



Technical Circular

No.: 121/2020

Date: 13th October 2020

Subject: St. Vincent & the Grenadines - Amendments of 2018 to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

1. The Maritime Administration of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) vide Circular No. MLC 011 has provided guidelines for SVG flagged ships in respect of implementation of 2018 amendments to MLC, 2006 effective 26th December, 2020.
2. The amendments require continuation of Seafarer Employment Agreements and wages while seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of piracy or armed robbery against ships, regardless of the dates in their employment contract.
3. Accordingly, shipowners are required to review their policies and procedures and SEAs and/or any applicable collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) to ensure compliance with the above amendments on 26th December 2020.
4. **Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) and Maritime Labour Convention Certificate (ML Certificate) for existing ships :**

The amendments do not immediately affect the validity of ML Certificates or DMLC Part I already issued to the existing SVG ships.

Existing ML Certificates and DMLC issued by SVG Administration will remain valid until **first Initial / Renewal MLC inspection on or after 26th December 2020. Prior to the initial/renewal inspection**, shipowner to request a new DMLC Part I. The new DMLC Part I will include the applicable requirements of the 2018 amendments to MLC, 2006. The relevant application form is available on the web portal of Administration.

The owners to complete DMLC Part II and forward it to a Recognized Organization (RO) for review and subsequent approval. The amended DMLC Part II should reflect compliance with the MLC 2018 amendments.

5. **Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) and Maritime Labour Convention Certificate (ML Certificate) for joining ships :**

Ships joining the registry on or after 26th December 2020 should request the DMLC Part I from SVG Administration. The DMLC Part I will include the applicable requirements of the 2018 amendments to MLC, 2006. The shipowner to complete DMLC II and forward it to a Recognized Organization (RO) for review and subsequent approval.



- . This Technical Circular and the material contained in it is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to the reader and not as an advice to be relied upon by any person.
- . While we have taken utmost care to be as factual as possible, readers/ users are advised to verify the exact text and content of the Regulation from the original source/ issuing Authority.

6. Shipowners to keep a copy of this Circular on board in order to notify PSC authorities on the measures accepted by the Administration with respect of MLC 2018 amendments.
7. Ship owners/ operators and masters of SVG flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Circular No. MLC 011.

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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° MLC 011

AMENDMENTS OF 2018 TO THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006

TO: RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (RO), FLAG STATE INSPECTORS, SHIPOWNERS, MASTERS AND SEAFARERS

APPLICABLE TO: ALL SHIPS AND SEAFARERS AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE II OF THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: 26th December 2020

Date: 7th October 2020

1. General

The ILO adopted amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention in June 2018. These amendments will be effective as from 26th December 2020.

These amendments concern the following:

- Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEAs): Standard A2.1 was amended to establish that an SEA will continue to have effect while seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of piracy or armed robbery against ships, regardless of the dates in their contract.
- Wages: Standard 2.2 has been amended to ensure that SEAs of seafarers held captive as a result of piracy or armed robbery will continue to have effect, including for the payment of wages and other entitlements until the seafarer is released and duly repatriated or date of death is determined.
- Repatriation: Guideline B2.5.1 was amended to ensure that entitlement of seafarers to repatriation does not lapse if they are held captive as result of piracy or armed robbery.

2. Action Required by Shipowners

Shipowners should review their policies and procedures and SEAs and/or any applicable collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) to ensure compliance with the above amendments on **26th December 2020**.

3. Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) and Maritime Labour Convention Certificate (ML Certificate) for existing vessels

The amendments do not immediately affect the validity of ML Certificates or DMLC Part I already issued to the existing SVG vessels.

Existing ML Certificates and DMLC issued by this Administration will remain valid until **first initial/renewal MLC inspection** on or after 26th December 2020. Prior to the initial/renewal inspection, shipowners should request a new DMLC Part I from this Administration. The new DMLC Part I will include the applicable requirements of the MLC 2018 amendments. The relevant application form is available on the web.

The owner should complete DMLC Part II and forward to a Recognized Organization (RO) for review and subsequent approval.

The amended DMLC Part II should reflect compliance with the MLC 2018 amendments.

4. Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) and Maritime Labour Convention Certificate (ML Certificate) for joining vessels.

Vessel joining the registry on or after 26th December 2020 should request the DMLC Part I from this Administration. The DMLC Part I will include the applicable requirements of the MLC 2018 amendments. The owner should complete DMLC II and forward it to a Recognized Organization (RO) for review and subsequent approval.

This Administration requires the shipowners to keep a copy of this Circular on board in order to notify PSC authorities on the measures accepted by this Administration with respect of MLC 2018 amendments.

Annex

- Text of the Amendments of 2018 to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

**TEXT OF THE AMENDMENTS OF 2014
TO THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006**

**Amendments to the Code implementing Regulations 2.5
and 4.2 and appendices of the Maritime Labour Convention,
2006 (MLC, 2006), adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee
on 11 April 2014**

**I. Amendments to the Code implementing Regulation 2.5
– Repatriation of the MLC, 2006 (and appendices)**

A. Amendments relating to Standard A2.5

In the present heading, “Standard A2.5 – Repatriation”, replace “A2.5” by “A2.5.1”.

