

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
NOTE OF CREW CHANGE TASK FORCE MEETING
TUESDAY 12 MAY 2020 AT 1200

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMPETITION RULES

Welcome and introduction.

Protocols have been issued, now moving to the next phase where lobbying required.

ITF and IMEC are negotiating crew contracts beyond 15 May for an implementation phase up to 15 June and action is needed over the next month to make crew changes happen.

1. A FRAMEWORK OF PROTOCOLS FOR FACILITATING CREW CHANGES

The framework of protocols have been finalised, supported by other industry associations and ITF. The protocols have been issued as a Circular letter (4204.Add.14), published 6 May and provided to members as a Circular COVID-19(20)59 for sharing with governments and member companies. IATA have their own message to airlines to restart flights, however they do not believe in social distancing so the crew change protocols had to be amended before they were issued. Increased momentum at a national level is now needed and ICS with ITF are preparing a generic template letter drawing attention to the protocols as part of a package for discussions at a national level with associated governments and airlines. IMO, ICAO and ILO are working on a joint circular on restarting crew changes for both shipping and aviation. ITF are considering a high level letter to the UN on the need to get crew changes moving. Uncertainty exists regarding quarantine requirements in many jurisdictions and a tendency to introduce or tighten restrictions to arrivals by air.

The template letter may be distributed to members for comment, but waiting feedback from ITF, who recognise that shipowners also want to conduct crew changes, so the letter will be aimed at governments.

Petros (Cyprus) – problems exist with expired visas and passports. Airlines are also concerned about visa on arrival being accepted.

Guy – these issues are covered in the protocols.

Phil (Intertanko) – working with Intermanager on collecting crew change information. Some changes occurring in the ARA. UK has been quite good in facilitating and exempting seafarers from quarantine requirements. More problems seen in Asia. More movement being seen but a big backlog exists.

Igor (Liberia) – most prominent area is ARA for crew changes, even without Schengen area in Rotterdam, but not in Belgium. Eastern Europeans easier to

change than Filipino seafarers. US is still difficult if less than 14 days from last port, however different in each state. Asia is generally not possible for crew changes and this is where focus is required.

Claudia (ECSA) – ECSA are pushing the EC on EU member states for both crew changes and visas and request case data to address with the EC.

Guy – launching a survey monkey survey on crew changes and will send out as a circular this week to get an impression as to how the situation on crew changes is progressing.

Francesco (IMEC) – in final stages of consultation with the ITF for extension of crew contracts to 15 June as an implementation phase for crew changes. Working on actions that shipowners can take to improve life on board so better for seafarers. Working on data collection on flight requirements from members to discuss with airlines and potentially flight charters, however this will be dependent on volumes, therefore non-IMEC members can be included and will provide the Circular outlining what is being worked on.

Teresa (Australia) – in Australia crew change is possible in some States, but not in all States and quarantine periods are issues in some States as are validity of Visas for inbound crew (if they are placed in quarantine their visas are not long enough...they expire after 5 days). We are working with State Governments to allow transit straight to ships and we are working with Federal authorities to extend visa validity. We have good traction with Transport Ministers but the resistance is with Health Ministers.

Evelyn (Ins) – crew changes have only been possible in Rotterdam and Copenhagen. Tests being carried out as far as possible to minimise risk of infection by those coming on board.

Rajesh (Singapore) – requested MPA for data on crew changes that have occurred to look at what has worked or not worked to engage further as to what is needed to start crew changes in Singapore.

Michael (Singapore) – MPA position on crew changes has not changed, only if contract is complete or on compassionate grounds. The MPA are maintaining the position not to increase the burden on the state in terms of holding facilities etc. Requesting the MPA to undertake a trial crew change as proof of concept and will revert with the outcome.

Tim (Singapore) – MPA have made it clear that whilst they have allowed a few crew changes they do not want to open up further as COVID cases continue, so unlikely easing will happen during May. MPA do not want to test all crew,

Robert (Canada) – Canada is fully supporting crew changes and has exempted seafarers from 14-day quarantine requirement. Of course, the distance from many countries to Canada makes the air travel more problematic. Overall, the number of crew changes has been low.

2. CHARTERING AND INSURANCE ISSUES

Kiran – voyage charter clause was circulated with BIMCO's comments last week and was not supported by BIMCO due to charterers not likely to agree to cost sharing. Members feedback being received, which are mixed but generally note BIMCO's comments and requesting BIMCO complete their review process. BIMCO may therefore be developing a clause for time charter parties and ICS are currently waiting an update from BIMCO.

Peter (BIMCO) – legal department working on it and may have something next week.

3. TESTING

Guy – a strong case is being built for testing prior to departure of the home country, which when combined with the protocols reducing risk to a potentially acceptable level. ICS will be updating the ICS medical guide, due 20 May, which will include information on testing

Evelyn (Ins) – Eastern Europeans are all being tested prior to embarkation on a flight, normally a 3 day wait in quarantine for the results prior to travel.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Guy – will be holding webinars in conjunction with WHO for government officials related to health, seafarers and crew changes

It was **agreed** that further meeting should held on **Tuesday 19 May** at 1200.

ATTENDANCE

Representatives of following national and international associations:

Australia
Bahamas
Belgium
Canada
Cyprus
Denmark
France
Germany
Greece
Hong Kong
Japan
India
Liberia
Netherlands
Norway
Singapore
South Africa
Sweden
United Kingdom

With

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INTERCARGO
INTERTANKO
IG P&I
IMEC
WSC