

What is the ILO's Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)?

The [Maritime Labour Convention, 2006](#) or MLC, 2006 is an international labour Convention adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Widely known as the “seafarers’ bill of rights,” the MLC, 2006 was adopted by government, employer and workers representatives at a special ILO International Labour Conference in February 2006.

It is unique in that it aims both to achieve decent work for seafarers and to secure economic interests through fair competition for quality ship owners.

The Convention is comprehensive and sets out, in one place, seafarers' rights to decent working conditions.

On August 20, 2013, the MLC, 2006 will enter into force and become binding international law for the “first 30” - the 30 countries with registered ratifications on August 20, 2012. For all other countries that have ratified, it will enter in force 12 months after their ratifications were registered.

Article VIII, *Entry into Force*, of the MLC 2006 provides that “The Convention shall come into force 12 months after the date on which there have been registered ratifications by at least 30 Members with a total share in the world gross tonnage of ships of 33 per cent.

The Philippines was the 30th country that registered its ratification documents with ILO. As the 30th country that ratified the convention it, signaled the entry into force of the MLC 2006.