

Amended by **S.I. 1979 No. 1519** - amendments in green

Amended by **S.I. 2014 No. 1614** - amendments in blue

Amended by **S.I. ??? WIFC** - amendments in orange

SI 1979 No. 0097 - The Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Regulations

Made

2nd February 1979

Laid before Parliament

8th February 1979

Coming into Operation

1st March 1979

The Secretary of State, after consulting with the organisations referred to in section 99(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970(a), in exercise of powers conferred by sections 9(d), 62 and 68(2) and (5) of that Act and now vested in him (b), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:-

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1..-(1) These regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Regulations 1979 and shall come into operation on 1st March 1979.

(2) In these Regulations-

“the Act” means the Merchant Shipping Act 1970;

“employer”, in relation to a seaman, means the person who last employed him as a seaman before he was left behind or shipwrecked;

“master” means (except in regulations 8, 9 and 10) the master of the ship in which a seaman was last employed immediately before he was left behind or shipwrecked;

“seaman” (except in regulations 11 and 14) includes the master of a ship;

“ship” means a ship (including a fishing vessel) registered in the United Kingdom.

(3) The Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Regulations 1972 (c) are hereby revoked.

Application

2. -(1) Subject to paragraphs (1A) and (2) of this regulation, these Regulations apply to –

(a) any seaman employed in a ship registered in the United Kingdom who is left behind in any place or country outside the United Kingdom or is taken to such a place or country on being shipwrecked;

(b) any seaman who became so employed under an agreement entered into outside the United Kingdom and who is left behind in the United Kingdom or is taken to the United Kingdom on being shipwrecked.

(1A) These regulations do not apply to seafarers on ships to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 (e) apply.

(1B) these Regulations do not apply to fishermen to whom the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) Regulations 201X () apply.

(2) Regulations 12 to 14 shall also apply to any seaman who became so employed under an agreement entered into in the United Kingdom and who leaves his ship in the United Kingdom, otherwise than on being discharged there from.

Return and relief of seamen left behind or shipwrecked

3. –(1) The employer of a seaman to whom these Regulations apply shall, if his obligation to return the seaman has arisen under paragraph (2) of this regulation:

- (a) as soon as practicable after the seaman is left behind or brought ashore after shipwreck, make such provision as is necessary for his return to a place ascertained under regulation 6; and
- (b) from the time when the seaman is left behind or brought ashore after the shipwreck and until he is returned or until the employer's obligation to return him ceases in accordance with paragraph (3) of this regulation, make such provision for the seaman's food and lodging and such other relief and maintenance as may be necessary having regard to the personal circumstances of the seaman and of any requirement special to him.

Provided that the employer shall not be under any obligation to return or make provision for any seaman who is absent for a period of more than three months, from the date when he was left behind, if during that period, the employer did not know and could not reasonably have known of the seaman's whereabouts.

(2) The obligation of the employer to return a seaman under sub-paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation shall arise:

- (a) as soon as the seaman is available for return; or
- (b) as soon as the seaman informs his employer, his employer's agent, a superintendent or a proper officer of his whereabouts and asks to be returned by his employer: or
- (c) if the seaman is unable by reason of illness, incapacity or other cause beyond his control so to inform any of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (b), as soon as one of those persons obtains from him confirmation that he wishes to be returned by his employer.

(3) The obligation to return a seaman under paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation shall cease if the seaman:

- (a) being fit and able to undertake employment in a ship, fails to comply with reasonable request made of him by his employer that he should enter into an agreement for employment in any ship (including any such ship as is mentioned in regulation 8(1)(a)) in which he is, in accordance with the provision made by his employer, to be carried in the course of his return; or
- (b) without reasonable cause, fails to comply with any other reasonable arrangement made for him by his employer in relation to the provision for his return; or
- (c) informs his employer in writing that he does not wish to be returned by him.

(4) In deciding whether the seaman is to be returned by land, sea or air (or by which combination of any of those means), his employer shall have regard to all the circumstances including the personal circumstances of the seaman and of any requirement special to him.

