



Isle of Man

Ellan Vannin

AT 14 of 1979

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (MASTERS AND
SEAMEN) ACT 1979**



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Index

Section	Page
<hr/>	
	<i>Engagement and discharge of crews</i>
	<hr/>
1	Crew agreements7
2	Discharge of seamen when ship ceases to be registered in the Island8
3	[Repealed]9
	<i>Wages, etc</i>
	<hr/>
4	Payment of seamen's wages.....9
5	Account of seamen's wages.....10
6	Power of superintendent or proper officer to decide disputes about wages or indemnities arising from the ship's loss or foundering.....11
7	Restriction on assignment of and charge upon wages12
8	Power of court to award interest on wages due otherwise than under crew agreement12
9	[Repealed]13
10	Right of person named in allotment note to sue in own name13
11	Right, or loss of right, to wages in certain circumstances13
12	Protection of certain rights and remedies14
13	Claims against seaman's wages for maintenance, etc, of dependants14
14	Remedies of master for remuneration, disbursements, etc14
	<i>Safety, health and welfare</i>
	<hr/>
15	Crew accommodation14
15A	[Repealed]15
16	[Repealed]15
17	Complaints about provisions or water15
18	[Repealed]15
19	Medical stores.....15
20	Medical treatment on board ship16
21	Expenses of medical treatment, etc, during voyage16
	<i>Offences by seamen, etc</i>
	<hr/>
22	Conduct endangering ships, structures or individuals.....16

23	Drunkenness, etc of master of ship.....	19
24	Continued or concerted disobedience, neglect of duty, etc	19
25	Offences committed by certain other persons.....	19
	<i>Defence of drug taken for medical purposes</i>	19
26	Defence of drug taken for medical purposes	19
27	to 30 [Repealed]	20
	<i>Civil liability for absence without leave, smuggling and fines imposed under immigration laws</i>	20
31	Civil liability for absence without leave.....	20
32	Civil liability for smuggling.....	20
33	Civil liability for fines imposed under immigration laws	20
34	[Repealed].....	21
34A	Manning.....	21
35	False statements for purpose of obtaining certificates, etc	22
36	Power to exempt from manning requirements.....	22
37	Prohibition of going to sea undermanned.....	22
38	Unqualified persons going to sea as qualified officers or seamen	22
39	Production of certificates and other documents of qualification	23
40	Crew's knowledge of English.....	23
41	False statements for purposes of obtaining special certificates of competency	23
42	Restriction on employment of persons under eighteen on board ship	23
	<i>Inquiries into fitness of conduct and deaths</i>	24
43	Inquiry into fitness or conduct of officer	24
44	Failure to deliver cancelled or suspended certificate	24
45	Inquiries into deaths of crew members and others	24
	<i>Relief and repatriation of seamen left behind</i>	26
46	Relief and return of seamen left behind, etc.....	26
47	Limit of employer's liability under s 46	26
48	Recovery of expenses incurred for relief and return, etc.....	27
49	[Repealed].....	27
50	Application of sections 46 to 48 to masters.....	27
	<i>Documentation, reports and returns</i>	27
51	Official log books.....	27
52	Lists of crew	28
53	False statements for purpose of obtaining British seamen's cards.....	28
54	Returns of births and deaths in ships, etc.....	28
55	Handing over of documents on change of master	29
56	Admissibility in evidence and inspection of certain documents.....	29
56A	Inspection and admissibility in evidence of copies of certain documents	29
57	[Repealed].....	30
58	Stowaways.....	30
59	Unauthorised presence on board ship	30
60	Master's power of arrest.....	31

	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	31
61	Uniform	31
62	[Repealed]	31
63	Application to the Island of certain regulations and rules made under the 1970 Act	31
63A	[Repealed]	32
64	Power to amend Act by order	32
64A	Non-sea-going ships	32
	<i>Legal proceedings</i>	33
65	Proceedings for offences	33
66	Service of summons, etc	33
	<i>Fishing vessels</i>	33
67	Fishing vessels	33
	<i>Supplementary</i>	34
68	Interpretation	34
69	Expenses	36
70	Amendments	36
71	Savings, transitional provisions and repeals	36
72	Short title and commencement	36
SCHEDULE 1		37
CLAIMS AGAINST SEAMAN'S WAGES FOR MAINTENANCE		37
SCHEDULE 2		38
PROVISIONS OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH MAY BE APPLIED TO THE ISLAND BY ORDERS UNDER SECTION 63		38
SCHEDULE 3		39
FISHING VESSELS		39
SCHEDULE 4		41
AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN ENACTMENTS		41
SCHEDULE 5		41
SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS		41
SCHEDULE 6		41
ENDNOTES		43
TABLE OF LEGISLATION HISTORY		43
TABLE OF RENUMBERED PROVISIONS		43
TABLE OF ENDNOTE REFERENCES		43



**Isle of Man***Ellan Vannin*

MERCHANT SHIPPING (MASTERS AND SEAMEN) ACT 1979

Received Royal Assent: 30 March 1979
Passed: 15 May 1979
Commenced: See endnotes

AN ACT to make better provision in the law relating to masters and seamen in merchant ships, and for purposes connected therewith.

GENERAL NOTES:

1. The maximum fines in this Act are as increased by the *Fines Act 1986* and by the *Criminal Justice (Penalties, Etc.) Act 1993 s 1*.
2. References to a Board of Tynwald are to be construed in accordance with the *Government Departments Act 1987 s 7*.

Engagement and discharge of crews

1 Crew agreements

[P1970/36/1]

- (1) Except as provided under subsection (5), an agreement in writing shall be made between each person employed as a seaman in a ship registered in the Island and the persons employing him and shall be signed both by him and by or on behalf of them.
- (2) The agreements made under this section with the several persons employed in a ship shall be contained in one document (in this Act referred to as a “**crew agreement**”) except that in such cases as the Department for Enterprise (in this Act referred to as “**the Department**”) may approve —
 - (a) the agreements to be made under this section with the persons employed in a ship may be contained in more than one crew agreement; and
 - (b) one crew agreement may relate to more than one ship.¹

- (3) The provisions and form of a crew agreement must be of a kind approved by the Department; and different provisions and forms may be so approved for different circumstances.²
- (4) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a crew agreement shall be carried in the ship to which it relates whenever the ship goes to sea.
- (5) Regulations may provide for exemptions from the requirements of this section –
 - (a) with respect to such descriptions of ship as may be specified in the regulations or with respect to voyages in such areas or such description of voyages as may be so specified; or
 - (b) with respect to such descriptions of seamen as may be specified in the regulations;

and the Department may grant other exemptions from those requirements (whether with respect to particular seamen or with respect to seamen employed by a specified person or in a specified ship or in the ships of a specified person) in cases where the Department is satisfied that the seamen to be employed otherwise than under a crew agreement will be adequately protected.³

- (6) Where, but for an exemption granted by the Department, a crew agreement would be required to be carried in a ship or a crew agreement carried in a ship would be required to contain an agreement with a person employed in the ship, the ship shall carry such document evidencing the exemption as the Department may direct.⁴
- (7) Regulations may enable ships required under this section to carry a crew agreement to comply with the requirement by carrying a copy thereof, certified in such manner as may be provided by the regulations.
- (8) If a ship goes to sea or attempts to go to sea in contravention of the requirements of this section, the master or the person employing the crew shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000 and the ship, if in the Island, may be detained.

