

RECOGNITION OF LOAD-LINE CERTIFICATES

Exchange of notes at Brussels October 7, 1931, and February 4 and April 19, 1932

Entered into force April 19, 1932

*Terminated August 29, 1935*¹

47 Stat. 2736; Executive Agreement Series 40

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BRUSSELS, *October 7, 1931*

No. 708

MR. MINISTER,

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's note of March 31, 1931, (Direction Générale B., Section I.B./Communications, No. C.24/1081) pertaining to the conclusion between the Governments of Belgium and the United States of a reciprocal agreement concerning ship load lines.

Pursuant to instructions from my Government, I now have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the substance of this note and the text of the excerpt of the Belgian law of August 25, 1920, submitted therewith, have been examined by the competent authorities of my Government.

In answer to the inquiry whether the American Government does not share the view of the Belgian Minister of Transports that the reciprocal agreement concerning the inspection of vessels, existing between the two countries since June 1, 1922, would be applicable to the control of load lines, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the competent authorities of my Government do not believe that this agreement could be interpreted to cover load lines, and that they consider it would be preferable to negotiate a separate arrangement.

The Government of the United States has taken due notice of the Belgian law which provides that "the freeboard of vessels shall be determined in accordance with the rules and freeboard tables of the French Bureau Veritas or of Lloyds Registry of Shipping, or in accordance with rules and tables recognized as equivalent thereto."

¹ Upon entry into force for the United States and Belgium of International Load Line Convention of July 5, 1930 (TS 858, *ante*, vol. 2, p. 1076).