

## INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 205 MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SEAFARERS

**Guidance and instructions for Barbados Recognised Organisations, Barbados Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers, Masters, Seafarers, Recruitment & Placement Services and Authorised Manning Agents**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) specifies a minimum age requirement for seafarers employed or engaged or working on board a ship and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW) specifies minimum age requirements for certification of some seafarers on board a ship.
- 1.2 This Bulletin outlines Barbados requirements in relation to the minimum age for the purpose of compliance with MLC 2006 and STCW.
- 1.3 This Bulletin shall be read in conjunction with BMSR Bulletins 180,184,198,203.

### **2. Application**

- 2.1 The minimum age requirement is applicable to all ships registered with BMSR and to all seafarers, except where expressly provided otherwise.

### **3. General Requirements**

- 3.1 No person below the minimum age of 16 years shall be employed, engaged or work on a Barbados registered vessel. (Section 103, The Shipping Act, 1994)
- 3.2 No seafarer under the age of 18 shall work at night. For the purpose of these requirements, 'night' means a period of at least nine (9) hours starting no later than midnight ship's time and ending no earlier than 05:00 ship's time.
- 3.3 The requirement for night work may be waived where: i) the seafarer is engaged in a training programme that has been established by the ship-owner. The training programme and schedule of night time work should be documented in the Safety Management System; or ii) the specific nature of the duty or programme, as recognized by BMSR, requires the performance of duties at night. The Employer shall undertake a ship-board assessment which should determine that the work will not be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the person under 18.

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