(5) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (1)(b) of this regulation, the provision for relief and maintenance to be made in accordance with that paragraph shall include-

- (a) clothing;c
- (b) toilet and other personal necessities;
- (c) surgical or medical treatment and such dental or optical treatment (including the repair or replacement of any appliance) as cannot be postponed without impairing efficiency;
- (d) in cases where the seaman is not entitled to legal aid, or legal aid is insufficient, reasonable costs for the defence of a seaman in any criminal proceedings in respect of any act or omission within the scope of his employment, being proceedings where neither the employer nor the employer's agent is a party to the prosecution; and
- (e) sufficient money to meet any minor ancillary expenses necessarily incurred or likely to be so incurred by the seaman for his relief and maintenance.

(6) The provisions to be made by an employer in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall include-

- (a) the repayment of expenses incurred in bringing a shipwrecked seaman ashore and maintaining him until he is brought ashore; and
- (b) the payment of the expenses of the burial or cremation of a seaman who dies before he can be returned to a place ascertained under regulation 6.

(7) An employer who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under paragraph (1) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

Other provisions relating to seamen left behind and shipwrecked seamen

4. –(1) Except where, if the seaman has been discharged from his ship, notice of his discharge has been given to a superintendent or proper officer in accordance with regulations made under section 3 of the Act(d), the employer of a seaman to whom the Regulations apply shall, within 48 hours after the seaman is left behind or it has come to his notice that the seaman has been brought ashore after being shipwrecked (as the case may be), or if it is not practicable within the time, as soon as practicable thereafter, make provision to ensure that the superintendent or proper officer for the place where the seaman is left behind or brought ashore is informed of the particulars specified in paragraph (2) of this regulation.

(2) The particulars referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation are-

- (a) the name of the seaman;
- (b) his home address as stated in the list of crew;
- (c) the name and address of his next of kin as stated in the list of crew;
- (d) in the case of a seaman left behind-
 - (i) the name of the ship from which he was left behind;
 - (ii) the date on which he was left behind;
 - (iii) the place where he was left behind and, if known to the employer, the present whereabouts of the seaman;
 - (iv) the reason why (if known to the employer) for his being left behind;
 - (v) the name and address of the employer and the name and address of the employer's agent, if any, at or nearest to the place where the seaman was left behind;
- (e) in the case of the shipwrecked seaman-
 - (i) the name of the ship from which he was shipwrecked;
 - (ii) the dates on which he was shipwrecked and on which he was brought ashore;
 - (iii) the place where he was brought ashore and (if known to the employer) the name and address of the person by whom he was brought ashore and the present whereabouts of the seaman;
 - (iv) the name and address of the employer and the name and address of the employer's agent, if any, at or nearest to the place where the seaman was brought ashore.

(3) The master shall make entries, in relation to any seamen left behind, recording-

- (a) both in the official log book and in the list of crew, the date on which and place at which the seaman was left behind and the reason (if known to the master) for his being left behind; and
- (b) in the official log book, any provision which he has made on the employer's behalf to ensure that the superintendent or proper officer is informed of the matters referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation.

(4) (a) An employer who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under paragraph (1) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

- (b) A master who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him or under paragraph (3) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £50.

5.-(1) The employer shall ensure that the superintendent or proper officer specified in paragraph (2) of this regulation is kept informed of the arrangements he has made (including any changes in those arrangements) in pursuance of his obligation to make provision for the seaman's return, relief and maintenance specified in regulation 3 .

(2) The superintendent or proper officer referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation is the superintendent or proper officer for the place where the seaman is at the time any of the arrangements mentioned in that paragraph are made.

