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Date: 25 September 2020

Announcement of the Ministry of Transport No. 78/2020

- New prevention and control measures for ships entering China

Dear Sir/Madam,

On September 24th, Ministry of Transport, General Administration of Customs, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly issued an Announcement (Announcement of the Ministry of Transport No. 78/2020), to strengthen the prevention and control of the COVID-19 among the crew of international sailing ships, so as to prevent the cross-border spread of COVID-19 by the crew of international sailing ships.

The content of the Announcement is summarized as follows:

Applicable circumstances

All international sailing ships intending to enter China, either

- a) changes crew members at the last port or place before entering China; or
- b) changes crew members during last 14 days prior to its arrival at the port in China.

Requirements

- The joining crew members should have nucleic acid test for COVID-19 done within 3 days prior to boarding, and should board the ship with document showing negative result of nucleic acid test for COVID-19.
- The test should be conducted in an institution designated or recognized by the Chinese embassy or consulate abroad.
- When going through the procedures for entering the first port of China, the copy of the document showing negative result of nucleic acid test for COVID-19 for the joining crew members should be submitted as required.

Consequence of violation

- Ship's arrival, departure or cargo operation might be hindered;
- Administrative legal responsibility might be investigated according to law, if the circumstance of such violation is severe;
- Criminal responsibility shall be investigated according to law, if there is no document or false documents showing negative result of nucleic acid test for COVID-19 for the joining crew members and cause the spread or risk of spread of COVID-19 within the People's Republic of China.

Our comments

There are many cases found in Chinese ports that crew members changed in the Philippines were tested COVID-19 positive. We suggest Owners to require documents meeting the requirement of the above Announcement from the crew members changed on board the ships intending to enter China, so as to avoid any delay of the vessel, or any administrative/ criminal responsibility caused thereof.

Best regards,



Yu Limin
President

**Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China
General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
Announcement on Strengthening COVID-19 Response for Crew Members of Vessels
Engaged in International Voyages**

In accordance with laws and regulations including the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law, Emergency Response Law and Maritime Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China, for the purpose of protecting the health of the crew members of vessels engaged in international voyages and preventing the cross-border spread of COVID-19 through those crew members, it is hereby announced as follows:

1. This announcement shall apply to all those vessels bound for China on international voyages .
2. If the crew change takes place at the previous port or place or within 14 days before the arrival at the port in China, the joining crew members shall complete COVID-19 nucleic acid test within 3 days prior to boarding, and carry the document showing negative result of COVID-19 while boarding. The test shall be conducted in institutions designated or recognized by the overseas Chinese embassies or consulates.
3. In going through the procedures for entering the first port of entry in China, the copy of the COVID-19 negative result document of the crew members who board the ship at the previous port or place or within 14 days before their arrival at the port in China shall, as required, be submitted through the vessel, its company or shipping agency.
4. Any violation of this announcement or the provisions of relevant laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China may hinder the vessel's arrival, departure or cargo operation in China. Under serious circumstances, administrative legal liability may be imposed according to law. If the crew members, who board the vessel at the previous port or place or within 14 days before their arrival at the port in China, carry no or falsified negative test result of COVID-19 and cause the spread of COVID-19 or pose such risks within the territory of the People's Republic of China, they may be subject to criminal liability according to law.

This announcement shall enter into force as of the date of promulgation.

Ministry of Transport
General Administration of Customs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24/09/2020