2 Discharge of seamen when ship ceases to be registered in the Island

[P1970/36/5]

- (1) Where a ship registered in the Island ceases to be so registered, any seaman employed in the ship shall be discharged from the ship unless he consents in writing to continue his employment in the ship; and sections 4 to 6 shall apply in relation to his wages as if the ship had remained registered in the Island.
- (2) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.⁵

3 [Repealed]⁶

Wages, etc

4 Payment of seamen's wages

- (1) Where a seaman employed under a crew agreement relating to a ship leaves the ship on being discharged from it, then, except as provided by or under this Act or any other enactment, the wages due to the seaman under the agreement shall either —
 - (a) be paid to him in full at the time when he so leaves the ship (in this section and section 5 of this Act referred to as the time of discharge), or
 - (b) be paid to him in accordance with subsections (3A) and (3B).⁷
- (2) If the amount shown in the account delivered to a seaman under section 5(1) as being the amount payable to him under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section is replaced by an increased amount shown in a further account delivered to him under section 5(3), the balance shall be paid to him within 7 days of the time of discharge; and if the amount so shown in the account delivered to him under section 5(1) exceeds £50 and it is not practicable to pay the whole of it at the time of discharge, not less than £50 nor less than one quarter of the amount so shown shall be paid to him at that time and the balance within 7 days of that time.⁸
- (3) If any amount which, under subsection (1)(a) or (2) of this section, is payable to a seaman is not paid at the time at which it is so payable, the seaman shall be entitled to wages at the rate last payable under the crew agreement for every day on which it remains unpaid during the period of 56 days following the time of discharge; and if any such amount or any amount payable by virtue of this subsection remains unpaid after the end of that period it shall carry interest at such rate as the Treasury may by order prescribe, but no such order shall have effect until it has been approved by Tynwald.⁹
- (3A) Where the crew agreement referred to in subsection (1) provided for the seaman's basic wages to be payable up-to-date at specified intervals not exceeding one month, and for any additional amounts of wages to be payable within the pay cycle following that to which they relate, any amount of wages due to the seaman under the agreement shall, subject to subsection (3B), be paid to him not later than the date on which the next payment of his basic wages following the time of discharge would have fallen due if his employment under the agreement had continued.¹⁰
- (3B) If it is not practicable, in the case of any amount due to the seaman by way of wages additional to his basic wages, to pay that amount by the date mentioned in subsection (3A), that amount shall be paid to him not later than what would have been the last day of the pay cycle

immediately following that date if his employment under the crew agreement had continued.¹¹

- (3C) If any amount which, under subsection (3A) or (3B), is payable to a seaman is not paid at the time at which it is so payable, it shall carry interest at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.¹²
- (4) The provisions of subsection (3) or (3C) shall not apply if the failure to pay was due to a mistake, to a reasonable dispute as to liability or to the act or default of the seaman or to any other cause, not being the wrongful act or default of the persons liable to pay his wages or of their servants or agents; and so much of those provisions as relates to interest on the amount due shall not apply if a court in proceedings for its recovery so directs.¹³
- (5) Where a seaman is employed under a crew agreement relating to more than one ship, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect, in relation to wages due to him under the agreement, as if for any reference to the time of discharge there were substituted a reference to the termination of his employment under the crew agreement.
- (6) Where a seaman, in pursuance of section 2, is discharged from a ship outside the Island but returns to the Island under arrangements made by the persons who employed him, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect, in relation to the wages due to him under a crew agreement relating to the ship, as if for the references in subsections (1) to (3A) to the time of discharge there were substituted references to the time of his return to the Island, and subsection (5) were omitted.¹⁴
- (7) For the purposes of this section any amount of wages shall, if not paid to a seaman in cash, be taken to have been paid to him —
- (a) on the date when a cheque, or a money or postal order issued by the Post Office, for that amount was despatched by the recorded delivery service to the seaman's last-known address, or
 - (b) on the date when any account kept by the seaman with a bank or other institution was credited with that amount.¹⁵

5 Account of seamen's wages

[P1970/36/8]

- (1) Subject to subsections (3A) and (4) and to regulations, the master of every ship registered in the Island shall deliver to every seaman employed in the ship under a crew agreement an account of the wages due to him under that crew agreement and of the deductions subject to which the wages are payable.¹⁶
- (2) The account shall indicate that the amounts stated therein are subject to any later adjustment that may be found necessary and shall be delivered not later than 24 hours before the time of discharge or, if the seaman is

discharged without notice or at less than 24 hours' notice, at the time of discharge.

- (3) If the amounts stated in the account require adjustment, the persons who employed the seaman shall deliver to him a further account stating the adjusted amounts; and that account shall be delivered not later than the time at which the balance of his wages is payable to the seaman.
- (3A) Where subsection (3A) or (3B) of section 4 applies to the payment of any amount of wages due to a seaman under a crew agreement —
- (a) the persons who employed the seaman shall deliver to him an account of the wages payable to him under that subsection and of the deductions subject to which the wages are payable; and
 - (b) any such account shall be so delivered at the time when the wages are paid to him; and
 - (c) subsection (1) to (3) of this section shall not apply;
- and subsection (7) of section 4 shall apply for the purpose of this subsection as it applies for the purposes of that section.¹⁷
- (4) Where a seaman is employed under a crew agreement relating to more than one ship, any account which under the preceding provisions of this section would be required to be delivered to him by the master shall instead be delivered to him by the persons employing him and shall be so delivered on or before the termination of his employment under the crew agreement.
- (5) If a person fails without reasonable cause to comply with the preceding provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

6 Power of superintendent or proper officer to decide disputes about wages or indemnities arising from the ship's loss or foundering¹⁸

[P1970/36/10]

- (1) Any dispute relating to the amount payable —
- (a) to a seaman employed under a crew agreement;
 - (b) to a seafarer employed under a Seafarer's Employment Agreement —
 - (i) in respect of remuneration; or
 - (ii) in respect of indemnities in the case of injury, loss or employment arising from the ship's loss or foundering,

may be submitted by the parties to a superintendent or proper officer for decision.

But the superintendent or proper officer shall not be bound to accept the submission or, if he or she has accepted it, to decide the dispute, if of the

opinion that the dispute, whether by reason of the amount involved or for any other reason, ought not to be decided in that way.¹⁹

- (2) The decision of a superintendent or proper officer on a dispute submitted to him under this section shall be final.

7 Restriction on assignment of and charge upon wages

[P1970/36/11]

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the following provisions shall have effect with respect to the wages due or accruing to a seaman employed in a ship registered in the Island, that is to say —
 - (a) except in relation to a maintenance order, the wages shall not be subject to attachment or arrestment;²⁰
 - (b) an assignment thereof before they have accrued shall not bind the seaman and the payment of the wages to the seaman shall be valid notwithstanding any previous assignment or charge; and
 - (c) a power of attorney or authority for the receipt of the wages shall not be irrevocable.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall affect the provisions of this Act with respect to allotment notes.
- (3) Nothing in the section applies to any disposition relating to the application of wages —
 - (a) in the payment of contributions to a fund declared by regulations to be a fund to which this section applies; or
 - (b) in the payment of contributions in respect of the membership of a body declared by regulations to be a body to which this section applies,or to anything done or to be done for giving effect to such a disposition.
- (4) In this section, “maintenance order” has the meaning assigned to it by section 12 (1) of the *Maintenance Orders (Attachment of Earnings) Act 1962*.²¹

8 Power of court to award interest on wages due otherwise than under crew agreement

[P1970/36/12]

In any proceedings by the master of a ship or a person employed in a ship otherwise than under a crew agreement or Seafarer’s Employment Agreement for the recovery of any sum due to him as wages, the court, unless it appears to it that the delay in paying the sum was due to a mistake, to a reasonable dispute as to liability or to the act or default of the person claiming the amount or to any other cause, not being the wrongful act or default of the persons liable to make the payment or their servants or agents, may order them to pay, in addition to

the sum due, interest on it at such rate as the court may specify, for the period beginning 7 days after the sum became due and ending when the sum is paid.²²

9 [Repealed]²³

10 Right of person named in allotment note to sue in own name

[P1970/36/14]

- (1) A person to whom any part of a seafarer's wage has been allotted in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 shall have the right to recover that part in his own name and for that purpose shall have the same remedies as the seaman has for the recovery of his wages.²⁴
- (2) In any proceedings brought by a person to whom any part of a seaman's wages has been allotted, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the seaman is entitled to the wages specified in the note and that the allotment has not been varied or cancelled.²⁵

11 Right, or loss of right, to wages in certain circumstances

[P1970/36/15]

- (1) Where a ship registered in the Island is wrecked or lost, a seaman whose employment in the ship is thereby terminated before the date contemplated in the agreement under which he is so employed shall, subject to the following provisions of this section, be entitled to wages at the rate payable under the agreement at the date of the wreck or loss for every day on which he is unemployed in the 2 months following that date.²⁶
- (2) Where a ship registered in the Island is sold while outside the Island or ceases to be so registered and a seaman's employment in the ship is thereby terminated before the date contemplated in the agreement under which he is so employed, then, unless it is otherwise provided in the agreement, he shall, subject to the following provisions of this section, be entitled to wages at the rate payable under the agreement at the date on which his employment is terminated for every day on which he is unemployed in the 2 months following that date.
- (3) A seaman shall not be entitled to wages by virtue of subsection (1) or subsection (2) for a day on which he was unemployed, if it is shown —
 - (a) that the unemployment was not due to the wreck or loss of the ship or, as the case may be, the termination of his employment on the sale of the ship or its ceasing to be registered in the Island; or
 - (b) that the seaman was able to obtain suitable employment for that day but unreasonably refused or failed to take it.
- (4) This section shall apply to a master as it applies to a seaman.²⁷

- (5) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.²⁸

12 Protection of certain rights and remedies

[P1970/36/16]

- (1) A seaman's lien, his remedies for the recovery of his wages, his right to wages in cases of the wreck or loss of his ship and any right he may have or obtain in the nature of salvage shall not be capable of being renounced by any agreement.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not affect such of the terms of any agreement made with the seamen belonging to a ship which, in accordance with the agreement, is to be employed on salvage service as provide for the remuneration to be paid to them for salvage services rendered by that ship.

