

Three amendment regulations and notices in relation to seafarers of merchant ships to take effect on December 23

The Government today (October 18) gazetted the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Health and Safety: General Duties) (Amendment) Regulation 2024 (Commencement) Notice; the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Working and Living Conditions) (Amendment) Regulation 2024 (Commencement) Notice; and the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Returns of Births, Deaths and Missing Persons) Regulation (Amendment of Schedules) Notice 2024 (Commencement) Notice, to specify the amendment regulations and notices in relation to seafarers of merchant ships to come into effect on December 23 this year.

The Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Health and Safety: General Duties) (Amendment) Regulation 2024; the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Working and Living Conditions) (Amendment) Regulation 2024; and the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Returns of Births, Deaths and Missing Persons) Regulation (Amendment of Schedules) Notice 2024, which were enacted by the Legislative Council earlier on, seek to incorporate into local legislation the latest relevant requirements of certain amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, approved by the International Labour Organization (the 2022 Amendments). The latest requirements cover seafarer recruitment and placement agents, provision of drinking water supplies and balanced meals, repatriation of the bodies or ashes of deceased seafarers, reporting of deaths of seafarers, as well as provision of appropriately sized personal protective equipment. The aforesaid regulations and notice will come into operation on December 23, in line with the date on which the 2022 Amendments will enter into force globally.

â€‹The commencement notices will be tabled to the Legislative Council on October 23 for negative vetting.