

## **OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MERCHANT SHIPPING HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTION AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION REGULATIONS**

### **MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006 TITLE 4.3**

Public consultation was carried out in June and July 2013. One hundred and seventy-six organisations and companies were directly notified of the consultation exercise, including the UK Chamber of Shipping which represents a broad cross section of UK shipping companies in all sectors, and other trade associations such as the British Marine Federation and International Marine Contractors Association.

Five written responses were received, from significant players in the industry. Some consultees confirmed MCA's view that in general the proposals reflect current good practice. There was no opposition in principle to implementation of the MLC standards, and no evidence was provided of costs or benefits arising from the requirements which MCA had not foreseen. In particular, a meeting was held to discuss the implications of these proposals with operators of small commercial vessels, where attendees had the opportunity to raise any impacts of the proposed Regulations on small firms. No particular concerns were raised about the impact of the Regulations on small businesses.

Some concerns were raised on the use of criminal sanctions and the terminology surrounding whether personnel are employed or not – an issue pivotal to the inclusion of the self-employed in the scope of onboard health and safety provisions, which is a central objective of these regulations.

On the introduction of reporting of occupational diseases for seafarers, all responses agreed that the reporting requirements for seafarers, and the list of reportable diseases, should mirror HSE's requirements, to allow for direct comparison.

These measures have been implemented in the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Health and Safety at Work) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1616) which came into force on 13 October 2014 and MSN 1850(M).