

**Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)
Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards**

Annex LVI: Tonnage Categories.

(approved by CWP-9, 1977)

The size of the vessel can be measured as 'tonnage'. The unit is 'Gross tonnage' [GT] (obligatory for all vessels above 24 m in length) while for smaller vessels the unit may be Gross Register Tonnage [GRT].

Gross Tonnage: The Gross Tonnage refers to the volume of all ship's enclosed spaces (from keel to funnel) measured to the outside of the hull framing. This measure is obligatory since 1994 for ships of 24 meters in length and over.

Gross Register Tonnage: The Gross Register Tonnage represented the total measured cubic content of the permanently enclosed spaces of a vessel, with some allowances or deductions for exempt spaces such as living quarters (1 gross register ton = 100 cubic feet = 2.83 cubic meters).

Division code	Group Codes	Tonnage lower limit	Tonnage upper limit
01		0	0.9
02		1	24.9
	021	1	4.9
	022	5	9.9
	023	10	14.9
	024	15	19.9
	025	20	24.9
03		25	49.9
04		50	99.9
05		100	149.9
06		150	249.9
	061	150	199.9
	062	200	249.9
07		250	499.9
	071	250	299.9

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Division code	Group Codes	Tonnage lower limit	Tonnage upper limit
	072	300	349.9
	073	350	399.9
	074	400	449.9
	075	450	499.9
08		500	999.9
	081	500	599.9
	082	600	699.9
	083	700	799.9
	084	800	899.9
	085	900	999.9
09		1 000	1999.9
10		2000	3 999.9
	101	2000	2999.9
	102	3 000	3 999.9
11		4 000	9999.9
	111	4 000	4999.9
	112	5 000	5 999.9
	113	6 000	6999.9
	114	7 000	7999.9
	115	8 000	8999.9
	116	9 000	9999.9
12		10 000	99999.9
	121	10 000	19999.9
	122	20 000	29999.9
	123	30 000	39999.9
	124	40 000	49999.9
	125	50 000	99999.9

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History: In international law, as well as in practice, several systems of tonnage measurement have existed side by side. Traditionally, records of measurements of a ship's size were expressed in tons of 100 cubic feet each (GRT); tonnage was used as a basis for taxes, berthing, docking, passage through canals, and other facilities. However, the method of tonnage measurement has evolved and differs considerably from country to country. A number of international meetings on the subject concluded with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, held in London in 1969. The Convention, commonly known as the 1969 Tonnage Convention, entered into force in July 1982, though existing ships were not required to comply with the Convention until July 1994. At that time, gross tonnage, as defined by the 1969 London Convention, became obligatory for all vessels of 24 meters in length and over, and engaged in international voyages. Until 1994 the system of tonnage defined by the Oslo Convention (1947, using the Gross Register Ton GRT as unit of measurement) continued to be valid.

Although the London Convention has been adopted for vessels of 24 meters in length and over, for many vessels only data by the Oslo Convention are available. The situation varies from country to country, as measuring units defined at national level can also be used to determine the tonnage of vessels operating without an international tonnage certificate.

The two conventions produce very different tonnage values. Although GT measurement is higher than GRT, there is no simple correlation between the two units (GT is often double the GRT, but sometimes as much as four times the GRT).

The magnitude of the task of reaching international agreement on standardized measurement units, of introducing these units into national regulations, of re-measuring all fishing vessels is a very lengthy, complex and costly process.

Based on the international convention in use, FAO fleet data on the vessel tonnage are measured according to the Oslo Convention (1947) expressing data by Gross Register Tonnage (GRT) until 1995; and according to the London Convention (1969) expressing data in Gross Tonnage (GT) since 1996.