



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 146

Ship Cook

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers,
Masters, Seafarers, Recruitment & Placement Service and Duly
Authorised Manning Agents**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin provides all parties with guidance on the carriage of a Ship Cook in accordance with the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006) requirements for employment of a Ship Cook.
- 1.2 This Bulletin should be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletins 103, 105, 115, 127, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145 and 147.

2. Application and interpretation

- 2.1 This applies to:
 - .1 all ships to which the MLC 2006 applies. This applies to all ships to which the MLC 2006 is applicable as determined by the BMA and outlined in BMA Information Bulletin 127, and
 - .2 all other ships over 1000 gross tonnage and carrying more than 10 persons engaged on international voyages except for fishing vessels or pleasure craft.
- 2.2 Ships other than those noted in 2.1 should have one person with designated responsibility for food preparation

3. General requirements

- 3.1 All ships to which this provision apply shall carry a Ship cook and the Company shall ensure that the person assigned as Ship Cook is duly trained, qualified and has documentary evidence of their competence.
- 3.2 The Ship Cook shall:
- .1 not be less than 18 years old; and
 - .2 have completed an approved training course that includes practical cookery, food and personal hygiene, food storage, stock control, and environmental protection and catering health and safety; and
 - .3 either have served at sea for not less than three (3) months as a second Cook or Assistant Cook or five (5) years in the catering Department as steward or stewardess. The BMA may consider a waiver of the sea service requirements based on the catering experience of the affected person.
- 3.3 The BMA will accept training that has been approved by a country that is party to the ILO MLC 2006 or training that was carried out under the provisions of ILO No. 69 (Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946).
- 3.4 The BMA may:
- .1 allow a ship carrying less than 10 persons and engaged on coastal voyages to sail without a fully qualified Ship Cook. Any person assigned tasks to process food shall be trained or instructed in food and health areas including food and personal hygiene, handling and storage of food onboard ship. The Company shall apply for an exemption as outlined in Section 3.4.
 - .2 permit a non-fully qualified Ship Cook to serve as Ship Cook for a period not exceeding one month or until a port where where a fully qualified Ship Cook can be engaged or for a period not exceeding one month. In such circumstances, one person should be designated to process food shall be trained or instructed in food and health areas including food and personal hygiene, handling and storage of food onboard ship. The Company shall apply for an dispensation as outlined in Section 3.4

3.5 Under the provisions noted in 3.3 above, the Company applying for an exemption or dispensation shall submit an application in writing to the BMA providing:

- Details of the affected seafarer including evidence of sea service
- Details of the affected ship and intended voyage
- Copy of any Company training or instructions in food and health
- Reason for the application
- Applicable fee for assessment of application. An exemption/dispensation fee will apply, see BMA Information Bulletin 81

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (31 August 2012)– First issue