



Department for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
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Dear Mr Waddell,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2015 to the Prime Minister requesting that the UK Government urgently ratifies the Hong Kong International Convention. Your letter has been transferred to the Department for Transport and I am replying as the matter of policy for recycling of ships is the responsibility of this Department.

The Government supports this Convention, but as a general rule our policy is to accede to International Conventions once our domestic legislation is in place, rather than to ratify Conventions in advance. In the meantime, we will continue to apply existing ship recycling legislation, notably the requirements under the EU Waste Shipment Regulations, until we have fully implemented the new EU Ship Recycling Regulation (EU 1257/2013).

For ships flagged in EU countries, the new European Regulation applies similar standards on ship recycling facilities and on ship owners that would apply under the Hong Kong International Convention. The Government has already implemented the requirements which affect UK ship recycling facilities; amending the permitting and authorisation regime which allows these facilities to be added to the European list of approved ship recycling facilities.

We are now in the process of implementing the remaining aspects of the EU Regulation into domestic legislation. This would require all ships calling at ports in the EU to carry an inventory of hazardous materials and would restrict or prohibit the installation of new hazardous materials. A new survey, certification, enforcement and penalties regime will also be introduced, and ships flagged in EU countries will need to be recycled at an approved facility on the European list.

Once the provisions of the EU Regulation have been fully implemented, our focus will shift to ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention as we will then have all necessary domestic legislation in place.

y - sincerely

Patrick McLoughlin

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN