



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° MLC 006

REMINDER FOR THE REQUIREMENT FOR MARITIME LABOUR CERTIFICATE, DECLARATION OF MARITIME LABOUR COMPLIANCE AND MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION INSPECTION REPORT ON BOARD

TO: RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (RO), FLAG STATE
INSPECTORS, SHIP OWNERS AND MANAGERS,
MASTERS AND SEAFARERS

APPLICABLE TO: ALL SHIPS EXCEPT PLEASURE (PRIVATE) YACHTS

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Date of this Circular

22nd April 2014

The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) applies to all St. Vincent and the Grenadines ships engaged in commercial activities.

Maritime Labour (ML) Certificate and Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) are required for all ships of 500 GT and over, engaged in international voyages or operating from a port or between ports in another country.

All other ships, including ships under 500 GT, should be inspected and found to be in compliance with MLC 2006. Upon a successful MLC inspection, the MLC Inspection Report is the objective evidence of the compliance. ML Certification for these vessels is not mandatory – Ship owners / Managers may, at their discretion, request a voluntary ML certification.

MLC's requirements should have been implemented on board at the date of the entry into force which is 20th August 2013.

The ILO has adopted a Resolution requesting Port State Controls to allow ships to continue to operate without a Maritime Labour Certificate (and Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance) during a period of one (1) year after 20th August 2013. ILO has invited the Member States to take a pragmatic approach in this respect during the first year.

The above means that the requirements of MLC should be fully implemented on board even though the Maritime Labour Certificate (and Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance) or the MLC Inspection Report are not required by Port State Controls until **20th August 2014**.

The date of entry into force of this Convention is not the same for every Member State. The 20th August 2013 only applies to the first thirty (30) countries which have ratified the Convention. For countries which have ratified the Convention after 20th August, 2013 or have still to ratify the Convention, the date of the entry into force will be twelve (12) months after the date of ratification. A list of countries which have ratified the Convention is available on www.ilo.org/mlc

Ship owners / Managers are reminded that St. Vincent and The Grenadines Seaman's Books are compulsory for all seafarers on board as they are records of employment. The compliance should be verified during the MLC inspection on board.

Furthermore, ship owners / Managers should ensure that vessels which have not been certified or inspected by 20th August 2013 are certified or inspected as soon as possible in order to avoid circumstances such as shortage of Recognized Organization (RO) inspectors, heavy weather, port congestion, vessels' location and other unforeseen circumstances which may lead to delays in MLC inspections.