

2025 No. 0000

RETAINED EU LAW REFORM

MERCHANT SHIPPING

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

Sift requirements satisfied

Made - - - -

Laid before Parliament

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(1)

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 85(1), (3)(e), (f), (o) and (q), (5), (6)(a), (7)(b) and (c), 86(1)(a) and (d) and 302(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995^(a), and with the consent of the Treasury, and sections 14(1) and 20(1)(b) of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023^(b) (“the 2023 Act”).

The Secretary of State has consulted such persons in the United Kingdom as the Secretary of State considers will be affected by the exercise of powers in this instrument in accordance with section 86(4) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

The Secretary of State is a relevant national authority for the purposes of sections 12(1) and 14(1) of the 2023 Act^(c).

The requirements of paragraph 6(2) of Schedule 5 to the 2023 Act (relating to the appropriate Parliamentary procedure for these Regulations) have been satisfied.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025 and come into force 22 days after the day on which they are laid.

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

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

(b) 2023 c. 28.

(c) The term “relevant national authority” is defined in section 21(1) of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023.

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^(a) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”—

- (a) insert “or” at the end of sub-paragraph (a), and
- (b) omit sub-paragraph (b).

(3) In regulation 29 (crew accommodation requirements)—

- (a) for paragraph (1) substitute—

“(1) In this Part—

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

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

(1A) Subject to paragraph (1B) and regulation 32 (approvals to allow substantial equivalences), social connectivity facilities must be provided in all parts of the crew accommodation of a ship except storerooms.

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

- (a) in relation to a seafarer—
 - (i) who does not live and work on board the ship, or
 - (ii) who is not on board the ship;
- (b) in relation to a ship—
 - (i) which starts and finishes a voyage on the same day, or
 - (ii) which is operating within an area, or transits waters in an area, where availability of social connectivity services is absent, or ineffective, due to reasons beyond the control of the ship owner, but this does not apply once the ship goes outside such an area.”

- (b) in paragraph (3), after “paragraph” insert “(1A) or”.

(4) In regulation 32(1) (approvals to allow substantial equivalences), after “set out in”, insert “regulation 29(1A) and”.

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

- (a) in paragraph (1)(a), for “value and variety” substitute “value, variety and balance,” and
- (b) in paragraph (2), for “all seafarers while they are on board” substitute “seafarers during the period of their engagement”.

(6) In Schedule 3^(b) (information to be included in a shipowner’s security document), in paragraph 1(g), for “owner of the ship” substitute “shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner”.

(7) In Schedule 4^(c) (information to be included in an abandonment security document) in paragraph 1(g), for “owner of the ship” substitute “shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner”.

^(a) S.I. 2014/1613, amended by S.I. 2018/667; there are other amending instruments but none is relevant.

^(b) Schedule 3 was added by S.I. 2018/667.

^(c) Schedule 4 was added by S.I. 2018/667.

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Recruitment and Placement) Regulations 2014

3.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Recruitment and Placement) Regulations 2014^(a) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation and application), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”—

- (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and
- (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it.

(3) In regulation 6 (duty on employment agencies and businesses to provide financial system of protection) after paragraph (2) insert—

“(2A) The employment agency or employment business must inform the seafarer about the system of protection referred to in paragraph (2) and of their rights under that system prior to or in the process of engagement.”

(4) In regulation 8(1), after “6(2) or” insert “(2A) or,”.

Amendments and revocations in relation to government ships

4. The statutory instruments set out under column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 are amended or revoked to the extent specified under column 2 of that table.

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018

5. The Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018^(b) are amended to the extent specified in Schedule 2.

We consent to the making of these Regulations

Date

Two of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury

Names

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

Date

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport

Name

(a) S.I. 2014/1615, amended by S.I. 2016/510; there are other amending instruments but none is relevant.
(b) S.I. 2018/1104; relevant amending instruments are 2018/242.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 4

Amendments or revocations

The statutory instruments set out under column 1 of the table below are amended or revoked to the extent specified under column 2 of that table.

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995(a)	(1) In regulation 1(3) (interpretation), omit the definition of “Government ships”. (2) In regulation 3 (application), omit “and Government ships,”.
The Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards of Safety Communications) Regulations 1997(b)	(1) In regulation 3(1) (application), omit sub-paragraph “(ii)”. (2) In regulation 5(3) (duty to ensure safe communication), omit the words “or a Government ship,”.
The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods and Marine Pollutants) Regulations 1997(c)	The whole Regulations.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997(d)	In regulation 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b).
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Employment of Young Persons) Regulations 1998(e)	In regulation 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b).
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Manual Handling Operations) Regulations 1998(f)	In regulation 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b).
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1999(g)	In regulation 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 2001(h)	In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)—

- (a) S.I. 1995/1802, amended by S.I. 2018/1202; there are other amending instruments but none is relevant.
 (b) S.I. 1997/529, amended by S.I. 1999/1704; there are amending instruments but none is relevant.
 (c) S.I. 1997/2367, amended by S.I. 2004/2110, 2011/2616, 2024/636.
 (d) S.I. 1997/2962, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
 (e) S.I. 1998/2411, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
 (f) S.I. 1998/2857, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
 (g) S.I. 1999/2205.
 (h) S.I. 2001/3444, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(Provision and Use of Work Equipment) Regulations 2006(a)	(a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) In regulation 4 (application), omit paragraph (3).
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006(b)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) In regulation 4 (application)— (a) in paragraph (6), omit the words after “fishing vessel” to the end, and (b) omit paragraph (7).
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations 2007(c)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) Regulations 19 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 21 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Vibration at Work) Regulations 2007(d)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) Regulations 18 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 20 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Carcinogens and Mutagens) Regulations 2007(e)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulations 22 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 24 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Biological	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)—