13 Claims against seaman's wages for maintenance, etc, of dependants

Schedule 1 shall have effect in relation to claims against a seaman's wages for the maintenance of his dependants and to the other matters mentioned in that Schedule.

14 Remedies of master for remuneration, disbursements, etc

[P1970/36/18]

The master of a ship shall have the same lien for his remuneration, and all disbursements or liabilities properly made or incurred by him on account of the ship, as a seaman has for his wages.

*Safety, health and welfare*²⁹

15 Crew accommodation

[P1970/36/20(6)]

If the provisions of any regulations made under section 20 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act are contravened in the case of a ship, the owner or master shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000, and the ship, if in the Island, may be detained.

15A [Repealed]³⁰**16 [Repealed]**³¹**17 Complaints about provisions or water**

[P1970/36/22]

- (1) If 3 or more seamen employed in a ship registered in the Island consider that the provisions or water provided for the seamen employed in that ship are not in accordance with safety regulations made under sections 1 and 2 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985* containing requirements as to the provisions and water to be provided on ships (whether because of bad quality, unfitness for use or deficiency in quantity), they may complain to the master, who shall investigate the complaint.³²
- (2) If the seamen are dissatisfied with the action taken by the master as a result of his investigation or by his failure to take any action, they may state their dissatisfaction to him and may claim to complain to a superintendent or proper officer and thereupon the master shall make adequate arrangements to enable the seamen to do so as soon as the service of the ship permits.
- (3) The superintendent or proper officer to whom a complaint has been made under this section shall investigate the complaint and may examine the provisions or water or cause them to be examined.
- (4) If the master fails without reasonable cause to comply with the provisions of subsection (2), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000, and if he has been notified in writing by the person making an examination under subsection (3) that any provisions or water are found to be unfit for use or not of the quality required by the regulations, then, —
 - (a) if they are not replaced within a reasonable time, the master or owner shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000 unless he proves that the failure to replace them was not due to his neglect or default; and
 - (b) if the master without reasonable cause permits them to be used, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

18 [Repealed]³³**19 Medical stores**

[P1970/36/24 (2) and (3)]

- (1) If a ship goes to sea or attempts to go to sea without carrying the medical stores which it is required to carry by regulations, the master or owner

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000 unless he proves that the failure to carry the stores was not due to his neglect or default.

- (2) If a person empowered under this Act to inspect the medical stores carried in a ship is not satisfied that the ship carries the stores which it is required to carry by regulations under this section as they have effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, the ship, if in the Island, may be detained.

20 Medical treatment on board ship

[P1970/36/25]

- (1) Where a ship registered in the Island does not carry a doctor among the seamen employed in it, the master shall make arrangements for securing that any medical attention on board the ship is given either by him or under his supervision by a person appointed by him for the purpose.
- (2) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.³⁴

21 Expenses of medical treatment, etc, during voyage

[P1970/36/26]

- (1) If a person, while employed in a ship registered in the Island, receives outside the Island any surgical or medical treatment or such dental or optical treatment (including the repair or replacement of any appliance) as cannot be postponed without impairing efficiency, the reasonable expenses thereof shall be borne by the persons employing him; and if he dies while so employed and is buried or cremated outside the Island, the expenses of his burial or cremation shall also be borne by those persons.
- (2) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.³⁵

Offences by seamen, etc

22 Conduct endangering ships, structures or individuals

- (1) This section applies —
 - (a) to the master of, or any seaman employed in, a ship registered in the Island; and
 - (b) to the master of, or any seaman employed in, a ship which —
 - (i) is registered under the law of any country outside the Island; and
 - (ii) is in a port in the Island or within the seaward limits of the territorial sea of the Island while proceeding to or from any such port.

- (2) If a person to whom this section applies, while on board his ship or in its immediate vicinity —
- (a) does any act which causes or is likely to cause —
 - (i) the loss or destruction of or serious damage to his ship or its machinery, navigational equipment or safety equipment, or
 - (ii) the loss or destruction of or serious damage to any other ship or any structure, or
 - (iii) the death of or serious injury to any person, or
 - (b) omits to do anything required —
 - (i) to preserve his ship or its machinery, navigational equipment or safety equipment from being lost, destroyed or seriously damaged, or
 - (ii) to preserve any person on board his ship from death or serious injury, or
 - (iii) to prevent his ship from causing the loss or destruction of or serious damage to any other ship or any structure, or the death of or serious injury to any person not on board his ship,

and either of the conditions specified in subsection (3) is satisfied with respect to that act or omission, he shall (subject to subsections (6) and (7)) be guilty of an offence.

- (3) Those conditions are —
- (a) that the act or omission was deliberate or amounted to a breach or neglect of duty;
 - (b) that the master or seaman in question was under the influence of drink or a drug at the time of the act or omission.
- (4) If a person to whom this section applies —
- (a) discharges any of his duties, or performs any other function in relation to the operation of his ship or its machinery or equipment, in such a manner as to cause, or to be likely to cause, any such loss, destruction, death or injury as is mentioned in subsection (2)(a); or
 - (b) fails to discharge any of his duties, or to perform any such function, properly to such an extent as to cause, or to be likely to cause, any of those things,

he shall (subject to subsections (6) and (7)) be guilty of an offence.

- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable —
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5,000;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to custody for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine, or both

- (6) In proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence to prove —
- (a) in the case of an offence under subsection (2) where the act or omission alleged against the accused constituted a breach or neglect of duty, that he took all reasonable steps to discharge that duty;
 - (b) in the case of an offence under subsection (2), that at the time of the act or omission alleged against the accused he was under the influence of a drug taken by him for medical purposes and either that he took it on medical advice and complied with any directions given as part of that advice or that he had no reason to believe that the drug might have the influence it had;
 - (c) in the case of an offence under subsection (4), that the accused took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence; or
 - (d) in the case of an offence under either of those subsections —
 - (i) that he could have avoided committing the offence only by disobeying a lawful command, or
 - (ii) that in all the circumstances the loss, destruction, damage, death or injury in question, or (as the case may be) the likelihood of its being caused, either could not reasonably have been foreseen by the defendant or could not reasonably have been avoided by him.
- (7) In the application of this section to any person falling within subsection (1)(b), subsections (2) and (4) shall have effect as if paragraphs (a)(i) and (b)(i) of subsection (2) were omitted; and no proceedings for an offence under this section shall be instituted against any such person except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.
- (8) In this section —
- “breach or neglect of duty”, except in relation to a master, includes any disobedience to a lawful command;
- “duty” —
- (a) in relation to a master or seaman, means any duty falling to be discharged by him in his capacity as such; and
 - (b) in relation to a master, includes his duty with respect to the good management of his ship and his duty with respect to the safety of operation of his ship, its machinery and equipment; and
- “structure” means any fixed or movable structure (of whatever description) other than a ship.³⁶

23 Drunkenness, etc of master of ship

If the master of or a seaman employed or engaged in a fishing vessel registered in the Island is, while on board the vessel, under the influence of drink or a drug to such extent that his capacity to fulfil his responsibility for the vessel or, as the case may be, carry out the duties of his employment or engagement is impaired, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £2,500.³⁷

24 Continued or concerted disobedience, neglect of duty, etc

[P1970/36/30; P1974/43/19(4)]

- (1) If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the Island —
- (a) and (b) [Repealed]³⁸
 - (c) combines with other seamen employed in that ship —
 - (i) to disobey lawful commands which are required to be obeyed at a time while the ship is at sea; or
 - (ii) to neglect any duty which is required to be discharged at such a time; or
 - (iii) to impede, at such a time, the progress of the voyage or the navigation of the ship,

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

- (2) For the purposes of this section, a ship shall be treated as being at sea at any time when it is not securely moored in a safe berth.

