



USA No. 1 (2026)

Exchange of Letters

on the Amendments to the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Conformity for Marine Equipment

Washington, 1 and 2 September 2026

[The Agreement is not in force]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of His Majesty
October 2026*



© Crown copyright 2026

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/official-documents

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at Treaty Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH

ISBN 978-1-5286-6852-1
E03703795 10/26

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Global on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

**EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES OF
CONFORMITY FOR MARINE EQUIPMENT**

Letter No. 1

British Embassy Washington to The Deputy United States Trade Representative

Washington

1 September 2026

Dear Ambassador Goettman

I have the honour to refer to the amendment discussions held under the auspices of the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Conformity for Marine Equipment, done at Washington on 14 February 2019 ("Agreement").

As a result of these discussions, I have the honour to propose that the following amendments shall be made to the Agreement with effect from the date when this exchange of letters comes into force:

- (a) "2025" shall replace "2016" in paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), of Article I (Definitions). In addition, the phrase "as amended" shall be deleted. Accordingly, paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), of Article 1 shall read as follows:

"Certificate of Conformity" means the document or documents issued by a Conformity Assessment Body of a Party certifying that a product fulfills the relevant legislative, regulatory, and administrative requirements of that Party. In the United States, this is the Certificate of Type Approval issued by the United States Coast Guard. In the United Kingdom, these are the certificates, approvals, or declarations provided for by the Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 2025.

- (b) The phrase " with a legal personality in the United Kingdom and" shall be added to paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), of Article 6 (Conformity Assessment Bodies) immediately after the phrase "The United States recognizes the Conformity Assessment Bodies". In addition, "2025" shall replace "2016". In addition, the phrase "as amended" shall be deleted. Accordingly, paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), of Article 6 shall

read as follows:

The United States recognizes the Conformity Assessment Bodies with a legal personality in the United Kingdom and designated by the United Kingdom in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 2025; and

- (c) The phrase "conformity assessment procedures performed on products in" shall be deleted from paragraph 1 of Article 19 (Territorial Application) in both instances. Accordingly, paragraph 1 of Article 19 shall read as follows:

This Agreement applies, on the one hand, to the territory of the United Kingdom, and, on the other hand, to the territory of the United States.

- (d) The phrase "products installed on" shall be deleted from paragraph 2 of Article 19 (Territorial Application). In addition, the term "either" shall replace the phrase "one or more". Accordingly, paragraph 2 of Article 19 shall read as follows:

Without prejudice to paragraph 1, this Agreement applies to ships entitled to fly the flag of either of the Parties, operating in international voyages, regardless of where they are located.

- (e) The phrase "accepted by" shall replace the phrase "performed in the territory of 'as it now appears in Article 20 (Agreements with Other Countries). Accordingly, Article 20 shall read as follows:

Except where the Parties agree otherwise in writing, no mutual recognition that one Party concludes with a non-Party (third party) shall be construed to require the other Party to accept the results of conformity assessment procedures accepted by the third party.

- (f) "2025" shall replace "2016" in the paragraph on UK legislation, regulations and administrative provisions in Annex 1 (Legislation, Regulations and Administrative Provisions) to the Agreement. In addition, the phrase "as amended" immediately after the phrase "The Merchant Shipping Marine Equipment Regulations 2025" shall be deleted. In addition, "<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2025/1280/contents/made>" shall replace "<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1025/contents>".

Accordingly, this paragraph of Annex I shall read as follows:

Legislation, regulations, and administrative provisions of the United Kingdom:

- o The Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 2025.
- o Regulations available:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2025/1280/contents/made> to Merchant Shipping Notice 1874 as amended
- o Additional guidance posted on:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-marine-equipment-regulations>

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to your Government, I have the further honour to propose that this letter and your Government's letter in reply stating that it agrees with the above shall together constitute an agreement to amend the Agreement in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 2 thereof, in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The agreement to amend the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications by our two Governments of completion of their respective requirements and procedures required for entry into force and the amendments shall accordingly take effect on that date.

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

Letter No. 2

The Deputy United States Trade Representative to the British Embassy Washington

*Washington
2 September 2026*

Dear Ambassador Turner,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 1, 2026, concerning the amendment discussions held under the auspices of the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Conformity for Marine Equipment, done at Washington

on 14 February 2019 ("Agreement"), which reads as follows:

‘As Above’

I have the further honor to confirm that my Government shares this understanding and that your letter and this letter in reply shall constitute an agreement to amend the Agreement in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 2 thereof, which shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications by our two Governments of completion of their respective requirements and procedures required for entry into force, and that the amendments shall accordingly take effect on that date.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

E03703795

978-1-5286-6852-1