



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° MLC 001

MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION

**TO: RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, FLAG STATE
SURVEYORS, SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS
AND MANAGERS, MASTERS AND SEAFARERS**

APPLICABLE TO: ALL SHIPS

Monaco, 20th December 2010

St Vincent and The Grenadines is the eleventh (11th) Maritime State to ratify the [Maritime Labour Convention, 2006](http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/WCMS_149445/lang--en/index.htm) (MLC 2006). News of the deposit of the instrument of ratification on 9th November 2010 has been released by the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva. In this respect we refer to the following link: http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/WCMS_149445/lang--en/index.htm

The Government of St Vincent and The Grenadines also deposited three other important ratifications on 9th November 2010: the [Employment Policy Convention, 1964 \(No. 122\)](#); the [Labour Inspection \(Agriculture\) Convention, 1969 \(No. 129\)](#), and the [Tripartite Consultation \(International Labour Standards\) Convention, 1976 \(No. 144\)](#).

The National Maritime Tripartite Committee of St Vincent and The Grenadines comprising Shipowners, seafarers and representatives of governmental maritime agencies which was established by the Cabinet on 23rd June 2010, held its inaugural meeting on 29th November 2010. The meeting was also attended by the President of the National Labour Congress, the President of St Vincent and The Grenadines Employers Federation and managerial staff of the National Insurance Services (NIS).

The Meeting was addressed by outgoing Minister responsible for Labour, Mr René Baptiste, who provided an overview of the significance of the MLC 2006 for the maritime economic interests of St Vincent and The Grenadines. The Committee was also updated on developments in implementing the MLC 2006 including the assistance received from the ILO, for the provision of legal services to prepare draft shipping and national insurance service legislation to give effect to the MLC 2006. Mr Colin Graham, the legal Consultant engaged by the ILO, is scheduled to visit St Vincent and The Grenadines on 16th and 17th December 2010 to meet with Officials and to explain the provisions of the draft legislation to Government officials and to facilitate a one day tri-partite meeting of social partners to discuss/review the draft legislation.

The Committee also agreed to accelerate the efforts to establish a national seafarers' organization with the support from the National Labour Congress and a national Shipowners' organization with the assistance of St Vincent and The Grenadines Employers' Federation. The meetings with the seafarers and the Shipowners are scheduled to take place on 11th and 12th January 2011 respectively.

MLC 2006 will be effective twelve months after the required number of Member States has ratified the Convention.

A Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC) and a Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) will be required to ensure the compliance with the Convention for all ships of 500 Gross Tonnage and above engaged in international voyages and for all ships of 500 Gross Tonnage or over, flying the Flag of a Member State and operating from a port or between ports in another Country.

During the second quarter of 2011 St Vincent and The Grenadines intends to promulgate a legislation for MLC 2006 and appoint Recognized Organizations (RO) for the purpose of MLC 2006 inspection and certification.

Please refer to the following link as the ILO Flag State Guidelines for Inspection will provide for a common standard for inspection and certification.

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@normes/documents/publication/wcms_101788.pdf