

## Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

### Crew accommodation: transitional arrangements

These draft proposals have been discussed and agreed with the Tripartite Working Group (consisting of UK seafarer, ship owner and government representatives) which is advising MCA on implementation of the Convention.

The draft proposals set out here are not to be regarded as final or certain. Ship owners should check final regulations and guidance when issued to identify any changes.

### Introduction

1.1 The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 was ratified in August 2013 and is in force as of 7 August 2014.

1.2 The Convention is a consolidation and updating of a number of existing ILO Conventions relating to seafarers working and living conditions. Regulation 3.1 and Standard A3.1 deal specifically with crew accommodation and includes a number of new requirements.

1.3 It is appreciated that when owners are considering building a series of ships of one design that they are unwilling to incur additional costs by amending the specification part way through the programme.

1.4 Given the concerns expressed above and where the build programme will straddle the coming in to force date of the Convention for the UK, the MCA will accept the following arrangements as an equivalence to full compliance with the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations 1997 (SI1997/1508).

### Equivalent arrangements

**Note:** *Regulation numbers equate to those in the 1997 Crew Accommodation Regulations.*

2.1 Regulation 4(5) All parts of the crew accommodation, except cold store rooms, shall have a clear headroom of at least 203 centimetres at every point where full and free movement is necessary, but a reduction in the headroom in any space or part of a space in such accommodation may be permitted if it is reasonable to do so, and such a reduction will not result in discomfort to the crew (Standard A3.1 para 6(a)).

2.2 Regulation 19 When sleeping accommodation on board ships is required; the following requirements for sleeping rooms apply:

(a) in ships other than passenger ships, an individual sleeping room shall be provided for each seafarer; in the case of ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage or special purpose ships, exemptions from this requirement may be granted after consultation with the ship owners' and seafarers' organizations concerned (Standard A3.1 para 9(a));

(b) in single berth seafarers' sleeping rooms the floor area shall not be less than (Standard A3.1 para 9 (e) :

(i) 4.5 square metres in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage;

(ii) 5.5 square metres in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage;

(iii) 7 square metres in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over.

2.2.1 However, in order to provide single berth sleeping rooms on ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage, passenger ships and special purpose ships, a reduced floor area may be permitted (Standard A3.1 para 9(g)).

2.2.2 Ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage other than passenger ships and special purpose ships, sleeping rooms may be occupied by a maximum of two seafarers; the floor area of such sleeping rooms shall not be less than 7 square metres (Standard A3.1 para 9 (h));

2.2.3 On passenger ships and special purpose ships the floor area of sleeping rooms for seafarers not performing the duties of ships' officers shall not be less than (Standard A3.1 para 9(i));

(i) 7.5 square metres in rooms accommodating two persons;

(ii) 11.5 square metres in rooms accommodating three persons;

(iii) 14.5 square metres in rooms accommodating four persons;

2.2.4 On special purpose ships sleeping rooms may accommodate more than four persons the floor area of such sleeping rooms shall not be less than 3.6 square metres person (Standard A3.1 para 9 (j)).

2.2.5 In the case of seafarers performing the duty of petty officers there should be no more than two persons per sleeping room (Guideline B3.1.5 para4).

2.2.6 On ships other than passenger ships and special purpose ships, sleeping rooms for seafarers who perform the duties of ships' officers, where no private sitting room or day room is provided, the floor area per person shall not be less than (Standard A3.1 para 9(k)):

(i) 7.5 square metres in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage;

(ii) 8.5 square metres in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage;

(iii) 10 square metres in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over.

2.2.7 On passenger ships and special purpose ships the floor area for seafarers performing the duties of ships' officers where no private sitting room or day room is provided, the floor area per person for junior officers shall not be less than 7.5 square metres and for senior officers not less than 8.5 square metres; junior officers are understood to be at the operational level, and senior officers at the management level (Standard A3.1 para 9(l)).

2.2.8 The master, the chief engineer and the chief navigating officer shall have, in addition to their sleeping rooms, an adjoining sitting room, day room or equivalent additional space; ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage may be exempted from this requirement after consultation with the ship owners' and seafarers' organizations concerned (Standard A3.1 para 9(m)).

2.3 Regulation 21(2 and 5) For each occupant, the furniture shall include a clothes locker of ample space (minimum 475 litres) and a drawer or equivalent space of not less than 56 litres; if the drawer is incorporated in the clothes locker then the combined minimum volume of the clothes locker shall be 500 litres; it shall be fitted with a shelf and be able to be locked by the occupant so as to ensure privacy (Standard A3.1 para 9(m)).

2.4 Regulation 21 (2(b) and 5(f)) Each sleeping room shall be provided with a table or desk, which may be of the fixed, drop-leaf or slide-out type, and with comfortable seating accommodation as necessary (Standard A3.1 para 9(o)).

Sleeping rooms should be fitted with curtains or equivalent for the sidelights (Guideline B3.1.5 para 14).

2.5 Regulation 21 (2(c)(i)(j)) Sleeping rooms should be fitted with a mirror, small cabinets for toilet requisites, a book rack and a sufficient number of coat hooks (Guideline B3.1.5 para 15).

With the exception of passenger ships, each sleeping room shall be provided with a washbasin having hot and cold running fresh water, except where such a washbasin is situated in the private bathroom provided (Standard A3.1 para 11(d)).

2.6 Regulation 22(3) Mess room facilities may be either common or separate. The decision in this respect should be taken after consultation with seafarers' and ship owners' representatives and subject to the approval of the MCA. Account should be taken of factors such as the size of the ship and the distinctive cultural, religious and social needs of the seafarers (Guideline B3.1.6 para 1).

2.7 Regulation 25 All ships shall be provided with separate offices or a common ship's office for use by deck and engine departments; ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage may be exempted from this requirement after consultation with the ship owners' and seafarers' organizations concerned (Standard A3.1 para 15).

2.8 Regulation 26 All seafarers shall have convenient access on the ship to sanitary facilities meeting minimum standards of health and hygiene and reasonable standards of comfort, with separate sanitary facilities being provided for men and for women (Standard A3.1 para 1(a)).

2.9 Regulation 26(7) In all ships a minimum of one toilet, one wash basin and one tub or shower or both for every six persons or less who do not have personal facilities shall be provided at a convenient location (Standard A3.1 para 11(c)).

Hot and cold running fresh water shall be available in all wash places (Standard A3.1 para 10 (f)).

2.10 Regulation 26(21) All sanitary spaces shall have ventilation to the open air, independently of any other part of the accommodation (Standard A3.1 para 7(c)).

2.11 Regulation 32 Ships carrying 15 or more seafarers and engaged in a voyage of more than three days' duration shall provide separate hospital accommodation to be used exclusively for medical purposes. This requirement may be relaxed for ships engaged in coastal trade (Standard A3.1 para 12).

2.12 All other requirements detailed in SI1997/1508 are to be complied with.

### **Additional requirements**

3.1 Exemptions will only be granted where they are specifically specified in regulation 3.1 and standard A3.1.

3.2 Ship owners should be made aware of the need to take in to account the contents of para 19 of standard A3.1 which deals with the interests of seafarers having distinctive religious and social practices.

### **Recording**

4.1 MSF1020 (Annex to Certificate – Record of Conditions or Equivalent) is to be completed by the MCA surveyor and will be used to record the equivalent arrangements.

The expiry date of the form will be harmonised with the ships' Safety Management Certificate.