

When was the last time you reviewed the crew contracts/agreements that you have in place for seafarers working on the yacht(s) you are involved with? Having a procedure in place to regularly review the content of crew contracts is crucial these days to make sure you are up to date with all the changes flag states are making.

These changes are being brought about by two main events that are affecting the whole of the maritime industry, namely the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) and the Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention (STCW 2010). These two events are the driving force behind changes to seafarers' employment law in each of the flag state jurisdictions. Most governments, if they have not already done so, will need to either introduce new laws or revise existing laws in order to meet their obligations under MLC 2006 and STCW 2010.

So what can you do to help ease the transition from the contracts that you are using now, to what will be required under these two conventions? Lesia recommends a thorough review of the current contracts that you have in place to bring them in line with the core elements of both MLC 2006 and STCW 2010. By taking this action now you will have only minor amendments to make when each flag state publishes the additional requirements that will be required to meet seafarer employment laws in its own territory.

There will be enough to do when MLC 2006 enters into force without having to scramble around at the last minute to bring these documents up to date. Don't forget the Seafarers' Employment Agreement is one of the 14 items to be inspected by the flag state inspector under MLC 2006.

You can never be too well prepared!

If you would like to know about how Lesia can help you or your clients, please visit our website and contact us at enquiries@lesiagroup.com

Best regards

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