



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 076 of 26th August 2012

To:	All Surveyors/Auditor
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Milestone Ratifications of Seafarers' Labor Rights Charter
Reference:	ILO-Maritime Labor Convention, 2006

ILO –MLC Ratification

The ILO's Maritime Labour Convention has now been ratified by 30 countries, meaning it will go into effect in a year's time. The charter sets out the labor rights of the world's 1.2 million seafarers.

The ILO has received the 30th ratification of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) fulfilling the last condition for the first global standard that spans continents and oceans to go

The MLC, 2006 was adopted unanimously in 2006 but there were two requirements still to be met before it could come into force. The ratification by Russia and the Philippines fulfills the requirement that at least 30 ILO member countries ratify the Convention. The other requirement - that ratifying countries represent 33 percent of the world's gross shipping tonnage - was met in 2009.

Under the MLC, 2006 every seafarer has the right to:

- A safe and secure workplace that complies with safety standards
- Fair terms of employment
- Decent working and living conditions on board **ship**
- Health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection

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- The 30 countries represent nearly 60 percent of the shipping tonnage. This means that seafarers working on more than 50 per cent of the world's international shipping will be covered by the new Convention.
- The MLC, 2006 establishes minimum requirements for almost all aspects of working conditions for seafarers including conditions of employment, hours of work and rest, accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering, health protection, medical care, welfare and social security protection.
- This certification will also facilitate inspections of ships. The Convention places great reliance on the system allowing for inspections to be carried out by other countries, known as Port State control. There is also a mechanism which records seafarers' complaints, as well as a reporting mechanism which spots failures no matter where a ship travels.
- "The maritime labor inspection and certification system is a big step forward by the ILO in taking concrete and specific action to address the very serious problems that arise because of international ownership of ships and the inability of some countries to ensure that their ships meet international standards for quality shipping,"
- The following countries have ratified MLC, 2006:

Liberia, Marshall Islands, Bahamas, Panama, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria , Canada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, Benin, Singapore, Denmark, Antigua and Barbuda, Latvia, Luxembourg, Kiribati, Netherlands, Australia, St Kitts and Nevis, Tuvalu , Togo, Poland, Palau, Sweden, Cyprus, Russian Federation, Philippines.
- When it comes into effect, the MLC, 2006 will replace 37 existing ILO maritime Conventions and related Recommendations adopted since 1920.

REFERENCES: ILO - Maritime Labor Convention, 2006

ATTACHMENTS: NO

Kindest Regards,
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