Act.	(2)	tonnage certificate specified in the regulations), an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) is specified. Division 3 of <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> (other than section 17) applies to an application to AMSA for a certificate mentioned in subsection (1). <i>Note</i> Division 3 of <i>Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013</i> prescribes some general rules about the making and determination of various kinds of applications. Section 17 of that Order provides for internal review of decisions about applications. That section does not apply to decisions about tonnage certificates because those decisions are reviewable under subsection 313(1) of the Navigation Act.	
10	Criteria for the issue of International Tonnage Certificates For paragraph 155(1)(b) of the Navigation Act, the criteria for issue of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) are that: (a) the tonnage of the vessel has been determined in accordance with Annex I of the Tonnage Convention; and (b) for a vessel mentioned in regulation 5(3) of Annex I of the Tonnage Convention — more than 12 months has elapsed since the issue of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969).	10	Criteria for the issue of International Tonnage Certificates For paragraph 155(1)(b) of the Navigation Act, the criteria for issue of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) are that: (a) the tonnage of the vessel has been determined in accordance with Annex I of the Tonnage Convention; and (b) for a vessel mentioned in regulation 5(3) of Annex I of the Tonnage Convention — more than 12 months has elapsed since the issue of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969).	
11	Conditions of International Tonnage Certificates For paragraph 155(2)(a) of the Navigation Act, an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) is subject to the condition that if the gross or net tonnage of the vessel is increased because its arrangement, construction, capacity, use of spaces, total number of passengers permitted to carry, assigned load line or	11	Conditions of International Tonnage Certificates For paragraph 155(2)(a) of the Navigation Act, an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) is subject to the condition that if the gross or net tonnage of the vessel is increased because its arrangement, construction, capacity, use of spaces, total number of passengers permitted to carry, assigned load line or	

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	permitted draught is altered, the owner must apply for the tonnage of the vessel to be re-determined.		permitted draught is altered, the owner must apply for the tonnage of the vessel to be re-determined.	
12	Duration of certificates	12	Duration of certificates	
	An International Tonnage Certificate (1969) ceases to be in force:		An International Tonnage Certificate (1969) ceases to be in force:	
	(a) in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Tonnage Convention; or		(a) in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Tonnage Convention; or	
	(b) if the owner is required to apply for redetermination of tonnage in accordance with section 11.		(b) if the owner of the vessel is required to apply for re-determination of tonnage in accordance with section 11.	
13	Criteria for the revocation of certificates	13	Criteria for the revocation of certificates	
	For section 157 of the Navigation Act, the criteria for revocation of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) are that:		For section 157 of the Navigation Act, the criteria for revocation of an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) are that:	
	(a) a condition of the certificate has been breached; or		(a) a condition of the certificate has been breached; or	
	(b) the owner of the vessel asks in writing that the vessel's certificate be revoked.		(b) the owner of the vessel asks in writing that the vessel's certificate be revoked.	
Divis	ion 3 Requirements for foreign vessels	Divis	ion 3 Requirements for foreign vessels	
14	Requirements for foreign vessels to which the Tonnage Convention applies	14	Requirements for foreign vessels to which the Tonnage Convention applies	
(1)	A foreign vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must have an International Tonnage Certificate (1969).	(1)	A foreign vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must have an International Tonnage Certificate (1969).	
(2)	A foreign vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must comply with the requirements of the Tonnage Convention that apply to the vessel.	(2)	A foreign vessel to which the Tonnage Convention applies must comply with the requirements of the Tonnage Convention that apply to the vessel.	

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Divis	sion 4 Gross tonnage measurement for certain regulated Australian vessels	Divis	sion 4 Gross tonnage measurement for certain regulated Australian vessels	
15	 Tonnage measurement in accordance with repealed regulations Gross tonnage measured in accordance with the repealed regulations may be used: (a) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 1 January 1986 — to determine the application of requirements of SOLAS; or (b) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 18 July 1994 — to determine the requirements of regulation 3 of Chapter IV of SOLAS as in force before 1 February 1992; or (c) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 18 July 1994 — to determine the application of requirements of MARPOL. 	15	 Tonnage measurement in accordance with repealed regulations Gross tonnage measured in accordance with the repealed regulations may be used: (a) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 1 January 1986 — to determine the application of requirements of SOLAS; or (b) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 18 July 1994 — to determine the requirements of regulation 3 of Chapter IV of SOLAS as in force before 1 February 1992; or (c) for a regulated Australian vessel with keel laid before 18 July 1994 — to determine the application of requirements of MARPOL. 	
		Divis	sion 5 Other matters	
		16	Prescribed vessels For paragraph 151(c) of the Navigation Act, the following are prescribed: (a) a domestic commercial vessel; (b) a recreational vessel with Australian nationality. Note A vessel mentioned in this provision may apply for an International Tonnage Certificate (1969) in accordance with section 9.	New provision added under new division allowing an Australian recreational vessel and a DCV to apply for the International Tonnage Certificate. Now the issuing body will have the power to issue the certificate to the relevant vessel.

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	MO19 issue 250130A	
Note 1. All legislative instruments and compilations are registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments kept under the <i>Legislative Instruments Act 2003</i> . See http://www.frli.gov.au .	Note 1. All legislative instruments and compilations of legislative instruments are registered on the Federal Register of Legislation under the <i>Legislation Act</i> 2003. See www.legislation.gov.au .	Updated the website address.