(3) An employer who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under paragraph (1) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

Place of return

6. A seaman who is to be returned in pursuance of these Regulations shall be returned-

- (a) in the case of a seaman who is resident in the United Kingdom, either to his home in the United Kingdom or to the place where the Merchant Navy Establishment Administration Office at which he is registered is situated, whichever is nearer to the place at which he first arrives in the United Kingdom; or
- (b) in the case of a seaman who is not resident in the United Kingdom, to a place in the country in which he is resident being-
 - (i) if he joined the ship from which he was left behind or shipwrecked in that country, the place where he joined the ship; or
 - (ii) if he did not join the ship in that country, the place in that country at which he was engaged to join the ship; or
- (c) to any other place which may be agreed between the seaman and his employer.

Provision for a seaman's return, relief and maintenance by superintendents and proper officers

7. -(1) Where it appears to a superintendent or proper officer for any place where a seaman is, that the seaman's employer has failed to make or continue to make any or sufficient provision with respect to any matter for which he is required to make provision for that seaman under regulation 3, the superintendent or proper officer shall make that provision.

(2) Where a citizen of the United Kingdom and colonies is found in distress in any country outside the United Kingdom within three months after ceasing to be employed in ships registered in, or belonging to the government of, such a country, the proper officer for the place where that person is found shall, as soon as practicable after he is found , make-

- (a) the like provisions that he is returned to a place ascertained under regulation 6 as the employer of a seaman to whom these regulations apply is required to make under regulation 3; and
- (b) the like provisions for his relief and maintenance until his return as the employer of such a seaman is required to make under regulation 3.

Conveyance orders and directions

8. -(1) Where a superintendent or proper officer is requested by an employer who is under an obligation under regulation 3 to make provision for a seaman's return, he shall or, where he is himself under an obligation under regulation 7 to make provision for the return of a seaman or of a citizen of the United Kingdom and colonies, he may, subject to paragraph (2) of this regulation-

- (a) by means of a conveyance order in writing require the master of ship (which, where the order is made at the request of the employer, shall be specified by the employer) to convey the seaman or the citizen of the United Kingdom and colonies, as the case may be, from any place specified in the order to such other place so specified as lies on a reasonable route between the place specified in the order and the place ascertained under regulation 6 to which he is to be returned; and
- (b) give to the master of that ship such directions as may be necessary for the purpose of that requirement;

and more than one such order may be made in the course of the seaman's return.

(2) A master shall not be required under paragraph (1) of this regulation to convey a person in his ship or to obey any direction given for the purpose of the requirement-

- (a) if his ship is a fishing vessel;
- (b) if any provision of an enactment or instrument would be infringed by reason of that person of that person being conveyed in the ship in addition to the other persons carried in the ship;
- (c) if his ship would be required to go to any place to which it would not otherwise go in the course of the voyage then being undertaken or about to be undertaken;
- (d) if, by reason of compliance with such requirement or direction, his ship would be unreasonably delayed; or
- (e) if the master has other reasonable cause for objecting to the requirements or direction, as the case may be.

(3) A person who fails to comply with a requirement made of him by a conveyance order under paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation or with a direction given to him under paragraph (1)(b) for the purpose of that requirement shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

9. -(1) A master shall make entries in the official log book recording the particulars of any requirement made of him under regulation 8 and of any directions given to him by a superintendent or proper officer for the purpose of that requirement.

(2) A master who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under paragraph (1) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £50.

10. -(1) A master of a ship in which a person is conveyed in accordance with regulation 8 shall be entitled to payment for the conveyance at a rate not exceeding £2 per day for every day (including part of a day) on which that person is on board the ship; and payment shall be made to him or to his order by that person specified in paragraph (2) of this regulation upon presentation both of the conveyance order and of an account showing the total amount claimed and how that amount is calculated.

(2) The person by whom payment is to be made to the master in accordance with paragraph (1) of this regulation is the seaman's employer or, where the conveyance is required by a superintendent or proper official in pursuance of his obligation under regulation 7, the Secretary of State.

