The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the new Merchant Shipping (Medical Stores) Regulations, 2002 published on the 14 June 2002. These regulations which revoke the Merchant Shipping (Medical Scales) Regulations, 1973 (Legal Notice 60 of 1973) reflect current requirements in this field.

Moreover, attention is also drawn to two other new sets of regulations, namely the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published on the 14 June 2002 and the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Wage) Regulations, 2002 published on the 21 June 2002.

The Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 introduce two minor amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations, 2001, namely, that the maximum period of validity of a medical certificate for persons under eighteen years of age shall be one year and that an application for a medical certificate shall be at no cost to the applicant.

The Merchant Shipping (Minimum Wage) Regulations, 2002 lay down, inter alia, that the employer of a seafarer and the operator of a ship are to ensure that a seafarer is paid at least a minimum basic wage which reflects the minimum monthly basic wage of the ILO Seafarers’ Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (ILO Recommendation No 187), as updated by the ILO Joint Maritime Commission.

The date of entry into force of all three sets of regulations is the 1 July 2002.