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To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Key Resources for ILO MLC Implementation
Reference	MLC 2006

Key Resources for ILO MLC Implementation

The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006) which provides international standards for the seafarers, came into force on August 20, 2013. This landmark Convention is widely known as the "seafarers' bill of rights," and it was adopted by government, employer and workers representatives with the aim both to achieve decent work for seafarers and to secure economic interests through fair competition for quality ship owners.

Key resources documents regarding the implementation of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention as follows:

Guidelines on the medical examinations of seafarers

These Guidelines apply to seafarers in accordance with the requirements of the MLC, 2006, and the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended. They revise and replace the Guidelines for Conducting Pre-sea and Periodic Medical Fitness Examinations for Seafarers, published by the ILO and WHO in 1997.

When implementing and utilizing these Guidelines, it is essential to ensure that:

- (i) the fundamental rights, protections, principles, and employment and social rights outlined in Articles III and IV of the MLC, 2006, are respected;
- (ii) from the point of view of safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment, seafarers on board ships are qualified and fit for their duties; and
- (iii) medical certificates genuinely reflect seafarers' state of health, in light of the

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duties they are to perform, the competent authority shall, after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations concerned, in giving due consideration to applicable international guidelines referred to in Guideline B.1.2 of the MLC, 2006, prescribe the nature of the medical examination and certificate, as outlined in Standard A.1.2.2 of the MLC, 2006.

These Guidelines are intended to provide maritime administrations with an internationally recognized set of criteria for use by competent authorities either directly or as the basis for framing national medical examination standards that will be compatible with international requirements. Valid and consistent guidelines should assist medical practitioners, shipowners, seafarers' representatives, seafarers and other relevant persons with the conduct of medical fitness examinations of serving seafarers and seafarer candidates. Their purpose is to help administrations establish criteria that will lead to equitable decisions about who can safely and effectively perform their routine and emergency duties at sea, provided these are compatible with their individual health-related capabilities.

These Guidelines have been developed in order to reduce the differences in the application of medical requirements and examination procedures and to ensure that the medical certificates which are issued to seafarers are a valid indicator of their medical fitness for the duties they will perform. Ultimately, the aim of the Guidelines is to contribute to health and safety at sea.

Guidelines on the training of ships' cooks

These Guidelines are intended to provide supplementary practical information and guidance to flag States that can be reflected in their national laws and other measures to implement Regulation 3.2 and the Code of the MLC, 2006. It must be emphasized that these Guidelines are intended as a practical resource to be used by any government that finds them helpful. In all cases, the relevant national laws or regulations, collective bargaining agreements or other measures to implement the MLC, 2006, in the flag State should be viewed as the authoritative statement of the requirements in that State. The Guidelines may also be useful to labour-supplying States that have specialized training schools for ships' cooks.

The purpose of these Guidelines is to ensure that seafarers have access to good quality food and drinking water provided under regulated hygienic conditions. Accordingly, each Member shall ensure that ships that fly its flag carry on board and serve food and drinking water of appropriate quality, nutritional value and quantity that adequately covers the requirements of the ship and takes into account the differing cultural and religious backgrounds. Seafarers on board a ship shall be provided with food free of charge during the period of engagement. Seafarers employed as ships' cooks with responsibility for food preparation must be trained and qualified for their

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position on board ship.

REFERENCES:

- **MLC 2006**

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