

2025 No. [9999]

MERCHANT SHIPPING

The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025

Made - - - - [***]

Laid before Parliament [***]

Coming into force - - [XX 2025]

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 85(1)(a) and (b), 85(3)(e) and 86(1)(d) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995(a).

The Secretary of State has consulted with such persons in the United Kingdom as the Secretary of State considers will be affected by the proposal as referred to in section 86(4); and organisations in the United Kingdom appearing to the Secretary of State representative of persons who will be affected by the regulations (306(4) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995).

Citation and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025. **Commencement date to be written here when known.**

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014

2.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014(b) are amended as follows.

(2) In Regulation 29 (crew accommodation requirements), for paragraph (1) substitute—

“In this Part—

(a) “crew accommodation” means accommodation, including the construction, machinery, fittings and equipment of that accommodation, intended for or used by seafarers;

(b) “social connectivity” means connectivity to internet services for social communication and social engagement purposes.

(a) 1995 c. 21. Sections 85 and 86 were amended by section 8 of the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (c. 28) There are other amendments to section 85 not relevant to these Regulations.

(b) S.I. 2014/1613 amended by The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/242). There are other amendments, but none is relevant.

(1A) Subject to regulation 32 and subject to paragraphs (1B) and (1C), facilities for social connectivity must be provided for access from all parts of crew accommodation except store rooms.

(1B) The requirement in paragraph (1A) does not apply to ships—

(a) which start and finish on the same day the voyage departed where seafarers have access to social connectivity;

(b) which operate within or transit waters in areas where availability of social connectivity services is absent or ineffective due to reasons beyond the control of the ship owner during periods of such operation or transit.

(1C) Seafarers may not be charged more than a reasonable amount for their use of social connectivity facilities provided pursuant to paragraph (1A)".

(3) In paragraph 29 (3)—

(a) after “of”, omit “paragraph”; and

(b) after “of”, insert “paragraph (1A) or”.

(4) In Regulation 32 (approvals to allow substantial equivalences)—

(a) after “set out in”, insert “regulation 29 (1A) and”.

(5) In Regulation 34 (provision of food and drinking water)—

(a) in paragraph (1)(a)—

(i) substitute “nutritional value and variety” and insert “nutritional value, variety and balance,”

(b) in paragraph (2) after “while they are on board”, insert “during the period of engagement”

(6) In Schedule 3 (Information to be included in a shipowner’s security document)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (g), for “the name of the owner of the ship” substitute “the name of the shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner”.

(7) In Schedule 4 (Information to be included in an abandonment security document)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (g), for “the name of the owner of the ship” substitute “the name of the shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner”.

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018

3.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018(a) are amended as follows.

(2) In Schedule 1 (fees under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995), in the entry in section B (Crew Accommodation) relating to the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum requirements for Seafarers) Regulations 2014, after “2018/667” in the third column insert, “2025/0000”.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

[Date]

[Name]
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport

We consent to the making of these Regulations

Two of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury

(a) S.I. 2018/1104.

Date

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make miscellaneous amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1613) in order to implement amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

Regulation 2(2) and 2(3) creates a requirement upon shipowners to provide seafarers access to social connectivity on board ship.

Regulation 2(4) makes a minor consequential amendment.

Regulation 2(5) places a requirement on the shipowner to ensure that the food on board is suitable in respect of being balanced for seafarers during the period of their engagement.

Regulation 2(6) and 2(7) amends Schedules 3 and 4 to include the details of the “registered owner” on the shipowner’s financial security certificates.

Regulation 3 amends the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1104) to insert reference to these Regulations into that statutory instrument.

The Maritime Labour Convention may be downloaded from the website of the International Labour Organisation at www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/lang-en/index.htm. Copies of the Maritime Labour Convention may be obtained as a priced publication from www.tsoshop.co.uk, by post from TSO Customer Services, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN, tel: +44 (0) 333 202 5070.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

An Explanatory Memorandum is published alongside the instrument on www.legislation.gov.uk