



## IMO's New Rule on Electronic Information Exchange

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International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has mandated new rules for national governments to introduce electronic information exchange between ships and ports

- The new rules took effect from 8th of April 2019 and, seeks to make cross-border trade simpler and the logistics chain more efficient.
- The requirement, mandatory under IMO's Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention), is part of amendments under the revised Annex to the FAL Convention, adopted in 2016.

### FAL Convention

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- The Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (**FAL Convention**) was adopted in **1965**.
- The main objective of the convention is to **achieve the most efficient maritime transport as possible, looking for smooth transit in ports of ships, cargo, and passengers**.
- The Facilitation Convention **encourages the use of a "single window" for data**, to enable all the information required by public authorities in connection with the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo, to be submitted via a single portal, without duplication.
- Under the requirement for **electronic data exchange, all national authorities should now have provision for electronic exchange of this information**.

### India's Initiatives

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- India launched a Port Community System — 'PCS1x'— at ports in December 2018.
- Port Community System (PCS1x) is a cloud-based new generation technology, with a user-friendly interface.
- This system will enable maritime trade to have improved communication with the customs.

## **International Maritime Organization**

- The International Maritime Organization is a **specialized agency of the United Nations**.
- **IMO is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships.**
- It is also involved in legal matters, including liability and compensation issues and the facilitation of international maritime traffic.
- It was established by means of a Convention adopted under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva on 17 March 1948 and met for the first time in January 1959.
- **It currently has 174 Member States.**