



Marine Notice No. 65 of 2024

Notice to all Shipowners, Shipmasters, and Seafarers

Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 2016, 2018 and 2022 Amendments to the Convention

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC) was adopted at the 94th International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Maritime Session in Geneva, on 23 February 2006. The Convention seeks to ensure that the employment and social rights of Seafarers are fully implemented. Please see below amendments that have been made to the MLC in 2016, 2018 and 2022, that all shipowners and seafarers should be aware of. While the 2016 and 2018 amendments are already in force, it is worth noting that the 2022 amendments will enter into force internationally on 23 December 2024. It is expected that, where appropriate, these amendments will be placed on a statutory footing in 2025.

2016 Amendments to the Convention

Amendments to the Guidelines B4.3.1 and B4.3.6 of the MLC were adopted in 2016 and entered into force on 8 January 2019. In summary, when implementing Standard A4.3 Health and Safety Protection and Accident Prevention, employers and employees should have regard to the [Guidance on the Elimination of Shipboard Harassment and Bullying](#) which was jointly published by the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers' Federation.

In addition to the amendments mentioned above, changes have also been made to the Maritime Labour Certificate to allow for an extension to the current certificate where the renewal certificate cannot be immediately issued. A copy of the amended wording to the Maritime Labour Certificate can be found in Appendix 1 to this Marine Notice.

Information on the amendments to the Convention made in 2016 can be found on the ILO website [here](#).

2018 Amendments to the Convention

Amendments to Standard A2.1, Standard A2.2 and Guideline B2.5.1 were adopted on 5 June 2018 and entered into force on 26 December 2020. The amendments introduced several important changes aimed at enhancing the protection of seafarers in situations of piracy and armed robbery against the ship.

In **Standard A2.1 Seafarers' Employment Agreements**, amendments have been made to ensure that a seafarer's employment agreement remains in effect while they are held captive due to acts of *piracy* or armed robbery against the ship, even if the seafarer's employment agreement expiry date has passed.

For the purpose of that Standard, "piracy" is defined in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;*
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;**
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;*
- (c) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b)."*

In **Standard A2.2 Wages and Entitlements**, the amendments ensure that during acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, shipowners are required to continue paying wages and other entitlements to seafarers during the entire period of captivity either on board or off until they are released and/or repatriated, or until the seafarer's death should it occur during captivity.

In **Guideline B2.5.1, Repatriation Rights**, amendments have been made noting that the right to repatriation does not lapse for seafarers held captive due to piracy or armed robbery against ships.

Information on the amendments to the Convention made in 2018 can be found on the ILO website [here](#).

2022 Amendments to the Convention

The amendments to the Code in 2022 introduced several amendments aimed at improving the welfare and working conditions of seafarers onboard ships. These amendments were adopted in May 2022 and will enter into force on 23 December 2024.

In **Standard A3.2 Food and Catering**, the 2022 amendments introduce specific changes to the standards for food and catering on board ships. In particular, shipowners are required to provide food and drinking water free of charge to all seafarers and ensure that the food, in

addition to the requirements already in place, is nutritious and balanced. In addition, shipmasters are responsible for routinely inspecting the food and water supplies to ensure they meet the necessary standards for quantity, nutritional value, quality, and variety.

The amendment set out in **Standard A3.1 Accommodation and Recreational Facilities** places an obligation on the shipowner to provide social connectivity to seafarers on board the ship as part of the provision of recreational facilities, amenities and services.

A new paragraph 8 in **Guideline B3.1.11 Recreational Facilities, Mail and Ship Visit Arrangements** provides that shipowners should, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide seafarers on board their ships with internet access, with charges, if any, being reasonable in amount.

A new paragraph 5 in **Guideline B4.1.3 Medical Care Ashore** lists the instances in which seafarers should be considered to be in need of immediate medical care.

In **Standard A4.3, Health and Safety Protection and Accident Prevention**, an amendment has been made to ensure seafarers are provided with appropriately designed and sized personal protective equipment (PPE).

Further amendments have been made to **Appendices A2-1 and A4-1 Evidence of Financial Security** which required the inclusion of the name of the shipowner, or the registered owner if different from the shipowner. The full list of required information for both Appendices of the convention are available in the Appendices to this Marine Notice.

Information on the amendments to the Convention made in 2022 can be found on the ILO website [here](#).

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

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17/12/2024

Encl: Appendix 1: Amendment to Appendix A5–II – Maritime Labour Certificate

Appendix 2: Amendments to Appendix A2-1, Evidence of financial security under Regulation 2.5, paragraph 2 of the Code

Appendix 3: Amendment to Appendix A4-1, Evidence of financial security under Regulation 4.2 of the Code.

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
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Appendix 1: Appendix A5-II – Maritime Labour Certificate

This is to certify that, following a renewal inspection, the ship was found to continue to be in compliance with national laws and regulations or other measures implementing the requirements of this Convention, and that the present certificate is hereby extended, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Standard A5.1.3, until (not more than five months after the expiry date of the existing certificate) to allow for the new certificate to be issued to and made available on board the ship.

Completion date of the renewal inspection on which this extension is based was:
.....

Signed:.....
(Signature of authorized official)

Place:.....

Date:

(Seal or stamp of the authority, as appropriate)

Appendix 2: Amendments to Appendix A2-1, Evidence of financial security under Regulation 2.5, paragraph 2 of the Code

Appendix A2-I

Evidence of financial security under Regulation 2.5, paragraph 2

The certificate or other documentary evidence referred to in Standard A2.5.2, paragraph 7, shall include the following information:

- (a) name of the ship;
- (b) port of registry of the ship;
- (c) call sign of the ship;
- (d) IMO number of the ship;
- (e) name and address of the provider or providers of the financial security;
- (f) contact details of the persons or entity responsible for handling seafarers' requests for relief;
- (g) name of the shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner;
- (h) period of validity of the financial security; and
- (i) an attestation from the financial security provider that the financial security meets the requirements of Standard A2.5.2.

Appendix 3: Amendment to Appendix A4-1, Evidence of financial security under Regulation 4.2 of the Code.

Appendix A4-I
Evidence of financial security under Regulation 4.2

The certificate or other documentary evidence of financial security required under Standard A4.2.1, paragraph 14, shall include the following information:

- (a) name of the ship;
- (b) port of registry of the ship;
- (c) call sign of the ship;
- (d) IMO number of the ship;
- (e) name and address of the provider or providers of the financial security;
- (f) contact details of the persons or entity responsible for handling seafarers' contractual claims;
- (g) name of the shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner;
- (h) period of validity of the financial security; and
- (i) an attestation from the financial security provider that the financial security meets the requirements of Standard A4.2.1.