Following paragraph 9 of the present Standard A2.5, add the following heading and text:

Standard A2.5.2 – Financial security

1. In implementation of Regulation 2.5, paragraph 2, this Standard establishes requirements to ensure the provision of an expeditious and effective financial security system to assist seafarers in the event of their abandonment.

2. For the purposes of this Standard, a seafarer shall be deemed to have been abandoned where, in violation of the requirements of this Convention or the terms of the seafarers’ employment agreement, the shipowner:

- (a) fails to cover the cost of the seafarer’s repatriation; or
- (b) has left the seafarer without the necessary maintenance and support; or
- (c) has otherwise unilaterally severed their ties with the seafarer including failure to pay contractual wages for a period of at least two months.

3. Each Member shall ensure that a financial security system meeting the requirements of this Standard is in place for ships flying its flag. The financial security system may be in the form of a social security scheme or insurance or a national fund or other similar arrangements. Its form shall be determined by the Member after consultation with the shipowners’ and seafarers’ organizations concerned.

4. The financial security system shall provide direct access, sufficient coverage and expedited financial assistance, in accordance with this Standard, to any abandoned seafarer on a ship flying the flag of the Member.

5. For the purposes of paragraph 2(b) of this Standard, necessary maintenance and support of seafarers shall include: adequate food, accommodation, drinking water supplies, essential fuel for survival on board the ship and necessary medical care.

6. Each Member shall require that ships that fly its flag, and to which paragraph 1 or 2 of Regulation 5.1.3 applies, carry on board a certificate or other documentary evidence of financial security issued by the financial security provider. A copy shall be posted in a conspicuous place on board where it is available to the seafarers. Where more than one financial security provider provides cover, the document provided by each provider shall be carried on board.

7. The certificate or other documentary evidence of financial security shall contain the information required in Appendix A2-I. It shall be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

8. Assistance provided by the financial security system shall be granted promptly upon request made by the seafarer or the seafarer's nominated representative and supported by the necessary justification of entitlement in accordance with paragraph 2 above.

9. Having regard to Regulations 2.2 and 2.5, assistance provided by the financial security system shall be sufficient to cover the following:

- (a) outstanding wages and other entitlements due from the shipowner to the seafarer under their employment agreement, the relevant collective bargaining agreement or the national law of the flag State, limited to four months of any such outstanding wages and four months of any such outstanding entitlements;
- (b) all expenses reasonably incurred by the seafarer, including the cost of repatriation referred to in paragraph 10; and
- (c) the essential needs of the seafarer including such items as: adequate food, clothing where necessary, accommodation, drinking water supplies, essential fuel for survival on board the ship, necessary medical care and any other reasonable costs or charges from the act or omission constituting the abandonment until the seafarer's arrival at home.

10. The cost of repatriation shall cover travel by appropriate and expeditious means, normally by air, and include provision for food and accommodation of the seafarer from the time of leaving the ship until arrival at the seafarer's home, necessary medical care, passage and transport of personal effects and any other reasonable costs or charges arising from the abandonment.

11. The financial security shall not cease before the end of the period of validity of the financial security unless the financial security provider has given prior notification of at least 30 days to the competent authority of the flag State.

12. If the provider of insurance or other financial security has made any payment to any seafarer in accordance with this Standard, such provider shall, up to the amount it has paid and in accordance with the applicable law, acquire by subrogation, assignment or otherwise, the rights which the seafarer would have enjoyed.

13. Nothing in this Standard shall prejudice any right of recourse of the insurer or provider of financial security against third parties.

14. The provisions in this Standard are not intended to be exclusive or to prejudice any other rights, claims or remedies that may also be available to compensate seafarers who are abandoned. National laws and regulations may provide that any amounts payable under this Standard can be offset against amounts received from other sources arising from any rights, claims or remedies that may be the subject of compensation under the present Standard.

B. Amendments relating to Guideline B2.5

At the end of the present Guideline B2.5, add the following heading and text:

Guideline B2.5.3 – Financial security

1. In implementation of paragraph 8 of Standard A2.5.2, if time is needed to check the validity of certain aspects of the request of the seafarer or the seafarer's nominated representative, this should not prevent the seafarer from immediately receiving such part of the assistance requested as is recognized as justified.

C. Amendment to include a new appendix

Before Appendix A5-I, add the following appendix:

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;
- (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.

D. Amendments relating to Appendices A5-I, A5-II and A5-III

At the end of Appendix A5-I, add the following item:

Financial security for repatriation

In Appendix A5-II, after item 14 under the heading Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part I, add the following item:

15. Financial security for repatriation (Regulation 2.5)

In Appendix A5-II, after item 14 under the heading Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part II, add the following item:

15. Financial security for repatriation (Regulation 2.5)

At the end of Appendix A5-III, add the following area:

Financial security for repatriation

II. Amendments to the Code implementing Regulation 4.2 – Shipowners' liability of the MLC, 2006 (and appendices)

A. Amendments relating to Standard A4.2

In the present heading, "Standard A4.2 – Shipowners' liability", replace "A4.2" by "A4.2.1".

