

Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (6 June 2025).

At the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference (2–13 June 2025), the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the fifth set of amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006). These amendments, adopted on 6 June 2025, are expected to enter into force in 2027.

Key Amendments

Amendments to the Code relating to Regulation 2.4

Standard A2.4.2 – Shore leave

Each member shall ensure that seafarers are allowed ashore by the public authorities while the ship on which they arrive is in a port in its jurisdiction, provided that the relevant formalities have been fulfilled and the public authorities have no reason to refuse permission to come ashore for reasons of public health, public safety and security or public order.

No seafarer shall be required to hold a visa or special permit for the purpose of shore leave.

Shipowners shall allow shore leave to seafarers when off duty, upon the ship's arrival in port, except when leaving the ship is prohibited or restricted by relevant authorities of the port State, or due to safety or operational reasons.

Amendment to the Code relating to Regulation 2.5

Standard A2.5.1 - Repatriation

Add new paragraph 3 and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

3. The costs to be borne by the shipowner for repatriation under subparagraph 2 (c) shall include at least the following:

- (a) passage to the destination selected for repatriation;
- (b) accommodation and food from the moment the seafarers leave the ship until they reach the repatriation destination;
- (c) transportation of up to 30 kg of the seafarer's personal luggage to the repatriation destination; and
- (d) medical treatment when necessary until the seafarers are medically fit to travel to the repatriation destination

Guideline B2.5.2 - Repatriation

Each Member should designate and recognize seafarers as key workers and take appropriate measures to facilitate their safe movement when travelling in connection with their employment or work, including, but not limited to, access to shore leave, repatriation, crew changes and medical care ashore.

Amendment to the Code relating to Regulation 4.4

Seafarers in a foreign port (Guideline B4.4.6)

Amend paragraph 2 as follows:

Seafarers who are detained in a foreign port should be dealt with promptly under due process of law and with appropriate consular protection, taking due account of the ILO/IMO Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers detained in connection with alleged crimes.

Amendment to the Code relating to Regulation 5.1

Standard A5.1.5 – On-board complaint procedures

Amend paragraph 2 as follows:

Each Member shall ensure that, in its laws or regulations, appropriate on-board complaint procedures are in place to meet the requirements of Regulation 5.1.5. Such procedures shall seek to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible. However, in all cases, seafarers shall have a right to complain directly to the master and, where they consider it necessary, to appropriate shoreside personnel or to appropriate external authorities.

The official ILO text of the 2025 is available via the [link](#).