Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series R

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Regulation concerning amendments to the Regulations of 25 April 2002 No. 424 on treatment of disputes on Norwegian ships

Introduction

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has adopted amendments to the Regulations of 25 April 2002 No. 424 on treatment of disputes on Norwegian ships. These amendments enter into force immediately.

Consultation

The proposed Regulations were circulated for review on 5 July 2024, with deadline for comments on 27 September 2024. The NMA received five responses, none of which contained comments on the proposal. An overview of all responses and the NMA's remarks is found in the attached consultation matrix (available in Norwegian only).

Background for the amendments

The NMA's allocation letter for 2024 specifies tasks related to implementing the Gender Equality Strategy for the Maritime Sector. The Norwegian Government presented the Gender Equality Strategy for the Maritime Sector on 5 June 2023. This strategy proposes four focus areas, including measures to promote gender equality in the sector.

In a follow-up letter from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries dated 1 March 2024, the Ministry asked the NMA to update the wording of the Regulations on treatment of dispute on Norwegian ships. The letter references amendments to the Norwegian Foreign Service Act, where the term "utenrikstjenestemann" was replaced with the gender-neutral "utenrikstjenesteansatt". The Ministry has requested that the NMA make similar adjustments to the Regulations on treatment of disputes on Norwegian ships to ensure consistency across legislation.

Legal basis, scope of application and obligated party

The legal basis of the amendments to the Regulations on treatment of disputes on Norwegian ships is found in Act of 21 June 2013 No. 102 relating to employment protection etc. for employees on board ships (Ship Labour Act), cf. Formal Delegation of 3 July 2013 No. 974.

Details on the amendments

The amendments involve replacing the term "utenrikstjenestemann" with "utenrikstjenesteansatt". No changes are necessary in the English translation, as the gender-neutral term "foreign service officer" is already used. Furthermore, the terms "han" and "hans" will be replaced with gender-neutral alternatives to ensure inclusive and neutral legislative language.

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Administrative and financial implications

The proposal has no administrative or financial impact beyond the resources required by the NMA for the implementation. The amendments are purely linguistic.

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