



Antigua and Barbuda Maritime Administration

ILO Circular
No. 2024-003
20 December 2024

**SUBJECT: Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) Amendments in force 23
December 2024**

REFERENCE:

- a) [Amendments of 2022 to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended \(MLC, 2006\)](#)
- b) [Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended \[Including 2022 amendments\]](#)
- c) [Directive 001-2024 MLC Amendments 2022](#)

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organisations

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information on the 2022 Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) that will enter into force on the 23 December 2024.

2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships.

3. BACKGROUND

The amendments adopted by the fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee (STC) were approved by the Conference at its One Hundred and Tenth Session in Geneva, 6 June 2022.

The amendments will enter into force on 23 December 2024, in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 7 of the MLC, 2006.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The amendments adopted at the fourth meeting of STC of the MLC in May 2022, area related to the recruitment and placement, repatriation, accommodation and recreational facilities/access to shore-based welfare facilities, food and catering and medical care on board ship and ashore, and Appendix A2-I (Evidence of financial security under Regulation 2.5, paragraph 2) and Appendix A4-I (Evidence of financial security under Regulation 4.2).

2. Key amendments to note are:

1. Accommodation and Recreational Facilities (Standard A3.1)

Recreational facilities, amenities and services, including social connectivity, as adapted to meet the special needs of seafarers, are to be provided on board.

2. Recreational Facilities, mail and ship visit arrangements (Guideline B3.1.11)

So far as it is reasonably practicable, seafarers should be provided on board their ships with internet access, with charges, if any, being reasonable.

3. Food and Catering (Standard A3.2)

Food and drinking water supplies, taking into consideration the religious requirements and cultural practices of those onboard, are to be provided free of charge. Meals are to be adequate, varied, balanced, nutritious and prepared and served in hygienic conditions.

4. Health and Safety Protection and Accident Prevention (Standard A4.3)

All seafarers are to be provided with appropriately sized personal protective equipment.

5. Evidence of Financial Security (Appendix A2-I)

Certificate(s) or other documentary evidence of financial security (Regulations 2.5 & 4.2) may now include the name of the registered owner of the ship instead of, and if different to, the name of the shipowner.

3. From 26 December 2024, the shipowners, operators or the person in charge of the Antigua and Barbuda flag vessel according to the definition of shipowner indicated in the MLC (Article II Paragraph j), will take appropriate measures to comply with the regulations and standards of the MLC 2006 to provide seafarers decent and safe conditions on board and ashore.

4. The amendments do not modify,

1. Appendix A5-I, the working and living conditions of seafarers that must be inspected and approved before certifying a ship.
2. Appendix A5-III, on the general areas subject to a detailed inspection by an authorized officer in a port of a member state carrying out a port State control inspection pursuant to Standard A5.2.1.
3. The amendments do not modify the content of the Annual Safety Inspection form (ASI), related to maritime labour inspection

5. The amendments modify the Appendix A5-II, Declaration of Maritime Labor Compliance Part I & II
 1. The following changes have been included in DMLC Part I:
 1. Added informing seafarers about their rights under the seafarers' recruitment and placement services' system of protection in Paragraph 5 c (DMLC Part I),
 2. Added provision of social connectivity in Para 8 d (DMLC Part I),
 3. Added supply of balanced food in Para 10 b & f (DMLC Part I)
 4. Added provision of the necessary appropriately sized personal protective equipment in Para 11 a.v (DMLC Part I)
6. An amended DMLC Part I will be available to:
 1. all ships registering with Antigua & Barbuda on or after 23 December 2024.
 2. ships registered in Antigua & Barbuda, prior to the first renewal inspection on or after 23 December 2024; and
 3. any ship upon request
7. The Recognized Organizations authorized by this Administration shall review compliance with these amendments, at the time of carrying out the interim, initial, intermediate or renewal audits, as of its entry into force.

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
(ADOMS) St. John's