Article 16

Entry into Force

(1) The present Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than 15 States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have become parties to it in accordance with Article 13.

(2) An optional Annex shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which the conditions stipulated in paragraph (1) of this Article have been satisfied in relation to that Annex.

(3) The Organization shall inform the States which have signed or acceded to the present Convention of the date on which it enters into force and of the date on which an optional Annex enters into force in accordance with paragraph (2) of this Article.*

(4) For States which have deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in respect of the present Convention

* The Drafting Committee may consider that this paragraph should be transferred to Article 20 as suggested in Footnote 1/ of MP/CONF/DA/9.
or any optional Annex after the requirements for entry into force thereof have been met but prior to the date of entry into force, the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall take effect on the date of entry into force of the Convention or such Annex or three months after the date of deposit of the instrument whichever is the later date.

(5) For States which have deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession after the date on which the Convention or an optional Annex entered into force, the Convention or the optional Annex shall become effective three months after the date of deposit of the instrument.

(6) After the date on which all the conditions required under Article 17 to bring an amendment to the present Convention or an optional Annex into force have been fulfilled, any instrument of ratification or accession deposited shall apply to the Convention or Annex as amended.