25 Offences committed by certain other persons

[P1970/36/32; P1974/43/19(6)]

Where a person goes to sea in a ship without the consent of the master or of any other person authorised to give it or is conveyed in a ship in pursuance of regulations made under section 73(5)(b) of the 1995 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, sections 22 and 24(c) shall apply as if he were a seaman employed in the ship.³⁹

Defence of drug taken for medical purposes

26 Defence of drug taken for medical purposes

[P1970/36/33]

In proceedings for an offence under section 22(2) or 23, it shall be a defence to prove that at the time of the act or omission alleged against the defendant he was under the influence of a drug taken by him for medical purposes and either that he took it on medical advice and complied with any directions given as part

of that advice or that he had no reason to believe that the drug might have the influence it had.⁴⁰

27 to 30 [Repealed]⁴¹

Civil liability for absence without leave, smuggling and fines imposed under immigration laws

31 Civil liability for absence without leave

[P1970/36/39 (1)-(3)]

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall apply with respect to the liability of a seaman employed in a ship registered in the Island to damages for being absent from his ship at a time when he is required under his contract of employment to be on board.
- (2) If he proves that his absence was due to an accident or mistake or some other cause beyond his control and that he took all reasonable precautions to avoid being absent, his absence shall not be treated as a breach of contract.
- (3) Where subsection (2) does not apply, then —
 - (a) if no special damages are claimed, his liability shall be £50;
 - (b) if special damages are claimed, his liability shall not be more than £400.

32 Civil liability for smuggling

[P1970/36/40]

If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the Island is found in civil proceedings before a court in the Island to have committed an act of smuggling, whether within or outside the Island, he shall be liable to make good any loss or expense that the act has caused to any other person.

33 Civil liability for fines imposed under immigration laws

[P1970/36/41]

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall apply where, at a time when a ship registered in the Island is in the national or territorial waters of any country outside the Island, a seaman employed in the ship is absent without leave and present in that country in contravention of that country's laws.
- (2) If, by reason of the contravention, a penalty is incurred under those laws by the persons employing the seaman, the penalty shall be treated as being attributable to his absence without leave and may, subject to the provisions of section 31, be recovered from him as special damages for breach of contract.

- (3) If, by reason of the contravention, a penalty is incurred under those laws by any other person, the amount thereof, or, if that amount exceeds £400, £400 may be recovered by him from the seaman.

34 [Repealed]⁴²

Manning and certification

34A Manning

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Department may make regulations with respect to the manning of ships registered in the Island and, but without prejudice to the generality of that power, such regulations may include provisions —
- (a) requiring ships to carry such number of qualified officers of any description, qualified doctors and qualified cooks and such number of other seamen or qualified seamen of any description as may be specified in the regulations;
 - (b) prescribing or enabling the Department to specify standards of competence to be attained and other conditions to be satisfied (subject to any exceptions allowed by or under the regulations) by officers and other seamen of any description in order to be qualified for the purposes of this section;
 - (c) regulating the hours of employment of masters and seamen employed in ships.
- (2) The Department shall not exercise its power to make regulations requiring ships to carry seamen other than doctors and cooks except to the extent that it appears to it necessary or expedient in the interests of safety.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1)(b), the conditions prescribed or specified under that subsection may include conditions as to nationality, and regulations made for the purposes of that paragraph may make provision, or enable the Department to make provision, for —
- (a) the manner in which the attainment of any standard or the satisfaction of any other condition is to be evidenced;
 - (b) the conduct of any examinations, the conditions for admission to them and the appointment and remuneration of examiners; and
 - (c) the issue, form and recording of certificates and other documents.
- (4) No regulations under this section shall come into operation unless they have been approved by Tynwald.
- (5) Any reference in this Act to regulations made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order under section 63 of this Act shall be treated as including a reference to regulations made under this section.⁴³

35 False statements for purpose of obtaining certificates, etc

[P1970/36/43 (5)]

If a person makes a statement which he knows to be false or recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular for the purpose of obtaining for himself or another person a certificate or other document which may be issued pursuant to regulations made under sections 1 and 2 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985*, section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act or regulations made under section 34A of this Act, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.⁴⁴

36 Power to exempt from manning requirements

[P1970/36/44]

- (1) The Department may exempt any ship or description of ship from any requirements of regulations made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act or regulations made under section 34A of this Act.⁴⁵
- (2) An exemption given under this section may be confined to a particular period or to one or more particular voyages.

37 Prohibition of going to sea undermanned

[P1970/36/45]

Subject to section 36, if a ship to which this section applies goes to sea or attempts to go to sea without carrying such officers and other seamen as it is required to carry pursuant to regulations made under section 34A of this Act, or made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, the owner or master shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000, and the ship, if in the Island, may be detained.⁴⁶

38 Unqualified persons going to sea as qualified officers or seamen

[P1970/36/46]

- (1) If a person goes to sea as a qualified officer or seaman of any description without being such a qualified officer or seaman, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.
- (2) In this section, “qualified” means qualified pursuant to regulations made under section 34A of this Act, or made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act.⁴⁷

39 Production of certificates and other documents of qualification

[P1970/36/47]

Any person serving or engaged to serve in any ship registered in the Island and holding any certificate or other document which is evidence that he is qualified pursuant to regulations made under sections 1 and 2 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985*, section 34A of this Act, or made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, shall, on demand, produce it to any superintendent, surveyor or proper officer and (if he is not himself the master) to the master of the ship, and if he fails to do so without reasonable cause he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.⁴⁸

40 Crew's knowledge of English

[P1970/36/48]

- (1) Where in the opinion of a superintendent or proper officer the crew of a ship to which this section applies consists of or includes persons who may not understand orders given to them in the course of their duty because of their insufficient knowledge of English and the absence of adequate arrangements for transmitting the orders in a language of which they have sufficient knowledge, then —
 - (a) if the superintendent or proper officer has informed the master of that opinion the ship shall not go to sea; and
 - (b) if the ship is in the Island it may be detained.
- (2) If a ship goes to sea or attempts to go to sea in contravention of this section, the owner or master shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

41 False statements for purposes of obtaining special certificates of competency

[P1970/36/50(2)]

If a person makes a statement which he knows to be false or recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular for the purpose of obtaining for himself or another person a document which may be issued under section 54 of the 1995 Act, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.⁴⁹

42 Restriction on employment of persons under eighteen on board ship

[P1970/36/51 (1) and (4)]

- (1) A person under 18 years shall not be employed in any ship registered in the Island unless he would be permitted to be employed in that ship if he had entered into an agreement in England to be employed in that ship if it were a ship registered in the United Kingdom.

- (2) If any person is employed in a ship in contravention of subsection (1), or of any condition subject to which a person may be employed in a ship registered in the United Kingdom pursuant to regulations made under section 55 of the 1995 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, the owner or master shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.⁵⁰

Inquiries into fitness of conduct and deaths

43 Inquiry into fitness or conduct of officer

If it appears to the Department that an officer or seaman —

- (a) is unfit to discharge his duties, whether by reason of incompetence or misconduct or for any other reason; or
- (b) has been seriously negligent in the discharge of his duties; or
- (c) has failed to comply with the provisions of section 92 of the 1995 Act (as that section has effect in the Island) (duty to give assistance and information after collision),⁵¹

the Department may cause an inquiry to be held by a person appointed by it and, if the person holding the inquiry is satisfied of any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c), the Department shall cause a copy of the report of the person holding the inquiry to be submitted to the issuing authority of the certificate of competency held by the officer or seaman together with the recommendation of the Department as to the cancellation or suspension of any certificate of competency held by, or as to the censure of, the officer or seaman.⁵²

44 Failure to deliver cancelled or suspended certificate

[P1970/36/59]

If a person in the Island fails to deliver a certificate as required under section 61 of the 1995 Act, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000; and, if a person in the Island fails to deliver a certificate as required under section 62 or 63 of the 1995 Act, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.⁵³

45 Inquiries into deaths of crew members and others

[P1970/36/61]

- (1) Subject to subsection (4), where —
- (a) any person dies in a ship registered in the Island, or in a boat or life-raft from such a ship; or⁵⁴
 - (b) the master of or a seaman employed in such a ship dies in a country outside the Island,

an inquiry into the cause of the death shall be held by a superintendent or proper officer at the next port where the ship calls after the death and where there is a superintendent or proper officer, or at such other place as the Department may direct.

