



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 725 of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Labor Standards</b>
Reference	ICS-International Chamber of Shipping

**Drop-Off in Labour Standards Reported by ICS**

The annual Shipping Industry Flag State Performance Table, from the International Chamber of Shipping, identified reporting on seafarer wellbeing.

The Flag State of merchant ship is the jurisdiction under whose laws the ship is registered or licensed and is deemed the nationality of the vessel.

The findings also suggest that distinctions between traditional flags and open registres are no longer meaningful.

The Table is intended to encourage shipowners to maintain a dialogue with their Flag states, and help facilitate necessary improvements in the interests of safety, the environment and decent working conditions.

The Flag State of a merchant ship is the jurisdiction under whose laws the ship is registered or licensed and is deemed the nationality of the vessel.

There is a drop in levels of reporting on status of national ILO labor standards, including the 2006 Maritime Labor Convention (MLC), underscoring the severe administrative pressures of the pandemic and the ongoing “crew change crisis” on seafarers, governments and the industry alike. The Table’s criterion assessing flag states’ reporting on ILO labor standards, including the MLC, revealed 6% point decrease in Flag States successfully meeting their obligations.

There was a sharp decrease in the number of reports received by the deadline of 1 October this year in relation to previous years.

In total of the 2004 reports on labor standards requested by the ILO from governments in 2021, only 42.9% of these requests were granted.

The findings were an outlier against a generally strong performance across the board from most

**CONARINA Head Office**

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455

Miami, Fl., 33126

Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,

Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,

[joel@conarinagroup.com](mailto:joel@conarinagroup.com)



Flag States, on criteria such as Port State Control (PSC) records and ratification of international conventions.

Amongst the 10 largest ships registers, by deadweight tonnage, covering more than 75% of the world fleet, none have more than two indicators of potentially negative performance, and five have no negative indicators at all.

The findings also suggest that distinctions between “traditional” flags and open registers are no longer meaningful, with many open registers amongst the very top performers, alongside several European registers.

REFERENCES:

- ILO labor standards

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
CONARINA Technical Office

**CONARINA Head Office**

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455  
Miami, Fl., 33126  
Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,  
Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,  
[Joel@conarinagroup.com](mailto:Joel@conarinagroup.com)