[11. Omitted]

Wages of seamen, employed in fishing vessels, who are left behind

12.-(1) The wages (other than wages related to the catch or sums due under partnership agreement) due under crew agreement to a seaman to whom these regulations apply in respect of his employment in a fishing vessel in the case of a seaman left behind in any country:

- (a) on being discharged from his fishing vessel, shall be paid to him in full and an account thereof shall be delivered or made out at the time when he leaves the fishing vessel on being discharged therefrom or, if this is impracticable, within seven days of the seaman's return to a place ascertained under regulation 6, by the person employing him (or master acting in that behalf);
- (b) otherwise than on being discharged from his fishing vessel, shall be paid to him in full and an account thereof shall be delivered by the person employing him (or by the master acting in that behalf) within 28 days of the time when he was returned to a place where he was ascertained under regulation 6. When the employer's obligation to return a seaman ceases pursuant to regulation 3(3), the wages shall be paid and an account thereof delivered within 28 days from the date of obligation ceased; if the employer does not know of the seaman's current address, an account thereof and notice that they may be had on application to the employer shall be sent to the seaman's last known address.

(2) Where the wages related to the catch are due under crew agreement to a seaman to whom these Regulations apply in respect of his employment in a fishing vessel, an account showing how these wages are arrived at shall be delivered and be made available and those wages paid, by the person employing him, or the master acting in that behalf, at a time when final payment is made under the provisions of the crew agreement or within 28 days from the time when he was returned to a place ascertained under regulation 6, whichever is later.

(3) Where there is partnership between the master and any member of the crew of a fishing vessel to whom these Regulations apply, the owner of the vessel shall make out an account showing the sums due to each partner in respect of his share and that account shall be made available and the sum paid at the time when the final payment is to be made under the provisions of the partnership agreement or within 28 days from the time when he was returned to a place ascertained under regulation 6, whichever is later.

(4) If a person fails without reasonable cause to comply with the provisions of paragraphs (1), (2) or (3) of this regulation, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £200.

13. The wages, including wages related to the catch, due under an agreement, other than a crew agreement, to a seaman to whom these Regulations apply shall be dealt with under the provisions of the agreement under which he is employed.

14. Where the wages cannot be paid to the seaman in accordance with regulations 11 and 12 of these regulations and the seaman is not known to be dead, then, notwithstanding anything contained in sections 7 and 8 of the Act or those regulations, the wages shall be paid and accounts thereof delivered to the person named in the list of crew as the seaman's next of kin, as soon as is practicable after the expiration of four months from the time of payment specified in the said regulations 11 and 12.

Other records and accounts

15.-(1) The employer of a seaman to whom these regulations apply, a superintendent and a proper officer shall keep records of all expenses incurred and sums paid by him in the discharge of his obligations under these Regulations.

(2) Where, in respect of any expense incurred or sum paid by him in discharge of his obligation under these regulations, the employer of a seaman makes the deduction authorised by regulations made under section 9(a) of the Act to be made from the wages due to a seaman under a crew agreement, the employer shall render an account of all such sums to the seaman or, if the seaman's wages are payable by virtue of regulation 14 to his next of kin as named in the list of crew, to the next of kin.

(3) an employer who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

Property of seaman left behind and of shipwrecked seamen

16.-(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this regulation, this regulation applies to any property (including money) left on board a ship by a seaman to whom these regulations apply.

(2) In the case of any such property left on board a ship by a seaman who has been shipwrecked-

- (a) if the ship is lost, this regulation shall have no effect; and
- (b) if the ship is not lost, but, as a result of the shipwreck, no person is master of the ship, this regulation shall have effect as if the duties and powers thereby imposed on the master were instead imposed on the employer and paragraph (3)(b) and paragraph (5)(a) were omitted.

(3) The master shall-

- (a) take charge of the property; and
- (b) enter in the official log book-
 - (i) a list of all the property so taken into his charge;
 - (ii) in the case of the sale under paragraph (4)(a) of this regulation of any part of the property, a description of each article sold and the sum received for it;
 - (iii) in the case of the destruction or disposal of any part of the property under paragraph (4)(b) of this regulation, a description of each article destroyed or disposed of and the name of any person to whom disposal was made.