- (1A) Subject to subsection (4), where it appears to the Department that —
- (a) in consequence of an injury sustained or a disease contracted by a person, when he was the master of or a seaman employed in a ship registered in the Island, he ceased to be employed in the ship and subsequently died; and
 - (b) the death occurred in a country outside the Island during the period of one year beginning with the day when he so ceased,
- the Department may arrange for an inquiry into the cause of the death to be held by a superintendent or proper officer.⁵⁵
- (1B) Subject to subsection (4), where it appears to the Department that a person may —
- (a) have died in a ship registered in the Island or in a boat or life-raft from such a ship; or
 - (b) have been lost from such a ship, boat or life-raft and have died in consequence of having been so lost,
- the Department may arrange for an inquiry to be held by a superintendent or proper officer into whether the person died as aforesaid and, if the superintendent or officer finds that he did, into the cause of the death.⁵⁶
- (2) The superintendent or proper officer holding the inquiry shall for the purpose of the inquiry have the powers conferred on an inspector by section 3 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985*.⁵⁷
- (3) The person holding the inquiry shall make a report of his findings to the Department, and the Department shall make a copy of the report available —
- (a) if the person to whom the report relates was employed in the ship and a person was named as his next of kin in the crew agreement or list of the crew in which the name of the person to whom the report relates last appeared, to the person so named;⁵⁸
 - (b) in any case, to any person requesting it who appears to the Department to be interested.⁵⁹
- (4) No inquiry shall be held under this section in a case where —
- (a) a coroner's inquest is to be held in the Island; or
 - (b) a coroner's inquest is to be held in England, Wales or Northern Ireland; or

- (c) an inquiry is to be held in Scotland under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 (an Act of Parliament); or
- (d) the Department is satisfied on reasonable grounds that an inquiry is unnecessary.⁶⁰

Relief and repatriation of seamen left behind

46 Relief and return of seamen left behind, etc

[1970/36/62(1), (2) and (7)]

- (1) Where —
 - (a) a person employed as a seaman in a ship registered in the Island is left behind in any country outside the Island or is taken to such a country on being shipwrecked; or
 - (b) a person who became so employed under an agreement entered into outside the Island is left behind in the Island or is taken to the Island on being shipwrecked,

the persons who last employed him as a seaman shall make such provision for his return and for his relief and maintenance until his return and such other provisions as may be required by regulations.

- (2) The provisions to be so made may include the repayment of expenses incurred in bringing a shipwrecked seaman ashore and maintaining him until he is brought ashore and the payment of the expenses of the burial or cremation of a seaman who dies before he can be returned.
- (3) This section applies to a person left behind on being discharged in pursuance of section 2, whether or not at the time he is left behind the ship is still registered in the Island.
- (4) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.⁶¹

47 Limit of employer's liability under s 46

[P1970/36/63]

- (1) Where a person left behind in or taken to any country as mentioned in section 46(1) remains there after the end of a period of 3 months, the persons who last employed him as a seaman shall not be liable under the said section 46 to make provision for his return or for any matter arising after the end of that period, unless they have before the end of that period been under an obligation imposed on them by regulations to make provision with respect to him.
- (2) This section does not apply to a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply.⁶²

48 Recovery of expenses incurred for relief and return, etc

[P1970/36/64]

- (1) Where any expenses are incurred in respect of any matter for which the employers of a seaman are required to make provision under section 46, then —
 - (a) if the expenses are incurred by the Department, or are incurred by the government of any country outside the Island and repaid to them on behalf of the Department, the Department may recover them from the employers;⁶³
 - (b) if the expenses are incurred by the seaman, he may recover them from the employers unless they prove either that under the terms of his employment they were to be borne by him or that he would not have been left behind but for his own wrongful act or neglect.
- (2) Where, in the case of any seaman, expenses are incurred by the Department or are incurred by the government of any country outside the Island and repaid to it on behalf of the Department —
 - (a) in respect of any matter for which, but for section 47, the seaman's last employers would have been required to make provision under section 46; or
 - (b) in respect of any matter for which provision is required to be made under section 73(4)(b) of the 1995 Act,⁶⁴the Department may recover them from the seaman (or, if he has died, from his personal representatives).⁶⁵

49 [Repealed]⁶⁶

Application of sections 46 to 48 to masters

50 Application of sections 46 to 48 to masters

[P1970/36/67]

In sections 46 to 48, “**seaman**” (notwithstanding the definition in section 742 of the 1894 Act) includes the master of a ship.⁶⁷

*Documentation, reports and returns***51 Official log books**

[P1970/36/68 (1) and 6]

- (1) Except as provided by regulations, an official log book in a form approved by the Department shall be kept in every ship registered in the Island.⁶⁸

- (2) If a person wilfully destroys or mutilates or renders illegible any entry in an official log book, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

52 Lists of crew

[P1970/36/69 (1)]

Except as provided by regulations, the master of every ship registered in the Island shall make and maintain a list of the crew containing such particulars as may be required by the regulations.

53 False statements for purpose of obtaining British seamen's cards

[P1970/36/70 (4)]

If a person makes a statement which he knows to be false or recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular for the purpose of obtaining for himself or another person a British seaman's card, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

54 Returns of births and deaths in ships, etc

[P1970/36/72 (3)]

- (1) If a certified copy of a return of any birth or death is sent to the appropriate Registrar-General of births, marriages and deaths pursuant to regulations made under section 108 of the 1995 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act, he shall record the information contained therein in a register kept by him for the purpose and to be called the marine register, and may also record in that register such additional information as appears to him desirable for the purpose of ensuring the completeness and correctness of the register; and the enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths shall have effect as if the marine register were a register of births (other than still-births) or deaths or certified copies of entries in such a register and had been transmitted to the Registrar-General in accordance with those enactments.⁶⁹
- (2) Where —
- (a) an inquest is held on a dead body or touching a death or a post-mortem examination is made of a dead body as a result of which the coroner of inquests is satisfied that an inquest is unnecessary; and
 - (b) it appears to the coroner of inquests, that the death in question is such as is mentioned in section 108(2) of the 1995 Act or in that paragraph as extended (with or without amendments) by virtue of regulations made under section 307 of the 1995 Act, being

regulations having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act,⁷⁰

it shall be the duty of the coroner of inquests to send to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen and the Department particulars in respect of the deceased of a kind prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State, being regulations having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act.⁷¹

55 Handing over of documents on change of master

[P1970/36/74]

If a person ceases to be the master of a ship registered in the Island during a voyage of the ship, he shall deliver to his successor the documents relating to the ship or its crew which are in his custody; and, if he fails without reasonable cause to do so, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

56 Admissibility in evidence and inspection of certain documents

[P1970/36/75]

- (1) The following documents shall be admissible in evidence, that is to say, —
 - (a) crew agreements, Seafarers' Employment Agreements, lists of crew made under section 52 and notices given under regulations of additions to or changes in crew agreements and lists of crews;⁷²
 - (b) the official log book of any ship kept under section 51 and, without prejudice to section 288 of the 1995 Act as it has effect in the Island, any document purporting to be a copy of an entry therein and to be certified as a true copy by the master of the ship;⁷³
 - (c) documents purporting to be submissions to or decisions by superintendents or proper officers under section 6;
 - (d) returns or reports under section 54 or under regulations made under sections 1, 2 and 2B of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985*.⁷⁴
- (2) A certificate recognised for the purposes of regulations made under section 34A of this Act shall be admissible in evidence.⁷⁵

56A Inspection and admissibility in evidence of copies of certain documents

- (1) Where any document to which section 56(1) applies is in the custody of the Department —
 - (a) there may be supplied for public inspection a copy or other reproduction of the document instead of the original; but

- (b) the original shall nevertheless be made available for public inspection if the copy or other reproduction is illegible.
- (2) Where the Department keeps a copy or other reproduction of a document, which has been sent to it by virtue of any enactment, then —
- (a) any enactment providing for the document to be admissible in evidence or open to public inspections, and
 - (b) in the case of a document falling within subsection (1), that subsection,
- shall apply to the copy or other reproduction as if it were the original.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, a copy is to be taken to be the copy of a document notwithstanding that it is taken from a copy or other reproduction of the original.⁷⁶

57 [Repealed]⁷⁷

58 Stowaways

[P1970/36/77]

- (1) If a person, without the consent of the master or of any other person authorised to give it, goes to sea or attempts to go to sea in a ship registered in the Island, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding £5,000, or to both.
- (2) Nothing in section 281 of the 1995 Act as it has effect in the Island shall be taken to limit the jurisdiction of any court in the Island to deal with an offence under this section which has been committed in a country outside the Island by a person who is not a British subject.⁷⁸

59 Unauthorised presence on board ship

[P1970/36/78]

Where a ship registered in the Island or any other country is in a port in the Island and a person who is not in Her Majesty's service, or in the service of the Government, or is authorised by any statutory provision to do so —

- (a) goes on board the ship without the consent of the master or of any other person authorised to give it; or
- (b) remains on board the ship after being requested to leave by the master, a constable or an officer of the Department or of customs and excise,⁷⁹

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

60 Master's power of arrest

[P1970/36/79]

The master of any ship registered in the Island may cause any person on board the ship to be put under restraint if and for so long as it appears to him necessary or expedient in the interest of safety or for the preservation of good order or discipline on board the ship.