(a) S.I. 2006/2183, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(b) S.I. 2006/2184, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(c) S.I. 2007/3075, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(d) S.I. 2007/3077, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(e) S.I. 2007/3100, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

Agents) Regulations 2010(a)	(a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (i) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (ii) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulations 27 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 29 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2010(b)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (i) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (ii) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulations 20 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 22 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Work at Height) Regulations 2010(c)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (i) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (ii) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulations 22 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 24 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2010(d)	(1) In regulation 2 (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulation 19 (inspection of Government ships) is omitted.

(a) S.I. 2010/323, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(b) S.I. 2010/330, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(c) S.I. 2010/332, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(d) S.I. 2010/737, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

The Merchant Shipping (Technical Requirements for Inland Waterway Vessels) Regulations 2010(a)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), omit the definition of “Government ship”. (2) In regulation 3(1) (application), omit the words “, including Government ships,”.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Asbestos) Regulations 2010(b)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”, omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) Regulations 26 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 28 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Artificial Optical Radiation) Regulations 2010(c)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (i) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (ii) omit sub-paragraph (b). (2) Regulations 16 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) and regulation 18 (right of appeal and compensation) are omitted.
The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Survey and Certification) Regulations 2013(d)	In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it.
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Electromagnetic Fields) Regulations 2016(e)	(1) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)— (a) omit the definition of “Government ship”, and (b) in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”— (i) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (ii) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it. (2) Regulation 15 (application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships) is omitted.
The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Hours of Work) Regulations	In regulation 2(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “United Kingdom ship”—

- (a) S.I. 2010/1075, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
(b) S.I. 2010/2984, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
(c) S.I. 2010/2987, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
(d) S.I. 2013/1785, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
(e) S.I. 2016/1026.

2018(a)	(a) insert “or” after sub-paragraph (a), and (b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the “or” after it.
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SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 5

Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018

The Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018, Schedule 1, table under paragraph 5 (fees for inspections, etc.) is amended in relation to the item referred to under column 1 of the table below to the extent specified under the corresponding entry under column 2 of that table.

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Section A (crew), the entry for the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995.	In the third column, after “1996/2821” insert, “2025/****.
Section A (crew), the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards of Safety Communications) Regulations 1997.	In the third column, after “2006/89” insert, “2025/****.
Section A (crew), the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997.	In the third column, after “2016/1026” insert, “2025/****.
Section A (crew), the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Employment of Young Persons) Regulations 1998.	In the third column, after “2015/21” insert, “2025/****.
Section A (crew), the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1999.	In the third column, for “None” substitute “2025/****.
Section B (crew accommodation), the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014.	In the third column, after “2018/667” insert, “2025/****.
Section F (fishing vessel safety) the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Manual Handling Operations) Regulations 1998.	In the third column, after “1999/2205” insert, “2025/****.
Section I (construction and equipment), the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 2001.	In the third column, after “2015/21” insert, “2025/****.
Section L (survey and certification), the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Survey and Certification) Regulations 2013.	In the third column, after “2018/667” insert, “2025/****.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

(a) S.I. 2018/58, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

These Regulations are required in order to implement the relevant amendments of 6th June 2022 made to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 by amendments made under section 85 or 86 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 to the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1613) and the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Recruitment and Placement) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1615). These Regulations also make some other consequential or minor miscellaneous amendments under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (“REUL”) in relation to provisions considered superfluous in various Merchant Shipping Regulations relating to government ships that were introduced under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

Regulation 2 amends the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 to—

- disapply the application of these Regulations to government ships;
- amend regulation 29 so that, with certain exceptions, social connectivity (internet) facilities are provided in all parts of crew accommodation except ship storerooms;
- amend regulation 32, so that the Secretary of State may accept provision of social connectivity facilities that are substantially equivalent to those required under regulation 29;
- amend regulation 34, to clarify that the duty on the shipowner and the master to provide food and drinking water for seafarers only applies during the period of their engagement;
- amend Schedule 3 and 4 to clarify that the relevant ship security document should include information about the shipowner, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner.

Regulation 3 amends the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Recruitment and Placement) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1615) to ensure that seafarers are advised about the insurance backed system of protection available to them prior to, or in the process of, their engagement.

Regulations 2 and 4 and Schedule 1 amend, revoke and where appropriate, make consequential changes to various Merchant Shipping Regulations to remove the application of those Regulations to Government ships because, those provisions are considered superfluous and were only originally extended to Government ships in order to implement obligations arising under EU law under the European Communities Act 1972.

Regulation 5 and Schedule 2 amend the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1104) to insert consequential amendments that are required in respect of relevant instruments included in that Schedule.

The Maritime Labour Convention may be downloaded from the website of the International Labour Organisation at <https://www.ilo.org/international-labour-standards/maritime-labour-convention-2006>. Copies of the MLC may be obtained as a priced publication from www.tsoshop.co.uk, or by post from TSO Customer Services, 18 Central Avenue, St. Andrew’s Business Park, Norwich NR7 0HR, telephone number: +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 and a de minimis assessment have been prepared and are published alongside the instrument on www.legislation.gov.uk.