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**FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 051513.GEN**

**15 May 2013**

<p>Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.</p>
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**MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION:** Application of the MLC 2006 to vessels with an ITC tonnage of less than 500 tons gross.

**A. Vessels less than 500 tons but greater than 199 tons gross**

1. Although there is no general tonnage limitation to the MLC2006, a Flag State has the flexibility regarding the application based on the gross tonnage (GT) of vessels. As such, this administration has determine that a vessel under 500 tons gross but greater than 199 tons gross and engaged in the search for and development of offshore oil, gas or mineral resources or in the support thereof may voluntarily comply with the MLC 2006, but is not required unless its operational area requires compliance with the MLC 2006.

2. If the vessel owner chooses to voluntarily comply, factors such as the vessel's size, configuration, crew size, operational area and employment shall be taken into account when determining the proper level of compliance.

**B. Vessels less than 200 tons**

1. Although there is no general tonnage limitation to the MLC2006, a Flag State has the flexibility regarding the application based on the gross tonnage (GT) of vessels. As such this administration has determined that a vessel under 200 gross may voluntarily comply with the MLC 2006 unless its operational area requires compliance with the MLC 2006.

2. If the vessel owner chooses to voluntarily comply, factors such as the vessel's size, configuration, crew size, operational area and employment shall be taken into account when determining the proper level of compliance.

3. In addition, such vessel whether compliance is voluntary or mandatory is not required to have a Part I, Part II or a DMLC.

**C. This Fleet Safety Letter does not interfere with a Host Country's local requirements.**

**D. Any inquires regarding this circular should be addressed to: Email@vanuatuships.com**

**Patrick Michael DeCharles II**  
by the direction of the  
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs  
The Republic of Vanuatu