



Merchant Shipping (Hours of Work) Regulations, 2002

MSD Notice No 50

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,
Owners' representatives and Masters, and Officers*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the new Merchant Shipping (Hours of Work) Regulations, 2002 (L.N. 213 of 2002) published on the 26 July 2002. In the main these regulations shall come into force on the 1 December 2002.

The purpose of the new regulations is to implement the majority of the provisions of the Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996 (ILO Convention No. 180), and to give effect, in part, to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (ILO Convention No. 147) and its Protocol of 1996.

The regulations provide, *inter alia*, that it shall be the duty of both an employer of a seafarer and of a master of a ship to ensure that a seafarer is provided with minimum hours of rest of not less than ten hours in any twenty four hour period and seventy seven hours in any seven day period. Where an emergency occurs, the minimum hours of rest are subject to exception. Also, the Registrar-General may authorise collective agreements permitting exceptions to the above mentioned limits.

Moreover, the regulations provide that the master of a ship, or a person acting under his authority, is to ensure that a table with the shipboard working arrangements is posted-up in a prominent and accessible place in the ship and that a record of a seafarer's daily hours of rest be maintained by the master or a person authorised by the master.

Furthermore, the regulations prescribe a minimum four week period of leave for seafarers in each leave year. However, this provision will enter into force at a date yet to be announced, but after the 1 December 2002.

Merchant Shipping Directorate
Valletta

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