



RAN 11

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE OF BRITISH SEAMEN'S CARDS AND DISCHARGE BOOKS UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SEAMEN'S DOCUMENTS) REGULATION 1987

Most regulations, notices and advice notes are available on The Isle of Man Government web site: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.registry@gov.im

1. The Merchant Shipping (Seamen's Documents) Regulations 1987 came into force in the Isle of Man on the 1st January 1989 and replaced the existing 1972 Regulations. The changes that will be introduced are intended to assist seafarers by reducing the number of occasions on which it will be necessary to visit Marine Offices in order to have entries made in their documents. The principal changes to the 1972 Regulations are:-
 - (i) British Seamen's Cards issued after 1st January 1987 will be valid for up to ten years and will not require revalidation.
 - (ii) British Seamen's Cards will no longer be mandatory for all British seafarers. Where a seafarer is engaged in a trade that does not require him or her to hold a travel document (eg coastwise or to/from Ireland) it will no longer be necessary to purchase a British Seaman's Card. Other seafarers are advised to obtain such a card unless they can be assured that it will not be necessary in the trade in which they are engaged.
 - (iii) The persons authorized to make entries in Discharge Books will be extended as follows:-
 - (a) Principals of approved educational institutes may enter details of courses attended or examinations passed under their control.
 - (b) Holders will be able to amend the entries relating to their home addresses and next of kin (Note this applies only to

the entries in the Discharge Book - the British Seaman's Card being a travel document must not be altered except by officers of the Department).

- (c) Masters of non Manx registered vessels may make voyage entries relating to service in those vessels.
- (iv)** It will no longer be necessary to record periods of work or standing by a vessel, paid and unpaid leave, sickness or study leave in Discharge Books.
- (v)** Provision has been made to record the issue of medical fitness certificates in Discharge Books. This may be done by a superintendent, the Registry of Shipping and Seamen, or an official of the Merchant Navy Establishment Administration.
- (vi)** Persons to whom a Discharge Book must be produced must return it to the seafarer as soon as practicable after the required examination or entry has been made.

Some of the above changes merely formalise practices that have developed over the years.

- 2.** The current fee charged for the issue and renewal of either a British Seaman's Card or a Discharge Book is £75.00. This charge will be waived if the seafarer can show that he or she needs the documents to replace a similar item lost by shipwreck or fire at sea.