



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**  
**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

9 Diakon Ignatii Street, 1000 Sofia  
Tel: (+359 2) 930 09 10  
Fax: (+359 2) 930 09 20

bma@marad.bg  
www.marad.bg

**TO THE ATTENTION OF  
THE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT SERVICES  
REGISTERED WITH THE AGENCY ON EMPLOYMENT**

*OUR Ref 499/0623*

**Subject:** *Certification of the compliance of the Bulgarian Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services with the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006*

**DEAR SIRs,**

Recently the Bulgarian Maritime Administration has been addressed by a number of Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services, established in Bulgaria with request for clarification on the issue of the certification of their compliance with the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC). These requests originate from the questions put forward to the Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services by foreign shipowners using their services. With this regard the Bulgarian Maritime Administration provides the following clarification:

The Republic of Bulgaria has ratified the MLC with a law adopted by the National Assembly on 27 May 2009. On 12 April 2010 the ratification has been communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

According to Article VIII of the MLC, the Convention shall come into force 12 months after the date on which there have been registered ratifications by at least 30 Members with a total share in the world gross tonnage of ships of 33 per cent. On 20 August 2012 the Director-General officially announced that following the registration of the instruments of ratification of the Russian Federation and the Philippines these two conditions have been fulfilled and the Convention will come into force upon 20 August 2013. As of that date the MLC shall be binding upon those Members of the International Labour Organization whose ratifications have been registered by the Director-General.

The process of certification of ships for compliance with the MLC requires among others, provision of proof that the ship's crew has been recruited through seafarer recruitment and placement services, meeting the requirements of Standard A1.4. "Recruitment and placement".

The Guidelines for Flag State Inspections under the MLC, published by the International Labour Organization, provides the following procedure:

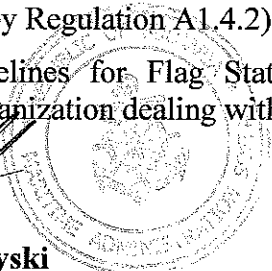
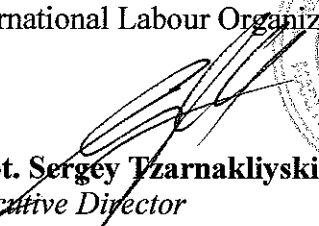
- the inspector checks documentation or other information of the shipowner on how the seafarers were recruited. If the seafarers were engaged through a private seafarer recruitment and

placement service, operating in another **STATE THAT HAS RATIFIED THE MLC, 2006**, no further action is need as this is regarded as sufficient evidence of the compliance with the provisions of Standard A1.4.

Therefore, the seafarer recruitment and placement services, established and operating in Bulgaria, do not require certification for compliance with the requirements of the MLC, as the Convention has been ratified by Bulgaria.

In view of the above, in case you are approached by shipowners with a request to provide proof of certification of your recruitment and placement service for compliance with the MLC or document of audit for MLC compliance issued by a recognized organization, provide the Certificate of Registration, issued by the National Employment Agency (which is a proof that your company is operated in conformity with "*a standardized system of licensing or certification or other form of regulation*" as required by Regulation A1.4.2) together with the present note.

Extract form the Guidelines for Flag State Inspections under the MLC, published by the International Labour Organization dealing with the subject matter is attached hereto.



**Capt. Sergey Tzarnakliyski**  
*Executive Director*  
*Bulgarian Maritime Administration*