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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ADMINISTRATION

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Announcement (10 / 2020)

**Crew change procedures for Foreign-flagged Ships in Myanmar ports and waters
during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic**

**Applicable to: Shipowners, Operators, Managers, Agents, Masters and Crew of
foreign-flagged ships**

Summary

This Guidance provides to minimize risk of community spread of the COVID-19 in Myanmar and safeguard the health and safety of seafarers on board ships.

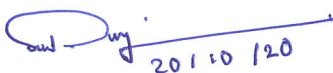
1. The entire global shipping industry is currently being posed a serious challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and there are travel and quarantine restrictions for crew change. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) of Myanmar has recognized that it is a reasonable case of *force majeure* as consequences of exceptional circumstances.
2. The purpose of this Marine Guidance is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of seafarers as well as to mitigate the risk of community spread of the COVID-19 amongst the public in Myanmar.
3. This Marine Guidance provides the DMA to consider the following special circumstances for crew change applications:
 - (a) no further extension of the employment contract is granted by the flag State;
 - (b) compassionate grounds (e.g. death of family member);
 - (c) the crew is no longer medically fit to work on board the ship;
 - (d) crew employment contract has expired;
 - (e) additional crew on board whose sign-off would not affect the safe manning of the ship;
 - (f) change of crew due to the sale or purchase of the ship;
 - (g) signing-off personnel not being part of the ship's crew, such as superintendents, service engineers, etc.
4. The requirements for crew change are as follows:
 - (a) **Signing-off**
 - (1) the crew has not gone ashore within the previous 14 days before disembarking the ship and has remained well throughout that period;

- (2) ship master, owner, manager or its agent has sent the Maritime Declarations of Health (MDOH) at least 72 hrs and 24 hrs prior to arrival in Myanmar port or waters to the Myanma Port Authority;
- (3) ship master/ agent has submitted Health Declaration Card on arrival Myanmar port or water to Port Health Officer;
- (4) the evidence has been provided for the proof of expiry of employment contract or unfit-for-work medical report, where applicable;
- (5) other supporting documents for a reason of crew change (e.g. sale/purchase agreement of ship);
- (6) in case of Myanmar crew, facility quarantine shall be required for at least 14 days after sign-off, provided that home quarantine shall be required for at least 7 days with travel restrictions after the COVID-19 (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) type) test result found negative; and
- (7) in case of foreign crew, facility quarantine shall be required for at least 14 days after sign-off. However, foreign crew may leave after the COVID-19 (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) type) test result found negative, provided that the ship owners/ managers/agents arrange to transfer from the facility quarantine directly to the point of departure from Myanmar.

(b) **Signing-on**

- (1) the crew is holding fit-to-travel medical certificate issued by a doctor at his/her originating country not more than 24 hours before departure flight;
- (2) evidence that the crew had been in facility quarantine at least 14 days prior to departure home country and has been well throughout that period;
- (3) COVID-19 test (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) type) with negative result at his/ her home country not more than 72 hours prior to his/her departure flight; and
- (4) the crew shall comply with COVID-19 preventive measures upon arrival Myanmar to proceeding to the port intended to crew change. The crew shall wait at the hotel designated by the Ministry of Health and Sports with travel restrictions until sign-on.

5. Ship owners/ managers/ agents shall apply for crew change in Myanmar addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Myanmar at least 7 days prior to the date of crew change through respective Embassy.


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