



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 4 OF 2019**

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Applicable to: Ship owners, Ship operators and managers, masters, chief engineers and seafarers, and MPA's Recognised Organisations (RO)

2016 AMENDMENTS TO THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006

- **Validity of the Maritime Labour Certificate**
- **Guidance on Eliminating Shipboard Harassment and Bullying**

1. This circular highlights the 2016 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) (see **Annex A**).¹ You may wish to note that there are consequential amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Act 2014, resulting from the adoption of the 2016 amendments to the MLC, 2006. The Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2019 implements the appropriate 2016 amendments of the MLC, 2006 and will enter into force on 01 April 2019 (see **Annex B**).²

2. **Validity of the Maritime Labour Certificate:** This is an amendment to Regulation 5.1 of the MLC, 2006 and is intended to allow an extension of not more than five months of the validity of the Maritime Labour Certificate issued for ships in cases where the renewal inspection required by Standard A5.1.3, paragraph 2, has been successfully completed, but a new Maritime Labour Certificate cannot immediately be issued to that ship.

3. This amendment will be incorporated into the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Act 2014 through Part 1 of the Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2019.

4. **Guidance on eliminating shipboard harassment and bullying:** This is an amendment to Guideline B4.3.1 of the MLC, 2006 and is aimed at eliminating shipboard harassment and bullying by ensuring that these issues are covered by the

¹ The 2016 amendments to the MLC, 2006 may be accessed at:
https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/texts-adopted/WCMS_502375/lang-en/index.htm.

² The Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2019 may be accessed at:
<https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/3-2019/Published/20190311?DocDate=20190311>.

health and safety policies and measures required by the MLC, 2006. This amendment refers to the *Guidance on eliminating shipboard harassment and bullying*, which was jointly developed by the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers' Federation (see **Annex C**).³

5. This amendment has no consequential amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Act 2014. Ship owners, Ship operators and managers, masters, chief engineers and seafarers, should take into account the *Guidance on eliminating shipboard harassment and bullying* and develop on board measures to eliminate shipboard harassment and bullying.

6. Ship owners, Ship operators and managers, masters, chief engineers and seafarers, and MPA's Recognised Organisations (RO) should take note of these 2016 amendments to the MLC, 2006. No amendments to the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) Part II are required.

7. Any queries regarding this circular should be directed to the Seafarers Management Department (Email: mmo@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6224).

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³ The guidance may be accessed at <http://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/harassmentandbullying>.