

RECOGNITION OF LOAD-LINE CERTIFICATES

*Exchange of notes at Tokyo February 13, March 19 and 30, August 25,
and September 7, 1931*

Entered into force August 25, 1931

*Terminated September 11, 1935, upon entry into force for the United
States and Japan of convention of July 5, 1930¹*

47 Stat. 2678; Executive Agreement Series 25

The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 46

TOKYO, February 13, 1931

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to advert to the Embassy's note No. 194, dated August 24, 1922, proposing an arrangement between the Governments of the United States and Japan for the reciprocal recognition of ship load-line certificates pending the enactment of suitable legislation by the United States, and to the note No. 147, dated October 25, 1922, of Your Excellency's predecessor, Count Uchida, expressing the readiness of the Imperial Government to recognize certificates of this nature issued to American vessels. I now have the honor to inform Your Excellency that a law, entitled "An Act to Establish load-lines for American vessels, and for other purposes", was enacted by the Congress of the United States, and became effective September 2, 1930.²

Your Excellency will recall that our respective Governments, together with other interested Governments, entered into an international load-line convention, which was signed at London on July 5, 1930. I am now instructed to inquire whether Your Excellency's Government would be willing to continue the arrangement in respect of ship load-line certificates made between our two Governments in 1922, pending the coming into force of the above-mentioned convention of July 5, 1930.

In transmitting herewith a copy of the "Regulations for the Establishment of Load-lines for Merchant Vessels of 250 Gross Tons or Over When Engaged in a Foreign Voyage by Sea",³ I have the honor to request Your

¹ TS 858, *ante*, vol. 2, p. 1076.

² 45 Stat. 1492.

³ Not printed here.

Excellency to be so kind as to supply me with a copy of the Japanese laws and regulations (with official English translations if they be available), pertaining to load-lines of merchant vessels.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

EUGENE H. DOOMAN

His Excellency

Baron KIJURO SHIDEHARA,

*His Imperial Japanese Majesty's
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.*

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim*

[TRANSLATION]

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TOKYO, March 19, 1931

No. 30/C1

MONSIEUR LE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Embassy's note dated February 13, 1931, informing me, with reference to the arrangement made between our two Governments in 1922 in respect of ship load-line certificates, that a law entitled "An Act to Establish Load-lines for American vessels, and for other purposes" has been enacted, and became effective September 2, 1930, and inquiring whether or not the Japanese Government would be willing to continue the above-mentioned arrangement of 1922 pending the coming into force of the International Ship Load-line Convention, which was signed at London on July 5, 1930.

When the notes were exchanged between the Japanese and American Governments in 1922, no ship load-line law had been enacted in the United States, and the question of the recognition by the United States of load-line certificates of Japanese ships was not raised. Consequently, no definite arrangement was made regarding this matter, the Japanese Government merely undertaking unilaterally to recognize certificates issued by the American Bureau of Shipping, pending the enactment in the United States of a law regulating ship load-lines.

I wish to be assured, and request that you indicate in reply, that you have no objection to my interpreting your note, above-mentioned, to mean that pending the coming into force of the International Ship Load-line Conven-

tion, the Japanese Government will continue the arrangement of 1922 while the American Government will also recognize as valid load-line certificates duly issued by the competent Japanese authorities or by officially designated shipping associations, and their corresponding marks.

Pending the receipt of your reply, the Japanese Government will continue to regard the arrangement of 1922 as effective, and I trust that the American Government will also recognize as valid the ship load-line certificates issued by the competent Japanese authorities or by officially designated shipping associations, and their corresponding marks.

In compliance with your request, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the laws and ordinances, together with a copy in translation, relating to ship load-lines.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires, the assurance of my highest consideration.

BARON KIJURO SHIDEHARA [SEAL]
Minister for Foreign Affairs

EDWIN L. NEVILLE, Esquire,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
of the Embassy of the United States of America,
Tokyo.

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 59

TOKYO, *March 30, 1931*

EXCELLENCY:

In reply to Your Excellency's note No. 30, dated March 19, 1931, informing me that the Japanese Government will continue to recognize certificates of load-line issued by the American Bureau of Shipping to American vessels, pending the coming into force of the International Ship Load-line Convention signed at London on July 5, 1930, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the United States is recognizing the load-line marks approved by the Japanese Government.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

W. CAMERON FORBES

His Excellency
 Baron KIJURO SHIDEHARA,
His Imperial Japanese Majesty's
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 136

TOKYO, *August 25, 1931*

EXCELLENCY:

With reference to my Note No. 59, of March 30, 1931, informing Your Excellency that the Government of the United States will recognize as valid load-line certificates duly issued by the competent Japanese authorities or by officially designated shipping associations, and their corresponding marks, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have received a communication from my Government confirming the assurances already given in my Note No. 59, of March 30, 1931.

I am further directed to inform Your Excellency that my Government has accepted the proposal of the Japanese Government to continue the present arrangement whereby load-lines of American vessels assigned by the American Bureau of Shipping are accepted by Japanese authorities as complying with their load-line requirements. I am also instructed to inform Your Excellency that my Government has authorized in particular cases the marking of load-lines and the issuance of certificates therefor, on American vessels, by the American Committee of Lloyds' Register of Shipping and by the American representatives of the Bureau Veritas, which my Government would desire to have the Japanese authorities recognize.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

W. CAMERON FORBES

His Excellency

Baron KIJURO SHIDEHARA,

*His Imperial Japanese Majesty's**Minister for Foreign Affairs,**etc., etc., etc.*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TOKYO, *September 7, 1931*

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your notes of March 30 and August 25, 1931, regarding mutual recognition between Japan and the United States of load-line certificates.

Besides recognizing the load-line certificates issued by the American Bureau of Shipping to American ships, the Imperial Government has no objection

to recognizing the load-line certificates issued to American ships by the American committee of Lloyds' Registry of Shipping and the American representative of the Bureau of Veritas in so far only as they are issued under authority granted by Your Excellency's Government.

For purposes of reference it is desired to have at hand forms of the certificates issued by the American committee of Lloyds' Registry of Shipping and by the American representatives of the Bureau Veritas, and I have therefore the honor to request that copies be transmitted to me as soon as possible.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

BARON KIJURO SHIDEHARA [SEAL]
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Honorable
W. CAMERON FORBES,
American Ambassador, etc.