Following paragraph 7 of the present Standard A4.2, add the following text:

8. National laws and regulations shall provide that the system of financial security to assure compensation as provided by paragraph 1(b) of this Standard for contractual claims, as defined in Standard A4.2.2, meet the following minimum requirements:

- (a) the contractual compensation, where set out in the seafarer's employment agreement and without prejudice to subparagraph (c) of this paragraph, shall be paid in full and without delay;

- (b) there shall be no pressure to accept a payment less than the contractual amount;
- (c) where the nature of the long-term disability of a seafarer makes it difficult to assess the full compensation to which the seafarer may be entitled, an interim payment or payments shall be made to the seafarer so as to avoid undue hardship;
- (d) in accordance with Regulation 4.2, paragraph 2, the seafarer shall receive payment without prejudice to other legal rights, but such payment may be offset by the shipowner against any damages resulting from any other claim made by the seafarer against the shipowner and arising from the same incident; and
- (e) the claim for contractual compensation may be brought directly by the seafarer concerned, or their next of kin, or a representative of the seafarer or designated beneficiary.

9. National laws and regulations shall ensure that seafarers receive prior notification if a shipowner's financial security is to be cancelled or terminated.

10. National laws and regulations shall ensure that the competent authority of the flag State is notified by the provider of the financial security if a shipowner's financial security is cancelled or terminated.

11. Each Member shall require that ships that fly its flag carry on board a certificate or other documentary evidence of financial security issued by the financial security provider. A copy shall be posted in a conspicuous place on board where it is available to the seafarers. Where more than one financial security provider provides cover, the document provided by each provider shall be carried on board.

12. The financial security shall not cease before the end of the period of validity of the financial security unless the financial security provider has given prior notification of at least 30 days to the competent authority of the flag State.

13. The financial security shall provide for the payment of all contractual claims covered by it which arise during the period for which the document is valid.

14. The certificate or other documentary evidence of financial security shall contain the information required in Appendix A4-I. It shall be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

Add the following heading and text following the present Standard A4.2:

Standard A4.2.2 – Treatment of contractual claims

1. For the purposes of Standard A4.2.1, paragraph 8, and the present Standard, the term "contractual claim" means any claim which relates to death or long-term disability of seafarers due to an occupational injury, illness or hazard as set out in national law, the seafarers' employment agreement or collective agreement.

2. The system of financial security, as provided for in Standard A4.2.1, paragraph 1(b), may be in the form of a social security scheme or insurance or fund or other similar arrangements. Its form shall be determined by the Member after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations concerned.

3. National laws and regulations shall ensure that effective arrangements are in place to receive, deal with and impartially settle contractual claims relating to compensation referred to in Standard A4.2.1, paragraph 8, through expeditious and fair procedures.

B. Amendments relating to Guideline B4.2

In the present heading, “Guideline B4.2 – Shipowners’ liability”, replace “B4.2” by “B4.2.1”.

In paragraph 1 of the present Guideline B4.2, replace “Standard A4.2” by “Standard A4.2.1”.

Following paragraph 3 of the present Guideline B4.2, add the following heading and text:

Guideline B4.2.2 – Treatment of contractual claims

1. National laws or regulations should provide that the parties to the payment of a contractual claim may use the Model Receipt and Release Form set out in Appendix B4-I.

C. Amendment to include new appendices

After Appendix A2-I, add the following appendix:

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;
- (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.

After Appendix A4-I, add the following appendix:

APPENDIX B4-I

Model Receipt and Release Form

referred to in Guideline B4.2.2

Ship (name, port of registry and IMO number):

Incident (date and place):

Seafarer/legal heir and/or dependant:

Shipowner:

I, [Seafarer] [Seafarer’s legal heir and/or dependant]* hereby acknowledge receipt of the sum of [currency and amount] in satisfaction of the Shipowner’s obligation to pay contractual compensation for personal injury and/or death under the terms and conditions of [my] [the Seafarer’s]* employment and I hereby release the Shipowner from their obligations under the said terms and conditions.

The payment is made without admission of liability of any claims and is accepted without prejudice to [my] [the Seafarer's legal heir and/or dependant's]* right to pursue any claim at law in respect of negligence, tort, breach of statutory duty or any other legal redress available and arising out of the above incident.

Dated:

Seafarer/legal heir and/or dependant:

Signed:

For acknowledgement:

Shipowner/Shipowner representative:

Signed:

Financial security provider:

Signed:

* Delete as appropriate.

D. Amendments relating to Appendices A5-I, A5-II and A5-III

At the end of Appendix A5-I, add the following item:

Financial security relating to shipowners' liability

In Appendix A5-II, as the last item under the heading Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part I, add the following item:

16. Financial security relating to shipowners' liability (Regulation 4.2)

In Appendix A5-II, as the last item under the heading Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part II, add the following item:

16. Financial security relating to shipowners' liability (Regulation 4.2)

At the end of Appendix A5-III, add the following area:

Financial security relating to shipowners' liability