



Merchant Shipping Directorate



PROMULGATION OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION) (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2025

Merchant Shipping Notice 190

Notice to all concerned

The Directorate draws the attention of all concerned to the promulgation of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (Legal Notice 26 of 2025) published on 4 February 2025.

The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Rules transposed the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) into domestic legislation. During the 110th session of the International Labour Conference in 2022, the plenary session approved additional amendments to the MLC, 2006, which came into force internationally on 23 December 2024.

In terms of the 2022 amendments shipowners are to make sure that recreational facilities on board include social connectivity, adapted to the special needs of seafarers, including reasonable access to ship-to-shore telephone communications, where available, and internet access.

Shipowners are to provide food and drinking water, free of charge, and make sure that meals provided are nutritious, balanced, of sufficient quantity and quality.

In addition, shipowners are to make sure that all seafarers are provided with appropriately sized personal protective equipment to prevent occupational accidents, injuries and diseases on board.

The new amendments are based on lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many seafarers witnessed prolonged periods of isolation against the backdrop of a crew change crisis.

The amendments aim to ensure that all deaths of seafarers are recorded and reported annually to the International Labour Organization and the relevant data is published. Furthermore, seafarers are informed of their rights regarding the obligation of recruitment and placement services to compensate seafarers for any monetary loss.

The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Amendment) Rules, 2025 may be found at: <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/26/eng>

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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