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N.B: Dawn in-Noti ta' Spjegazzjoni mhumiex maħsuba biex ikunu deskrizzjoni eżawrjenti tal-istrument legali u lanqas sostitut għalih jew suppliment leġiżlattiv għalih. Dawn in-Noti ta' Spjegazzjoni mhumiex intiżi bħala deċiżjoni awtorevoli fuq l-interpretazzjoni tal-leġiżlazzjoni.

L-4 ta' Frar, 2025

No. 204

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (EUROPEAN FUNDS, EQUALITY, REFORMS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE)

Explanatory Notes[1]

1. Introduction

Title of Regulations	Urgent Family Leave (Amendment) Regulations, 2024
Activity to be regulated	Urgent family leave
Responsible entity	Department for Industrial and Employment Relations

2. Summary and background

2.1 Purpose and objectives of the regulations

These amendments are intended to amend the Urgent Family Leave Regulations (S.L. 452.88) to increase the number of hours dedicated to urgent family leave from fifteen (15) hours to thirty-two (32) hours.

2.2 The need for these regulations

These amendments are required to facilitate further the balance between work exigencies and the need for flexibility due to unforeseen family circumstances.

2.3 Public consultation

Consultations were held with the Employment Relations Board. The Employment Relations Board is a tripartite Board which comprises also trade unions and employers' associations representatives as stipulated in the principal Act.

[1]These Explanatory Notes are in accordance with and for the purpose of article 3(2)(c) of the Small Business Act (Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta).

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

The Regulations are made up of two (2) regulations and consist of the following:

Regulation 1 – Citation and commencement.
Regulation 2 –Amends regulation 6 of the principal regulations.

4. Commentary

Sub-regulation (1) of regulation 6 is being substituted so that the urgent family leave will increase from fifteen (15) hours to thirty-two (32) hours. The first sixteen (16) hours availed of by the employee shall be deducted from the vacation leave entitlement whilst the remaining sixteen (16) hours shall be deducted from the sick leave entitlement.

5. Concluding section

These regulations shall be deemed to come into force two (2) months from their publication in the Gazette.

In case of queries, the general public is encouraged to contact the Department for Industrial and Employment Relations:

Department for Industrial and Employment Relations,
121, Melita Street,
Valletta - Malta,
VLT 1121

Customer Support
109, Melita Street,
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Telephone
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1576 for Principals

Email
info.dier@gov.mt

N.B. This Explanatory Note is not intended to be an exhaustive description of the instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. This Note does not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

4th February, 2025

No. 205

TRANSPORT MALTA

Explanatory Notes
(for the purposes of article 3(2)(c) of Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta)

1. Introduction

Title of the Rules	Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Amendment) Rules, 2025
Activity to be regulated	Maritime Industry
Responsible entity	Merchant Shipping Directorate within the Authority for Transport in Malta

2. Summary and background

The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Rules transposed the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) into domestic legislation. During the 110th session of the International Labour Conference in 2022, the plenary session approved additional amendments to the MLC, 2006.

In terms of the 2022 amendments shipowners are to make sure that recreational facilities on board include social connectivity, adapted to the special needs of seafarers, including reasonable access to ship-to-shore telephone communications, where available, and internet access.

Shipowners are to provide food and drinking water, free of charge, and make sure that meals provided are nutritious, balanced, of sufficient quantity and quality.

In addition, shipowners are to make sure that all seafarers are provided with appropriately sized personal protective equipment to prevent occupational accidents, injuries and diseases on board.

A further amendment which was deemed necessary has been included in these amendment Rules, following experience gained from the implementation of the MLC, 2006, in the past eleven years.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

The amending rules consist of the following six (6) rules:

Rule 1: Citation and commencement.
Rule 2: Adds new rule to the principal rules.
Rule 3: Substitution of rule 54 of the principal rules.
Rule 4: Amends rule 107 of the principal rules.
Rule 5: Adds new rules to the principal rules.
Rule 6: Amends the Fourth Schedule to the principal rules.

4. Commentary

The new amendments are based on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many seafarers witnessed prolonged periods of isolation against the backdrop of a crew change crisis.

The amendments aim to ensure that seafarers have appropriately sized personal protective equipment, in particular to suit the increasing number of female seafarers; shipowners provide seafarers with appropriate social connectivity; all deaths of seafarers are recorded and reported annually to the International Labour Organization and the relevant data is published and seafarers are informed of their rights regarding the obligation of recruitment and placement services to compensate seafarers for any monetary loss.

5. Concluding Section

The amending rules will be transposing the above mentioned 2022 amendments into domestic legislation.

For further information kindly contact the Merchant Shipping Directorate within the Authority for Transport in Malta on 2125 0360.

N.B: These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the legal instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. These Explanatory Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

4th February, 2025