*Miscellaneous***61 Uniform**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), if any person, not being entitled to wear the merchant navy uniform, wears that uniform or any part thereof, or any dress having the appearance or bearing any of the distinctive marks of that uniform, he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable, on summary conviction, —
 - (a) except in a case falling within paragraph (b), to a fine not exceeding £200;
 - (b) if he wears it in such a manner or under such circumstances as to be likely to bring contempt on the uniform, to a fine not exceeding £200 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 month.
- (3) Subsection (1) shall not prevent any person from wearing any uniform or dress in the course or for the purposes of a stage play or representation, or a music-hall or circus performance if the uniform is not worn in such a manner or under such circumstances as to bring it into contempt.
- (4) If any person entitled to wear the merchant navy uniform when aboard a ship in port or on shore appears dressed partly in uniform and partly not in uniform under such circumstances as to be likely to bring contempt on the uniform, or, being entitled to wear the uniform appropriate to a particular rank or position, wears the uniform appropriate to some higher rank or position, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £200.⁸⁰

62 [Repealed]⁸¹**63 Application to the Island of certain regulations and rules made under the 1970 Act**

- (1) The Department, after consultation with the Secretary of State, may by order apply to the Island or to ships registered in the Island, or to both, as part of the law of the Island, subject to such modifications or exceptions, or both, as may be specified in the order, any regulations

made under any enactment specified in Schedule 2, including that enactment as amended from time to time.⁸²

- (1A) An order under subsection (1) may do all or any of the following –
- (a) specify the exceptions, adaptations and modifications subject to which the regulations applied by the order apply to the Island;
 - (b) set out the regulations applied by the order, incorporating the exceptions, adaptations and modifications subject to which they apply to the Island;
 - (c) in the case of an order applying regulations which amend previous regulations applied to the Island, set out the previous regulations so applied as amended, incorporating the exceptions, adaptations and modifications subject to which the previous regulations apply to the Island.⁸³
- (2) The Department, after consultation with the Secretary of State, may by order amend Schedule 2.⁸⁴
- (3) No order under this section shall have effect until it has been approved by Tynwald.

63A [Repealed]⁸⁵

64 Power to amend Act by order

[1974/32/22]

- (1) The Department may, after consultation with the Secretary of State, by order amend, vary, adapt or repeal any provision of this Act in such manner as may appear to the Department expedient for the purpose of making this Act correspond (subject to such modifications or exceptions, or both, as the Department may consider, appropriate) with the like enactments from time to time operating in the United Kingdom; and any provision of any such order shall take effect from such day as may be specified in the order, not being earlier than the date on which the corresponding enactment has effect in the United Kingdom.⁸⁶
- (2) Any order under this section shall have effect as if it were an Act of Tynwald.
- (3) No order under this section shall have effect until it has been approved by Tynwald.

64A Non-sea-going ships

- (1) The preceding provisions of this Act other than sections 15, 22, 25 (in its application in relation to section 22), 35 to 44, and 57 do not apply to ships which are not sea-going ships or to masters or seamen employed in ships which are not sea-going ships.

- (2) In relation to ships which are not sea-going ships —
- (a) section 25 of this Act shall (in its application in relation to section 22) have effect as if the words “goes to sea in a ship” were omitted and the words “is on board a ship while it is on a voyage or excursion” were inserted after “to give it”; and
 - (b) section 37 of this Act shall have effect as if for the words “goes to sea or attempts to go to sea” there were substituted the words “goes on a voyage or excursion or attempts to do so” and the words “if in the Island” were omitted.⁸⁷

Legal proceedings

65 Proceedings for offences

[P1975/5/4(5)]

Proceedings against a person for any offence under this Act may be taken, and the offence may for all incidental purposes be treated as having been committed, at any place in the Island.

66 Service of summons, etc

[VI p579/60]

Without prejudice to the provisions of any other enactment relating to the service of a summons or any other document, any summons or document in respect of any legal proceedings under this Act may, if the person to be served is serving on a ship, be served by leaving the summons or document on board the ship to which he belongs with the person being, or appearing to be, in command or charge of the ship.

Fishing vessels

67 Fishing vessels

[P1970/36/95; P1974/43/19/6]

- (1) In the application of this Act to fishing vessels and persons serving in them —
- (a) sections 3, 24(1)(c)(i) and (ii), and 25, 27 to 30 and 62 do not apply and the provisions contained in Part I of Schedule 3 apply in addition to the other provisions of this Act; and⁸⁸
 - (b) sections 4 and 5 apply as set out in Part II of that Schedule; and nothing in Schedule 3 applies to fishing vessels not registered in the Island or to persons serving in them.
- (2) Section 11 does not apply to so much of the wages of a seaman employed in a fishing vessel as is in any manner related to the catch.

- (3) In its application to persons serving in fishing vessels, section 61 shall have effect as if for the words “merchant navy uniform”, wherever they occur, there were substituted the words “fishing fleet uniform”.
- (4) Nothing in section 7 shall affect the operation of any enactment relating to the attachment of earnings in respect of wages due to a person employed in a fishing vessel.
- (5) The Department may grant exemptions from any requirements of this Act or of any regulations —
- (a) with respect to any fishing vessel or to a fishing vessel of any description; or
 - (b) with respect to any person or a person of any description serving in a fishing vessel or in a fishing vessel of any description;
- and nothing in any other provision of this Act or in any regulations conferring a power to provide for or grant exemptions shall be taken to restrict the power conferred by this subsection.⁸⁹
- (6) In this Act “**fishing vessel**” means a vessel for the time being used for or in connection with fishing for sea fish, other than a vessel used (or intended to be used) for fishing otherwise than for profit.⁹⁰

Supplementary

68 Interpretation

[P1970/36/97(1)-(5)]

(1) In this Act —

“**the 1894 Act**” [Repealed]⁹¹

“**the 1970 Act**” means the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 (an Act of Parliament);

“**the 1995 Act**” means the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (an Act of Parliament);⁹²

“**the Board**” [Repealed]⁹³

“**British seaman’s card**” means a card issued pursuant to regulations made under section 79 of the 1995 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act;⁹⁴

“**crew agreement**” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1(2);

“**the Department**” means the Department for Enterprise;⁹⁵

“**enactment**” includes an enactment of the Parliament of Northern Ireland;

“**the Government**” includes a Board of Tynwald and a Statutory Board;

“**master**” includes every person (except a pilot) having command or charge of a ship and, in relation to a fishing vessel, means the skipper;⁹⁶

“**merchant navy uniform**” [Repealed]⁹⁷

“**port**” includes place;⁹⁸

“**proper officer**” means a consular officer appointed by Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom and, in relation to a port in a country outside the United Kingdom which is not a foreign country, also any officer exercising in that port functions similar to those of a superintendent;

“**regulations**” means regulations made under the 1995 Act, or under any other enactment of Parliament, and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act and includes regulations made under sections 1 and 2 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985*;⁹⁹

“**relief and maintenance**” includes the provision of surgical or medical treatment and such dental and optical treatment (including the repair or replacement of any appliance) as cannot be postponed without impairing efficiency;

“**seafarer**” means any person who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on-board a ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013 apply;¹⁰⁰

“**Seafarer’s Employment Agreement**” means a clear, written legally enforceable agreement required in accordance with Part 4 of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2013;¹⁰¹

“**seaman**” includes every person (except masters and pilots) employed or engaged in any capacity on board any ship;¹⁰²

“**ship**” includes every description of vessel used in navigation;¹⁰³

“**ship’s boat**” includes a life-raft;

“**superintendent**” means a person appointed as such by the Department and includes a superintendent under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 1983 (being Acts of Parliament);¹⁰⁴

“**surveyor of ships**” has the meaning assigned to it by section 25 of the *Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ships’ Survey) Act 1979*;¹⁰⁵

“**vessel**” includes any ship or boat and any other description of vessel used in navigation, and also includes a non-displacement craft;

“**wages**” includes emoluments.¹⁰⁶

(2) [Repealed]¹⁰⁷

(3) References in this Act to going to sea include references to going to sea from any country outside the Island.