(4) The master may at any time-

- (a) sell, by public auction or otherwise, any part of the property which is of perishable or deteriorating nature; and the proceeds of sale shall form part of the property; and

(b) destroy or otherwise dispose of any part of the property which, in his opinion, endangers or is likely to endanger the health or safety of any person on board that ship.

(5) Subject to paragraph (6) of this regulation-

(a) the master shall, when directed by the employer, cause the property to be delivered to the employer at an address in the country to which the seaman is to be returned in accordance with regulation 6; and

(b) the employer shall deliver the property-

(i) to the seaman at his last known address; or

(ii) if the seaman's wages are payable by virtue of regulation 14 to his next of kin as named in the list of crew, to that next of kin at the address stated in the list of crew;

and the expense of such delivery by the employer shall be borne by the person to whom the property is delivered.

(6) If the seaman so requests, the master shall cause the seaman's property to be delivered to him in an address stated by the seaman; and any expense incurred in so delivering the property shall be borne by the seaman.

(7) The employer, when delivering the property to the seaman or his next of kin in accordance with paragraph (5)(b) of this regulation, or the master when causing the seaman's property to be delivered to the seaman in accordance with paragraph (6) of this regulation, shall deliver to the seaman or his next of kin, as the case may be, a record of all the property delivered and-

(a) where any property has been sold under paragraph (4)(a) of this regulation, a description of each article sold and the sum received from it: and

(b) where any property has been destroyed or disposed of under paragraph (4)(b) of this regulation, a description of each such article.

(8) A master who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under:

(a) paragraph (3)(a), 5(a), (6) or (7) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £200;

(b) paragraph (3)(b) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary of conviction with a fine not exceeding £50.

(9) An employer who fails to comply with an obligation imposed on him by or under paragraph (5)(b) or (7) of this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable on summary of conviction with a fine not exceeding £200.

Official log book entries

17. All entries in the official log book required to be made by the master under regulations 4(3), 9 and 16(b) shall be signed by the master and by a member of crew.

2nd February 1979

Stanley Clinton Davis,

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department of Trade

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations revoke the Merchant Shipping (repatriation) Regulations 1972. Those 1972 Regulations are re-enacted, with minor drafting amendments, except in two respects:-

- (1) Provisions relating to the return and relief of seamen left behind or shipwrecked; and
- (2) Provisions relating to wages and accounts of such seamen.

The Regulations require the employer to return a seaman (if he has not been absent without the cause for more than three months) who is unable to inform his employer of his desire to return, as soon as the employer, the employer's agent, a superintendent or a proper officer obtains the seaman's confirmation that he wishes to be returned by his employer (regulation 3(2)(c); the employer's obligation will cease (additionally) when he is informed in writing by the seaman that he does not wish to be returned by him (regulation 3(3)(c)).

The employer is obliged to make provision for the seaman's relief and maintenance (except in the case of a seaman absent without cause for more than three months). Relief and maintenance now includes reasonable legal costs for the defence of the seaman in certain criminal proceedings (regulation 3(5)(d)).

In regulation 10 the conveyance rate is increased to £2 per day.

The requirements relating to the payment of wages and accounts of seamen left behind or shipwrecked have been simplified. Regulation 11 now deals with these matters in respect of seamen who had been employed in a ship and regulation 12 in respect of seamen who had been employed in a fishing vessel. Under regulations 11 and 12, in general, the wages have to be paid in full at the time when a seaman is discharged from his ship or fishing vessel and, when he is not so discharged, within 28 days.

It is now prescribed in regulation 2 (formerly in regulations 14(1)(b) and 15(1)(b)) that regulations 11 and 12 apply also to seamen who leave their ship in the United Kingdom, otherwise than on being discharged there from.

The offences remain unchanged, but have been inserted at the end of each regulation to which they relate.

Notes:

- (a) 1970 c. 36. [back](#)
- (b) S.I. 1970/1537. [back](#)
- (c) S.I. 1972/1805. [back](#)
- (d) S.I. 1972/918, 919. [back](#)
- (e) S.I. 2014/1613. [back](#)