

SEAFARERS' ADVISORY BOARD

**Implementation of the Social Security Protection
under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 in HKSAR**

Purpose

This paper provides members with the relevant information on the implementation of Regulations 4.5 and Standard A4.5 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (“the MLC”) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Background

2. The ratification of the MLC as amended was extended to HKSAR on 20 December 2018. The first report on the application of the MLC in the HKSAR was submitted to the International Labour Organization (“the ILO”) in September 2019.

3. Standard A4.5.1 of the Code to the MLC lists nine branches of social security protection¹. In accordance with Standard A4.5.2 and A4.5.10, the HKSAR had notified the ILO at the time of ratifying the MLC the three branches of social security protection provided in HKSAR. These three specified social security branches are the medical care, the old-age benefit and the invalidity benefit.

4. In accordance with Regulation 4.5.2 and Standard A4.5.3, the HKSAR should take steps to extend the social security protection to other branches if circumstances warrant.

¹ The nine branches of social security protection under Standard 4.5.1 are: medical care; sickness benefit; unemployment benefit; old-age benefit; employment injury benefit; family benefit; maternity benefit; invalidity benefit and survivors' benefit.

Current Situation

5. Since the MLC has extended to HKSAR, the MD has not come across any cases relating to the shortfall of the three specified social security benefits provided in HKSAR. For the action required by paragraph 4 above, the HKSAR will examine the remaining six branches appropriately in accordance with local circumstances in Hong Kong in order to achieve progressively the provision of comprehensive social security protection.

Way forward

6. Members are invited to note and comment on this paper.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division
November 2019