

Legal advice helpline

IMEC is pleased to announce that it will be making a free legal advice helpline and other value-added benefits available to all our members with effect from 20 February 2017. These benefits will be provided in partnership with international shipping law specialists, Hill Dickinson LLP.

Scope of helpline

Hill Dickinson will give full IMEC members access to a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year helpline, providing advice on a full range of crew matters, including the following:

- **ITF contracts, union disputes and CBA interpretation**
- **MLC queries and crewing agreements**
- **General employment issues, policies and procedures**
- **Management agreements**
- **Multi- and cross-jurisdictional disputes**
- **TUPE issues**
- **Crime at sea and emergencies**
- **Cyber security and data protection breaches**
- **The Modern Slavery Act**

Members will be able to access support by calling or emailing one of Hill Dickinson specialist team (details set out overleaf). Alternatively, queries and requests for assistance can be directed to the IMEC helpline number 0330 022 6885 or the IMEC helpline email account (IMEChelpline@hilldickinson.com), to which all members of the team will have access.

The helpline is funded by IMEC, subject to a limit of up to two hours per matter and a limit of up to three matters per member per year. These limits are in place to ensure that as many members as possible are able to enjoy the benefit of the service. We have allocated significant funds to the provision of this service but they are subject to an annual cap. Once these funds have been exhausted, the benefits will not be available until the next anniversary of the start date.

The helpline includes support in all the main shipping jurisdictions, as well external counsel advice where necessary (up to the maximum limits above).

Additional benefits

In addition to the helpline, Hill Dickinson has also agreed to provide the following benefits to IMEC members:

- Discounted rates – employment-related work outside the scheme limits will be charged at a heavily discounted rate of £250 per hour plus VAT. Hill Dickinson will also offer a 10% discount on its standard hourly rates for all non-IMEC work.
- Training and seminar programme – Hill Dickinson operates an international programme of training events, seminars and workshops which IMEC members are welcome to attend free of charge. In conjunction with IMEC, Hill Dickinson will also provide two bespoke training sessions per year, tailored to the specific needs of members or a specific member or sector.
- Meeting facilities – IMEC members will have access to office facilities in each of Hill Dickinson's global locations to host client or board meetings.
- Legal updates – Hill Dickinson produces regular email briefings on new legislation, interesting case law and hot topics, which will be made available to members via IMEC.
- Lobbying – Hill Dickinson participates extensively in consultations and lobbying at the highest level in relation to all matters affecting ship owners and managers, such as crew visas, damages for whiplash, and civil justice reforms. If requested to do so, it will co-ordinate and take the lead on lobbying efforts in relation to issues of concern to IMEC and its members.

About Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson's team of specialist lawyers has extensive experience of advising ship owners and managers from its offices in all the main shipping jurisdictions of London, Piraeus, Singapore and Hong Kong. The team is also able to call upon its network of local partners, providing global legal coverage and a fully comprehensive service.

Lawyers understand the significant challenges that dealing with potential union disputes and the increasingly burdensome regulatory environment can present to the smooth running of operations. As well as offering support in relation to crew matters via the IMEC helpline service, Hill Dickinson's specialist teams are able to offer support in relation to wet and dry shipping disputes, marine insurance, commodities, yachts, cargo and logistics, personal injury, industrial diseases, ship finance and sales and charter arrangements, and corporate and commercial matters.

Hill Dickinson does not act for crew or unions, which allows the team to avoid conflicts of interest and concentrate on acting in the interests of those they represent.

Key contacts

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