(4) For the purposes of this Act, a seaman is discharged from a ship when his employment in that ship is terminated.

- (5) For the purposes of this Act, a seaman discharged from a ship in any country and left there shall be deemed to be left behind in that country notwithstanding that the ship also remains there.
- (6) References in this Act (except section 45) to dying in a ship include references to dying in a ship's boat and to being lost from a ship or a ship's boat.¹⁰⁸

69 Expenses

[P1970/36/98 (1)]

Any expenses incurred by the Department under this Act shall be defrayed out of money provided by Tynwald.¹⁰⁹

70 Amendments

[P1970/36/100 (1)]

The enactments mentioned in Schedule 4 shall be amended in accordance with that Schedule.

71 Savings, transitional provisions and repeals

[P1970/36/100(2) and (3)]

- (1) This Act shall have effect subject to the savings and transitional provisions contained in Schedule 5.
- (2) [Repealed]¹¹⁰

72 Short title and commencement

[P1970/36/101 (1) and (4)]

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Masters and Seamen) Act 1979.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such date as the Department may by order appoint, and different days may be so appointed for different provisions of this Act.^{111 112}

SCHEDULE 1

CLAIMS AGAINST SEAMAN'S WAGES FOR MAINTENANCE

Section 13 [P1970/36/17(1)-(6), 8 and (10)]

1. Where, during a seaman's employment in a ship, expenses are incurred by the responsible authority for the benefit of any dependant of his and the expenses are of a kind specified in regulations and such further conditions, if any, as may be so specified are satisfied, the authority may by notice in writing complying with the regulations require the persons employing the seaman —

- (a) to retain for a period specified in the notice such proportion of his net wages as may be so specified; and
- (b) to give to the responsible authority as soon as may be notice in writing of the seamen's discharge from the ship;

and the persons employing the seaman shall comply with the notice (subject to paragraph 3) and give notice in writing of its contents to the seaman.

2. For the purposes of this Schedule —

- (a) the following persons, and no others, shall be taken to be a seaman's dependants, that is to say, his spouse, his civil partner and any person under the age of 16 whom he is liable, for the purposes of any enactment, to maintain or in respect of whom he is liable under any such enactment to make contributions to the responsible authority; and¹¹³
- (b) expenses incurred for the benefit of any person include (in addition to any payments made to him or on his behalf) expenses incurred for providing him with accommodation or care or for exercising supervision over him;

but no expenses shall be specified in regulations unless they are such that a court of summary jurisdiction has power under any enactment to order the making of payments in respect thereof.

3. Not more than the following proportion of a seaman's net wages shall be retained under paragraph 1 (whether in pursuance of one or more notices), that is to say —

- (a) one-half if the notice or notices relate to one dependant only;
- (b) two-thirds if the notice or notices relate to 2 or more dependants.

4. Where the responsible authority has served a notice under this Schedule on the persons employing a seaman a court of summary jurisdiction may, on the application of the authority, make an order for the payment to the authority of such sum, not

exceeding the proportion of the seaman's wages which those persons were required by virtue of this Schedule to retain, as the court, having regard to the expenses incurred by the authority and the seaman's means, thinks fit.

5. Any sums paid out of a seaman's wages in pursuance of an order under this Schedule shall be deemed to be paid to him in respect of his wages; and the service, on the persons who employed the seaman, of such an order or of an order dismissing an application for such an order shall terminate the period for which they were required to retain the wages.

6. An application for an order under this Schedule for the payment of any sum by the persons who employed a seaman shall be deemed, for the purposes of any proceedings, to be an application for an order against the seaman; but the order, when served on those persons, shall have effect as an order against them and may be enforced accordingly.

7. Any notice or order under this Schedule may be served by registered post or recorded delivery service.

8. In this Schedule "the responsible authority" means the Isle of Man Board of Social Security.

SCHEDULE 2¹¹⁴

PROVISIONS OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH MAY BE APPLIED TO THE ISLAND BY ORDERS UNDER SECTION 63

Section 63 (1)

Provisions of the 1970 Act

Sections 1 to 4

Section 6

Section 8 as set out in Part II of Schedule 2

Section 9

Section 11

Section 13

Section 17

Sections 19 to 21

Section 24

Sections 34 to 36

Section 43

Sections 50 and 51

Section 62
Section 65
Sections 68 to 72
Section 84
Section 87
Section 92
Schedules 2 and 4

The Merchant Shipping Act 1979

Sections 21 and 22
Section 30(2)

The Merchant Shipping Act 1995

Sections 25 to 27
Section 32
Section 34
Section 36
Section 40
Section 43
Section 54 and 55
Section 60 (including that section as amended by section 119)
Section 73
Sections 77 to 80
Sections 109 and 112
Section 307.

SCHEDULE 3

FISHING VESSELS

Section 67(1)

PART I – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS¹¹⁵

Production of certificates and other documents of qualification

1. Any person serving or engaged to serve in a fishing vessel and holding any certificate or other document which is evidence that he is qualified for the purpose of regulations made under section 43 of the 1970 Act and having effect in the Island by virtue of an order made under section 63 of this Act shall on demand produce it to any person who is a British sea-fishery officer for the purposes of the Sea Fisheries Acts

(within the meaning of the Sea Fisheries Act 1968, an Act of Parliament); and, if he fails to do so without reasonable cause, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Reports of and inquiries into injuries

2. (1) Where the master or a member of the crew of a fishing vessel is injured during a voyage, an inquiry into the cause and nature of the injury may be held by a superintendent or proper officer.

(2) The superintendent or proper officer holding an inquiry under this paragraph shall for the purposes of the inquiry have the powers conferred on an inspector by section 3 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1985* and shall make a report of his findings to the Department.¹¹⁶

**PART II – SECTIONS 4 AND 5 SET OUT AS THEY APPLY TO
FISHING VESSELS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THEM**
P1970/36 Sch 2, Pt II

4. Payment of seamen's wages

Except as provided by or under this Act or any other enactment, the wages due to a seaman under a crew agreement relating to a fishing vessel shall be paid to him in full.

5. Account of wages and catch

(1) Subject to regulations, the persons employing any seaman under a crew agreement relating to a fishing vessel shall deliver to him at a time prescribed by regulations an account of the wages due to him under that crew agreement and of the deductions subject to which the wages are payable.

(2) Where the wages of any person employed in a fishing vessel are in any manner related to the catch, the persons employing him shall at a time prescribed by regulations deliver to the master an account (or, if the master is the person employing him, make out an account) showing how those wages (or any part thereof related to the catch) are arrived at and shall make the account available to the crew in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(3) Where there is a partnership between the master and any members of the crew of a fishing vessel, the owner of the vessel shall at a time prescribed by regulations make out an account showing the sums due to each partner in respect of his share and shall make the account available to the partners.

(4) If a person fails without reasonable cause to comply with the preceding provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

SCHEDULE 4**AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN ENACTMENTS**

Section 70

[Sch 4 amended by Shipping Casualties (Inquiries, Investigations and Reports) Act 1979 Sch, and amends the following Act —

Education (Work Experience) Act 1974 q.v.]

SCHEDULE 5**SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Section 71(1)

1. The repeal by this Act of section 2 of the *Merchant Shipping Act 1935* shall not affect the operation —
 - (a) in relation to a seaman's money order issued before the coming into force of the repeal, of regulations under section 145(2) or 146 of the 1894 Act; or
 - (b) of sections 148 to 153 of the 1894 Act in relation to any deposit received under section 148 before the coming into force of the repeal; or
 - (c) of section 254 of the 1894 Act in relation to any return made under it, and any marine register book kept under that section shall be treated as part of a marine register kept under section 54 of this Act.
2. Any licence granted under section 110 of the 1894 Act shall have effect as if granted under section 3 of this Act.
3. For the purposes of section 61, the registration of any design under Part II of the Patents and Designs Act 1907 shall be deemed to be a registration under the Registered Designs Act 1949 (both Acts being Acts of Parliament).

