

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF THE MARITIME TRANSPORT RED TAPE CHALLENGE

In November 2011, the Department for Transport launched the Maritime theme of the Government's Red Tape Challenge programme to reduce burdens for industry and taxpayers. Following a rigorous process of challenge, stakeholder engagement and public consultation, the results were announced today in the Budget - 63% of the regulations in scope have been identified to be scrapped or improved.

As part of the Red Tape Challenge process, the Department looked to reduce regulatory burdens and costs to the maritime sector without compromising competitiveness or operational safety and security. The Department also examined whether the more historic maritime legislation was fit for purpose and suited to today's wider maritime needs.

Through the Red Tape Challenge process the Department identified 196 international and domestic maritime regulations. Of these, the Department proposes to scrap or improve nearly two thirds.

Amongst the measures being pursued, the Department intends to:

- as soon as Parliamentary time allows, amend the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 so there is a clear power to, where appropriate, give effect to international conventions by ambulatory incorporation by reference. This is a key ask by industry and would help to speed up implementation of international conventions; it would mean industry only has to familiarise itself with convention text rather than also having to refer to national legislation implementing (and sometimes interpreting) the convention; and it would allow for a radical simplification and consolidation of the existing maritime legislative framework.
- simplify a number of other regulations through consolidation in areas such as ship safety; areas governing the health and safety standards for seafarers on merchant ships and fishing vessels including seafarer living and working conditions and training requirements; and areas which prevent the pollution of the marine environment from substances such as oil, sewage and garbage;
- improve a number of other regulations to reduce regulatory burdens and costs in such areas as Boat Masters' Licences, Large Yachts and the regulation of commercial vessel used for sport or pleasure and of small workboats; and
- scrap a number of lapsed or redundant regulations

The detailed breakdown being proposed is:

	Scrap	Improve	Keep
Number	30	93	73
Approximate Percentage	15%	47%	37%

The full list of regulations that the Department is proposing to scrap or improve is available [here](#).

More information on the Red Tape Challenge is available at by clicking [here](#).