

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
NOTE OF CREW CHANGE TASK FORCE MEETING
TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2020 AT 1200 UK TIME

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMPETITION RULES

Welcome and Introduction.

1. CREW CHANGES

Simon – progress on crew changes is very slow and fatigue is setting in, so new ways of revitalising the issue need to be found.

ICS continues to liaise with ITF and IMEC.

Emerging issues surrounding testing in the Philippines and seafarers not properly self-isolating.

ITF are still considering action from 16 September, but no details are available yet.

ICS is investigating a process at ILO that it may be possible to raise formal complaints against countries that have not met their responsibilities under the MLC. Would not be a legal challenge, more of a name and shame process. ICS are currently considering the pros and cons of taking such action.

Egypt has now imposed health restrictions, including a 72 hour valid PCS negative test requirement.

Progress is being made with a PCR test with a 5 hour turnaround for both north and south bound vessels in the Suez Canal.

The IMO Council has met for their ES meeting and have made recommendations to industry to submit the crew change protocols to MSC 102. ICS are reviewing the protocols with respect to testing and national quarantine requirements. When ready will share with other international associations prior submitting to MSC.

The IMO Council has also requested industry submit proposals to FAL 44 for amendments to the FAL Convention related to managing a pandemic and a follow up to MSC on extension of ship and crew certificates, however this may have been for IACS. Again, ICS will share with other industry associations in due course.

It has gone quiet with Norway for a follow up summit.

China has no possibility for crew changes.

Francesco (IMEC) – united in trying to restart crew changes. Challenges in the Philippines with testing certificates having been tampered with. A number of aspects being considered.

International commercial travel will be a problem for some time to come so looking at posting charter flights by members on the IMEC website for others to access.

PIA are looking to allocate costs to owners even after seafarers have been repatriated.

A number of Ukrainians have been utilised to replace Filipino seafarers.

Gautam (Hong Kong) – continuing to engage with the government but no progress so far.

Damian (WSC) – will follow up regarding the current situation in Singapore and advise.

Sophoclis (Cyprus) – InterManager has issued an open letter to the IMO SG regarding crew changes in Singapore.
ICS Circular COVID-19(20)130 sent yesterday regarding the port of Famagusta needs to be amended.

Phillip (Intertanko) – members have been able to change crews in Singapore that were not Singapore flag and some Singapore flag vessels have been refused. Quality of the agents in Singapore makes a difference as some have not been following up with the MPA as they should. 16 months on board is now fairly routine. No crew changes in the southern hemisphere and the Caribbean and Asia remains a problem.

Claudia (ECSA) – Malta is now a problem due to a spike in cases. Procedures are tightening or crew changes not being allowed in a number of countries in Europe due to a second wave of cases.
Seeing an improvement regarding visa on arrival, however still pushing for visa waivers and higher level engagement by member States.

Stuart – crew changes have been discussed at the UN with a number of actions being considered to apply pressure on member States. Guidance of procedures where COVID cases are on board is currently with the publishers. ILO are looking at a campaign to communicate with seafarers.
ICS is not planning to issue anything regarding the oil spill in Mauritius, but it has been reported that some of the crew have been on board for more than 16 months.

Jonas (Denmark) – crew changes in Singapore are possible but cost of tickets is very expensive.

Teresa (Australia) – Second ship in Queensland with COVID cases on board after a crew change in the Philippines. Queensland has been quite helpful but likely to lose patience unless the Philippines situation is addressed.

2. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 August, an invite will be sent out as usual.

ATTENDANCE

Representatives of following national and international associations:

Australia
Bahamas
Belgium
Cyprus
Germany
Hong Kong
Japan
Netherlands
Norway
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

With

ICS
CLIA
ECSA
BIMCO
INTERCARGO
INTERTANKO
IG P&I
IMEC
WSC
WaterFront