

INFORMATION BULLETIN No.198

Ship's Cook

Application: all ships to which MLC 2006 applies; all other ships over 1000 gross tons which carry more than 10 persons engaged on international voyages except for fishing vessels or pleasure craft.

General requirements

Ships other than those excepted above should have one person with designated responsibility for food preparation. Those ships subject to this provision shall carry a ship's cook and the managing company shall ensure that the person assigned as Ship's Cook is duly trained, qualified and holds documentary evidence of competence.

The Ship's Cook shall:

- be not less than 18 years old.
- have completed an approved training course that includes practical cookery, food storage, stock control, environmental protection and catering health and safety.
- either have worked at sea for not less than 3 months as a second cook/assistant cook or spent 5 years in the catering department as a steward/stewardess. BMSR may consider a waiver of the sea service requirements subject to the experience of the individual.

Under the ILO standard A3.2 and in circumstances of exceptional necessity, BMSR may issue a dispensation allowing a non-fully-qualified cook to serve in a ship for a specified limited period, until the next convenient port of call or for a period not exceeding one month, provided that the person to whom the dispensation refers is trained or instructed in areas including food and personal hygiene as well as handling and storage of food on board ship.

This bulletin should be read in conjunction with BMSR bulletins 184 and 188.

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