SCHEDULE 6¹¹⁷

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement

Table of Renumbered Provisions

Original	Current

Table of Endnote References

¹ Subs (2) amended by GC190/86, by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15, by SD155/10 Sch 2 and by SD2017/0325.

² Subs (3) amended by GC190/86 and by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.

³ Subs (5) amended by GC190/86 and by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.

⁴ Subs (6) amended by GC190/86 and by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.

⁵ Subs (2) inserted by SD234/13.

⁶ S 3 repealed by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.

⁷ Subs (1) substituted by GC18/91.

⁸ Subs (2) amended by GC18/91.

⁹ Subs (3) amended by Treasury Act 1985 Sch 2 and by GC18/91.

¹⁰ Subs (3A) inserted by GC18/91.

¹¹ Subs (3B) inserted by GC18/91.

¹² Subs (3C) inserted by GC18/91.

¹³ Subs (4) amended by GC18/91.

¹⁴ Subs (6) amended by GC18/91.

¹⁵ Subs (7) added by GC18/91.

¹⁶ Subs (1) amended by GC18/91.

¹⁷ Subs (3A) inserted by GC18/91.

¹⁸ S 6 heading substituted by SD234/13.

¹⁹ Subs (1) substituted by SD234/13.

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- ²⁰ Para (a) amended by GC169/80.
- ²¹ Subs (4) added by GC169/80.
- ²² S 8 amended by SD234/13.
- ²³ S 9 repealed by SD234/13.
- ²⁴ Subs (1) amended by SD234/13.
- ²⁵ Subs (2) amended by SD234/13.
- ²⁶ Subs (1) amended by GC169/80.
- ²⁷ Subs (4) added by GC169/80.
- ²⁸ Subs (5) inserted by SD234/13.
- ²⁹ Amended by GC169/80.
- ³⁰ S 15A repealed by SD386/98.
- ³¹ S 16 repealed by GC34/90.
- ³² Subs (1) amended by GC34/90.
- ³³ S 18 repealed by GC18/91.
- ³⁴ Subs (2) inserted by SD234/13.
- ³⁵ Subs (2) inserted by SD234/13.
- ³⁶ S 22 substituted by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 13.
- ³⁷ S 23 substituted by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 14.
- ³⁸ Paras (a) and (b) repealed by GC18/91.
- ³⁹ S 25 amended by GC18/91 and by SD386/98.
- ⁴⁰ S 26 amended by GC18/91.
- ⁴¹ Ss 27 to 30 repealed by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 2.
- ⁴² S 34 repealed by GC18/91.
- ⁴³ S 34A inserted by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 12.
- ⁴⁴ Subs (1) amended by GC301/87 and by SD386/98.
- ⁴⁵ Subs (1) amended by GC190/86, by GC301/87, by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15, by SD386/98 and by SD2014/0238.
- ⁴⁶ S 37 amended by SD386/98 and by SD2014/0238.
- ⁴⁷ Subs (2) amended by SD386/98 and by SD2014/0238.
- ⁴⁸ S 39 amended by SD386/98.
- ⁴⁹ S 41 amended by SD386/98.
- ⁵⁰ Subs (2) amended by SD386/98.
- ⁵¹ Para (c) amended by Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (of Parliament) (applied SD23/99).
- ⁵² S 43 amended by GC190/86 and by SD386/98.
- ⁵³ S 44 amended by SD386/98 .
- ⁵⁴ Para (a) amended by GC169/80.
- ⁵⁵ Subs (1A) inserted by GC169/80 and amended by GC190/86.
- ⁵⁶ Subs (1B) inserted by GC169/80 and amended by GC190/86.
- ⁵⁷ Subs (2) amended by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 1.
- ⁵⁸ Para (a) amended by GC169/80.
- ⁵⁹ Subs (3) amended by GC190/86. Para (b) amended by GC190/86.

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- ⁶⁰ Subs (4) substituted by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 1. Para (d) amended by GC190/86.
- ⁶¹ Subs (4) inserted by SD234/13.
- ⁶² Subs (2) inserted by SD234/13.
- ⁶³ Para (a) amended by GC190/86.
- ⁶⁴ Para (b) amended by SD386/98.
- ⁶⁵ Subs (2) amended by GC190/86.
- ⁶⁶ S 49 repealed by GC18/91.
- ⁶⁷ S 50 amended by GC18/91.
- ⁶⁸ Subs (1) amended by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.
- ⁶⁹ Subs (1) amended by SD386/98.
- ⁷⁰ Para (b) amended by SD386/98.
- ⁷¹ Subs (2) added by GC169/80 and amended by GC190/86.
- ⁷² Para (a) amended by SD234/13.
- ⁷³ Para (b) amended by Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (of Parliament) (applied by SD23/99).
- ⁷⁴ Para (d) amended by SD234/13.
- ⁷⁵ Subs (2) substituted by SD386/98.
- ⁷⁶ S 56 inserted by GC18/91.
- ⁷⁷ S 57 repealed by SD386/98.
- ⁷⁸ Subs (2) amended by Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (of Parliament) (applied SD23/99).
- ⁷⁹ Para (b) amended by GC190/86.
- ⁸⁰ S 61 substituted by SD386/98.
- ⁸¹ S 62 repealed by GC18/91.
- ⁸² Subs (1) amended by GC169/80 and by GC190/86.
- ⁸³ Subs (1A) inserted by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 21.
- ⁸⁴ Subs (2) amended by GC190/86.
- ⁸⁵ S 63A repealed by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 Sch 2.
- ⁸⁶ Subs (1) amended by GC190/86 and by Merchant Shipping Registration Act 1991 Sch 5.
- ⁸⁷ S64A inserted by GC18/91.
- ⁸⁸ Para (a) amended by GC169/80 and by GC18/91.
- ⁸⁹ Subs (5) amended by Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 s 15.
- ⁹⁰ Subs (6) substituted by GC18/91.
- ⁹¹ Definition of 'the 1894 Act' repealed by Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (of Parliament) (applied SD23/99).
- ⁹² Definition of 'the 1995 Act' inserted by SD386/98.
- ⁹³ Definition of 'the Board' repealed by GC190/86.
- ⁹⁴ Definition of 'British seaman's card' amended by SD386/98.
- ⁹⁵ Definition of 'the Department' inserted by GC190/86 and amended by SD155/10 Sch 2 and by SD2017/0325.
- ⁹⁶ Definition of 'master' inserted by SD386/98.

⁹⁷ Definition of ‘merchant navy uniform’ repealed by SD386/98.

⁹⁸ Definition of ‘port’ inserted by SD386/98.

⁹⁹ Definition of ‘regulations’ amended by GC360/88 and by SD386/98.

¹⁰⁰ Definition of “seafarer” inserted by SD234/13.

¹⁰¹ Definition of “Seafarer’s Employment Agreement” inserted by SD234/13.

¹⁰² Definition of “seaman” inserted by SD386/98.

¹⁰³ Definition of “ship” substituted by SD386/98.

¹⁰⁴ Definition of “superintendent” inserted by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 1 and amended by GC190/86.

¹⁰⁵ Definition of “surveyor of ships” inserted by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 1.

¹⁰⁶ Definition of “wages” added by SD386/98.

¹⁰⁷ Subs (2) repealed by SD386/98.

¹⁰⁸ Subs (6) amended by GC169/80.

¹⁰⁹ S 69 amended by GC190/86.

¹¹⁰ Subs (2) repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1992 Sch 2.

¹¹¹ Subs (2) amended by GC190/86.

¹¹² ADO (ss 1, 2, 4 to 40, 45 to 53, 55 to 60, 62 to 72, Schs 1 to 6) 1/7/1980 (GC139/80); (ss 41 to 43) 1/11/1981 (GC210/81); (s 54) 1/1/1986, GC1/86; (ss 44, 61) 1/1/1988 (GC374/87).

¹¹³ Para (a) amended by Civil Partnership Act 2011 Sch 14.

¹¹⁴ Sch 2 amended by GC169/80 and by SD386/98.

¹¹⁵ P1970/36/Sch 2, Pt I, paras 3 and 5

¹¹⁶ Subpara (2) amended by Merchant Shipping Act 1985 Sch 1 and by GC190/86.

¹¹⁷ Sch 6 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1992 Sch 2.