

## GUIDANCE NOTE 02/2018 (Rev 3.1)

### RECOGNITION OF SHIP'S COOKS ON CAYMAN ISLANDS VESSELS

To: OWNERS, MANAGERS AND MASTERS OF CAYMAN ISLANDS YACHTS AND PASSENGER YACHTS

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Food and Catering) Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations) implements into Cayman Islands law the provisions of Regulation 3.2 of The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) relating to Food and Catering.
- 1.2 Part 2 of Shipping Notice CISN 07/2014 (as amended) provides guidance on how to comply with the requirements of regulation 8 of the Regulations including the requirement to carry a qualified ship's cook and training, experience and certification requirements. This Guidance Note supplements that Shipping Notice and introduces an optional recognition statement, which may be issued on request by the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry (CISR), recognizing that seafarers working on a Cayman Islands registered Large Yacht or Passenger Yacht demonstrate qualifications and experience that is considered equivalent to that required to obtain a Ship's Cook Certificate.
- 1.3 The Cayman Islands Shipping Registry is issuing these optional recognitions at the request of a number of seafarers who have expressed a desire to be able to show their qualification as a ship's cook through a single document. Such recognitions are issued on a voluntary basis and are not required by either the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Food and Catering) Regulations, 2014 or MLC 2006 itself.
- 1.4 For the purposes of MLC 2006, a "ship's cook" is the individual, or individuals, who are responsible for the food and catering services provided to the crew. A visiting chef who is on board who only prepares food for guests and other "non crew members" is not considered as a ship's cook for the purposes of MLC 2006.

#### 2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A SHIP'S COOK

- 2.1 Regulation 8(1) of the Regulations provide that it is the shipowner's responsibility to make sure that a ship to which the MLC, 2006 applies which ordinarily operates with 10 or more seafarers, on voyages of more than 3 days or more than 36 hours from a safe port, carries a fully qualified cook.

- 2.2 A ship's cook must be aged 18 or above and should have evidence of qualifications as a cook, such as: -
- a) certificates of qualification as a ship's cook issued by countries that have ratified the Maritime Labour Convention 2006; or
  - b) certificates of qualification as a ship's cook issued by countries that have ratified the Certification of Ships Cooks Convention, 1946 (No.69); or
  - c) National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level II in catering and hospitality; or
  - d) confirmation, supported by a Curriculum Vitae (CV), that they have been serving as a chef in a professional kitchen, commercial yacht or passenger ship and evidence that they have completed training (at managerial level<sup>2</sup>) in food and personal hygiene, food storage, stock control, and environmental protection and catering health and safety; or
- 2.3 Where a professionally qualified chef/cook wishes to demonstrate qualifications and experience as per paragraphs 2.2 c) to d) above, the CISR may accept such shore-based training for cooks that it considers to be equivalent to the training required under the Standard A3.2 of MLC, 2006 for employment on Cayman Islands ships.
- 2.4 A professionally qualified chef/cook should have accrued at least 1 month of sea time before applying for a 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement.
- 2.5 As noted above recognised cook's professional qualifications, such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), or a similar qualification, obtained from a shore-based catering training establishment may be acceptable<sup>1</sup> to the Cayman Islands provided the course contents meet Standard A3.2 of MLC, 2006, and the syllabus includes advanced/managerial level<sup>2</sup> training on food hygiene and preparation. The chef/cook should hold a valid certificate issued by that shore-based establishment attesting to the completion of specified training. If the course content does not include advanced/managerial level training<sup>2</sup> on food hygiene and preparation, then separate certificates covering this should be held.
- 2.6 Although there is no legal requirement for the Food Hygiene and Safety certificate to be refreshed, the catering industry best practice is to take a refresher course every 3 to 5 years. As such we would expect a course to have been taken within at least the last 3 years when processing an application. We have no objection to on-line accredited courses.
- 2.7 Seafarers who have obtained the professional qualifications and experience as a cook indicated in section 2.2 and who meet the minimum age requirements will be entitled to serve as a Ship's Cook on a Cayman Islands vessel as required by regulation 8(1) of the Regulations. However, in response to inquiries from clients the CISR has decided to introduce a purely voluntary 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement, recognizing that seafarers serving on, or intending to serve on Large Yachts and Passenger Yachts to which MLC applies, demonstrate qualifications and experience that is considered appropriate to act as a Ship's Cook on a Cayman Islands vessel.

2.8 The remainder of this Guidance Note addresses the procedure for applying for this voluntary 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement.

### **3. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR A 'RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATION AS A SHIP'S COOK'**

3.1 Seafarers who meet the requirements in section 2 can apply for a 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement using the appropriate form from the CISR website (<http://www.cishipping.com/forms>).

3.2 In support of their application applicants should provide copies of:

- a) all professional qualifications as a cook including evidence of advanced training in food hygiene;
- b) a CV, when required;
- c) a record of sea time, when required;
- d) a valid seafarer Medical Certificate satisfying MLC, 2006 Standard A1.2 or Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention; and
- e) evidence of Basic Training in accordance with Section A-VI/1.2 of the STCW Code.

3.3 A voluntary 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement remains valid whilst the seafarer holds a valid medical certificate, maintains basic STCW refresher training and Food Safety and Hygiene refresher training at managerial level<sup>2</sup>. This includes those issued prior to 5th July 2023 which have a 5-year validity date.

3.4 Annex 1 contains a specimen 'Recognition of Qualification as a Ship's Cook' statement.

ANNEX 1: SPECIMEN "RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATION AS SHIP'S COOK" STATEMENT



REC SC 1234/2024

**RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATION AS A SHIP'S COOK**

Issued in accordance with regulation 8(3) of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Food and Catering) Regulations, 2014 by

**The Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands**

NAME **A.N.OTHER**  
DATE OF BIRTH **20 MAY 1980**  
NATIONALITY **BRITISH**  
NATIONAL IDENTITY (PASSPORT) NO: **123345678**

Is duly recognised in accordance with the provisions of regulation 8(3) of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Food and Catering) Regulations, 2014 and is authorised to serve on board a Cayman Islands ship in the capacity of **Ship's Cook**, subject to the following limitations.

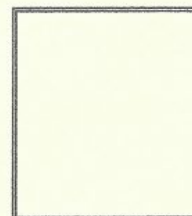
Only valid on ships which are subject to the *Merchant Shipping (Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure) Regulations, 2002*, or the *Merchant Shipping (Pleasure Yachts Carrying Passengers) Regulations, 2011*.

**This recognition remains valid whilst the seafarer holds a valid medical certificate, maintains basic STCW refresher training and Food Safety and Hygiene refresher training at managerial level.**

ISSUED AT: **SOUTHAMPTON, UNITED KINGDOM**

DATE OF ISSUE: **07 FEBRUARY 2024**

SIGNED: .....  
(Signature of the authorised official)



Notes

1. This Recognition is issued on a voluntary basis at the request of the holder. It is not required by International Convention or Cayman Islands Merchant Shipping Law.
2. This Recognition remains the property of the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands.
3. If found, this Recognition should be returned to the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands at the below address.
4. The validity of the Recognition can be confirmed by contacting:

Email: [technical@cishipping.com](mailto:technical@cishipping.com)  
[www.cishipping.com](http://www.cishipping.com)