



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 18 OF 2020**

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Applicable to: Shipowners, ship managers, operators, masters, seafarers, and MPA's Recognised Organisations (RO)

2018 AMENDMENTS TO THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006

1. This circular highlights the 2018 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) (see **Annex A**). The Merchant Shipping (Amendments) Act 2020 implements the 2018 amendments of the MLC, 2006 and will enter into force on 26 December 2020 (see **Annex B**).

2. The 2018 amendments to the MLC, 2006 enhance employment protection for seafarers held in captivity, where, in the unfortunate event, the seafarer(s) is held captive on or off a ship as a result of an act of piracy or armed robbery against the ship. During the period of captivity, the seafarer's employment agreement (SEA) shall continue to have effect, regardless of whether the date fixed for the expiry of the SEA has passed or either party to the SEA has given notice to suspend or terminate it. Further, a captive seafarer's wages and other entitlements under the SEA must continue to be paid during the period of captivity, until the day the seafarer is released and duly repatriated, or if the seafarer dies while in captivity, until the date of the seafarer's death. The seafarer's employer is also obligated to repatriate the seafarer upon release from captivity.

Review of Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA)

3. MPA will not be revising the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC) Part I. However, shipowners are to review their policies, procedures and SEAs and any applicable collective bargaining agreements to ensure compliance with the 2018 amendments.

4. Recognized Organizations (ROs) will be confirming compliance with the new requirements during their MLC inspections on or after 26 December 2020.

5. Any queries regarding this circular should be directed to the Seafarers Management Department (Email: mmo@mpa.gov.sg).

GOH CHUNG HUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE