

**MARKING OF SHIPS ACT**

**CHAPTER 50:09**

**Act**  
**45 of 1945**

**Current Authorised Pages**

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**Note on Subsidiary Legislation**

This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation.

**CHAPTER 50:09**

**MARKING OF SHIPS ACT**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**SECTION**

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CHAPTER 50:09

MARKING OF SHIPS ACT

1950 Ed.  
Ch. 18 No. 4.  
45 of 1945.

**An Act to make provision for Identification Marks on Ships belonging to Trinidad and Tobago.**

Commencement.

[22ND DECEMBER 1945]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Marking of Ships Act.

Marking of ships.

2. (1) The following requirements shall be complied with by the owner and master of any ship to which this Act applies:

- (a) the ship shall have painted on each side of the hull and, if it is a sailing vessel, on each side of the mainsail, the letter "T" and a serial number assigned by the Harbour Master of the harbour of Port-of-Spain, hereinafter referred to as the Harbour Master;
- (b) every letter "T" and serial number painted on the sides and mainsail of any ship under the requirements of paragraph (a) shall at all times be kept visible.

(2) (a) The letter "T" referred to in subsection (1) shall be painted as a block letter and the serial number mentioned therein in Arabic numerals.

(b) The breadth of the outline of the letter "T" and of each numeral shall be one hundred and fifty millimetres.

(c) The height and the maximum width of the letter "T" shall be seven hundred and fifty millimetres.

(d) The height of each numeral shall be seven hundred and fifty millimetres and the width of each numeral shall be as follows:

No.	0	...	...	...	...	600 millimetres
"	1	...	...	...	...	150 "
"	2	...	...	...	...	600 "
"	3	...	...	...	...	600 "
"	4	...	...	...	...	650 "
"	5	...	...	...	...	600 "
"	6	...	...	...	...	685 "
"	7	...	...	...	...	530 "
"	8	...	...	...	...	600 "
"	9	...	...	...	...	600 "

(e) Each numeral shall be three hundred millimetres apart from any other numeral.

(f) The row of numerals shall be centred four hundred millimetres below the letter “T”; but where there is insufficient space to admit of the numerals being centred four hundred millimetres below the letter “T”, the numerals may be centred three hundred and eighty millimetres abreast and to the right of the letter “T”.

(g) The letter “T” and the serial number shall be painted in white or yellow on a dark ground or in black on a light ground.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), if in the case of any particular ship to which this Act applies there is insufficient space on the hull or mainsail thereof to admit of the letter “T” and the serial number assigned thereto being of the dimensions provided for by this section, the Harbour Master may authorise and require such reduction of the dimensions as he may think fit and every owner and master of any such ship shall comply with the requirement.

**3.** This Act shall apply to the following ships:

- (a) sailing vessels belonging to Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) vessels registered under the Harbours Act;
- (c) vessels registered under the Droghers Act;
- (d) vessels engaged in the fishing industry of Trinidad and Tobago;
- (e) power-driven vessels the gross tonnage of which is less than one thousand tonnes belonging to Trinidad and Tobago;

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but shall not apply to—

- (i) any vessel owned by the State; or
- (ii) any vessel privately owned and used solely for pleasure.

Application for number to be made and ship to be marked therewith.

**4.** The owner or master of any ship to which this Act applies shall—

- (a) immediately after 22nd December 1945 (the date of commencement of this Act) or, in the case of a ship which is acquired after that date, immediately after being so acquired, apply in writing to the Harbour Master for a number to be assigned to the ship, and the owner or master shall in the application give the name and description of the ship;
- (b) as soon as a number has been assigned by the Harbour Master under paragraph (a), cause the ship to be marked in the manner required by section 2 if the ship is then in Trinidad and Tobago and if it is not in Trinidad and Tobago immediately as it arrives in Trinidad and Tobago,

but any ship marked in accordance with the Defence (Marking of Ships) Regulations 1943 shall be deemed to be marked in accordance with this Act.\*

Power of Harbour Master to grant exemption from requirements of section 2.

**5.** The Harbour Master or any person authorised by him and acting on his behalf may exempt any ship from all or any of the requirements specified in section 2.

Liability of owners and masters.

**6.** The owner and master of any ship to which this Act applies shall be liable for any contravention of this Act or any requirement imposed thereunder; but it shall be a good defence to any prosecution against either of them to prove that such contravention occurred without his knowledge or consent and that he could not have prevented the same by the exercise of due diligence.

Penalty.

**7.** Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or any requirement imposed thereunder is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

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\*See R.G. 30.3.1943.