



August 6, 2013

Seafarers Policy Division, Maritime Bureau

Ratification of the “Maritime Labour Convention, 2006” by Japan

1. On August 5 (same date local time), the Government of Japan deposited its instrument of ratification of the “Maritime Labour Convention, 2006” with the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

This Convention sorts out and clarifies existing international labor standards of seafarers in areas such as minimum requirements concerning wages, age, etc., employment, accommodation and recreational facilities, health protection, medical care, welfare, and social security protection. It also stipulates measures such as inspection to be taken by a port State for the purpose of enhancing effectiveness of the Convention.

2. Ratification of the Convention by Japan, one of the major maritime nations, will be significant from the stand point of contributing to the improvement of labor conditions of seafarers while ensuring fair conditions of competition in the field of international shipping. In addition, it is expected to lead to further strengthening competitiveness for the shipping industry and seafarers of Japan, as they already pursue the improvement of competitiveness, by carrying out efficient navigation while ensuring a certain working environment.

3. The requirements for the entry into force of the Convention have already been satisfied and the Convention will come into force on August 20, 2013. As for Japan, the Convention will come into force on August 5, 2014, 12 months after the date of the registration of its ratification.

4. Once the Convention comes into force for Japan, certain ocean-going ships under the flag of Japan will be required to be inspected in order to determine whether they are in compliance with the requirements of the Convention and carry on board the “maritime labour certificates” to prove such compliance. In addition, port State control for foreign flag ships in ports of Japan will start. Until the Convention comes into force for Japan, the Government of Japan will conduct inspections comparable to that of the Convention and issue comparable certificates to Japanese ships in order to deal with the port State control in ports of foreign countries for which the Convention is in force.

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