
Ships Cook

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors, seafarers, Recruitment & Placement Services and Duly Authorised Manning Agents

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.146

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Notice provides all parties with guidance on the carriage of a ship's 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's cook.
- 1.2. This Notice should be read in conjunction with marine Notices 031 and 050.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all ships to which MLC 2006 is applicable, as determined by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) and outlined in BMA Marine Notice 31 that are:
 - i. over 1,000 gross tonnage, and
 - ii. carrying not less than 10 persons, and
 - iii. 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 and such person shall be trained or instructed in food and health areas, including food and personal hygiene, handling and storage of food onboard ship.

3. General requirements

- 3.1. All ships to which this Notice applies shall carry at least one ship's cook.

- 3.2. The Company¹ shall ensure that the person assigned as ship's cook is duly trained, qualified and has documentary evidence of their competence. The number of cooks carried should be based on the Company's assessment, taking into consideration the number of persons onboard, the intended voyage(s), compliance with the hours of rest requirements, number of cooking areas and any other relevant factors.
- 3.3. Notwithstanding the carriage of a ship's 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.
- 3.4. On passenger ships or ships using a third party catering provider, the Company shall ensure that the ship's cook (more commonly referred to as the "Executive Chef" on a passenger ship or other designation that would specify the person responsible for all food handling, food production and food health and hygiene) is duly trained, qualified and has documentary evidence satisfying the requirements of Para 3.2 of this Marine notice. Other subordinate persons assigned tasks of food handling or food processing shall be duly trained and instructed as specified in Para 3.1.2 of this Marine notice with evidence of the training or instructions duly documented.
- 3.5. The ship's cook shall:
- i. not be less than 18 years old; and
 - ii. 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
 - iii. 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.
- 3.6. The BMA will accept training that:
- i. has been approved by a country that is party to MLC 2006, or
 - ii. was carried out under the provisions of ILO Convention No. 69 (Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946), or
 - iii. other training that is equivalent to the ILO standards.

¹ The "Company" is the entity responsible for the management of the mother ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with Section 52 of the Merchant Shipping Act

- 3.7. The BMA may:
- i. allow a ship carrying less than 10 persons and engaged on coastal voyages to sail without a fully qualified ship's 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 paragraph 3.8,
 - ii. permit a non-fully qualified ship's cook to serve as ship's cook until a port where a fully qualified ship's cook can be engaged or for a period not exceeding one month. In such circumstances, the person designated to process food to whom the dispensation is issued 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 a dispensation as outlined in paragraph 3.8,
 - iii. accept the onboard training or instruction of the ship's person who are assigned tasks relating to food processing and food handling. The system for training or instruction should be documented and records should be maintained of persons completing the training/instructions.
- 3.8. The Company applying for an exemption or dispensation shall submit an application in writing to the BMA providing:
- i. Details of the affected seafarer including evidence of sea service,
 - ii. Details of the affected ship and intended voyage,
 - iii. Copy of any Company training or instructions in food and health,
 - iv. Reason for the application,
 - v. Payment for exemption/dispensation fee, see BMA Marine Notice 050.

4. Queries

- 4.1. Any queries on this Notice may be submitted to stcw@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

