



Marine Circular Nr. 02/ 2025, 21/03/2025

Subject: “2022 Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006)”

Ref.:

- a. Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006).
- b. Amendments of 2022 to the MLC, 2006.
- c. G-B I.S.R. Marine Circular No. 06/2024, 20/12/2024.
- d. Code of Operation of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (GB ISR), Chapter 8.3 “Maritime Labour Convention 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006)”

To: Shipowners, Managers, Operators, Masters and Officers of G-B I.S.R. Vessels, Flag State Inspectors, Surveyors, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Deputy Registrars, and P&I Clubs/Insurers.

1. Purpose

This Marine Circular serves to inform stakeholders about the 2022 amendments to the MLC 2006, which came into force on December 23, 2024. These amendments introduce enhanced protections for seafarers concerning recruitment, repatriation, accommodation, recreational facilities, food, medical care, health, and safety.

2. Applicability

This Circular applies to vessels registered under the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (GB ISR) and all seafarers that is all persons employed or engaged or working in any capacity on board G-B I.S.R. vessels, to which the Convention applies.

3. Summary of 2022 Amendments

3.1. Recruitment and Placement (Regulation 1.4)

- I. Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (SRPS) must now provide financial protection (insurance or equivalent) to cover seafarers' financial losses due to service failure or shipowner default.
- II. Seafarers must be informed of this protection before or during their engagement.

3.2. Repatriation (Regulation 2.5)

- I. Port States, Flag States, and Labour-Supplying States must collaborate to ensure prompt repatriation of abandoned seafarers.
- II. Replacement crew members must receive their full entitlements under MLC 2006.

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3.3. Accommodation and Recreational Facilities (Regulation 3.1)

- I. Ships must provide appropriate recreational facilities, including social connectivity.
- II. Shipowners should offer reasonable access to ship-to-shore communications and the Internet at reasonable costs.

3.4. Food and Catering (Regulation 3.2)

- I. Food and drinking water must be **free of charge**, suitable in quality, variety, and nutritional value, and accommodate religious and cultural preferences.
- II. Catering facilities must support the hygienic preparation of balanced meals

3.5. Medical Care (Regulation 4.1)

- I. Immediate medical disembarkation of seafarers in need of urgent care is mandatory.
- II. Shipowners must facilitate the repatriation of deceased seafarers' remains.
- III. Seafarers should not be denied disembarkation for public health reasons.
- IV. Clear medical criteria for urgent care cases have been established.

3.6. Health and Safety Protection (Regulation 4.3)

- I. Shipowners must provide appropriately sized personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate occupational hazards.
- II. All seafarer fatalities must be investigated and reported annually to the ILO.

3.7. Shore-Based Welfare Facilities (Regulation 4.4)

- I. Port authorities should provide internet access to seafarers at ports and anchorages, where feasible, at reasonable costs.

3.8. Amendments to Appendices (A2-I and A4-I)

- I. Certificates of financial security must include the name of the shipowner or registered owner, where applicable.

4. Compliance and Implementation

4.1. Requirements for Vessels

- a. Newly registered vessels must comply with the amended MLC standards, as per the day of issuance of the current MAR CIR.
- b. Existing vessels must ensure compliance by the first MLC certificate renewal after this date.
- c. Shipowners of existing vessels must submit a "**Declaration of Compliance with MLC 2006 Amendments 2022**" to G-B I.S.S.R. reg1@gbi-lb.org. This declaration upon its approval by the G-B I.S.R. must also be retained onboard for PSC inspections.

4.2. Requirements for Shipowners

- a. Ensure recreational facilities include ship-to-shore communications and internet access.
- b. Provide nutritious meals and drinking water free of charge.
- c. Supply adequately sized PPE for occupational safety.
- d. Update financial security documentation to reflect the registered owner's name.
- e. Submit updated DMLC Part II to the Recognized Organization (RO) before the next MLC renewal.



4.3. Responsibilities of Recognized Organizations (ROs)

- a. ROs must update inspection, audit, and certification procedures to incorporate the amendments.
- b. Verify vessels' DMLC Part I & II updates during inspections.

5. Relevant Actions Required

- a. Shipowners, Managers, and Operators must apply for an updated DMLC Part I before their next renewal inspection.
- b. Deputy Registrars, Flag State Inspectors, and ROs must ensure enforcement of the amendments.
- c. Relevant forms, including the Application for Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance Part I, can be obtained from G-B ISR Operations Department.

6. Consequences of Non-Compliance

- 6.1 Non-compliance may result in **registration suspension** and additional disciplinary measures by GB ISR.

7. Effective Date

- 7.1. This Marine Circular is **effective immediately upon issuance**.

8. Inquiries

- 8.1. For further clarification, please contact:
- **GB ISR Operations Department**
 - **Email:** ops@gbi-lb.org
 - **Tel:** +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar



Attachments:

- a. Full Text of 2022 Amendments to the MLC 2006 (p.4)
- b. Format of the G-B I.S.R. "MLC Declaration of Compliance" (p. 3)