



New Law on Crewing of Sea Vessels from July 1

News

10 June 2025

#Crewing

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Restructuring and modernization

On July 1, the new *Law on Crewing of Sea Vessels (Wet bemanning zeeschepen)*, replaces the old *Seafarers Act*, which was due for restructuring and modernization. What is the aim of the new law?

- **Clearer rules:** The existing legislation has been combined and restructured, making it easier to find and understand the rules.
- **Future-proof legislation:** The rules can be adjusted more easily, to be able to keep up the pace with the rapid developments in the sector. It will also be possible to issue crew documents digitally, and more flexibility will be created to temporarily deviate from regulations in the context of experiments with new technologies.
- **More attractive Dutch flag:** The law aims to better align with the international labor market for seafarers. For example, foreign training certificates and medical examination certificates will be more widely recognized.
- **Stronger position for the Dutch labor market:** Diplomas from the merged vocational training programs for maritime navigation and fishing will be recognized. Furthermore, the sailing time gained in various maritime sectors, such as maritime navigation, fishing, sailing, and the Royal Navy, will be more widely equated. It will also be possible to renew an expired certificate by passing a test.

The KVNR

The KVNR is largely satisfied with the new legislation. However, its success will only be realized if the implementation of the new legislation is effectively managed in practice. The KVNR is therefore pleased that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management will continue to actively strive to make the implementation of the new legislation a success in the coming period.

Additionally, some remaining issues will be addressed, such as the mutual calculation of sailing time as a helmsman, engineer, and maritime officer.

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