



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

3 March 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020-12

Series of 2020

TO : All Flag State Authorities, Port State Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/Shipmasters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, and Other Concerned Entities

SUBJECT : INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 4204/ADD.1 ON COVID-19 - IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF RELEVANT IMO INSTRUMENTS

In response to the numerous reports received by the IMO Secretary-General on the impacts on the shipping industry of the rapid outbreak of the COVID-19 (corona virus), the IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1 (herein attached) was issued on 19 February 2020. In this Circular, the IMO Secretary-General requires all concerned to cooperate to the current situation of the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure that there are no unnecessary restrictions or delay to ships, persons and property onboard to any ports of entry.

The underlying principle as stated by the IMO Secretary-General is embodied in Articles 1 and V and Section 6 of the Annex of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention).

Further, the IMO Circular 4204/Add.1 cited several IMO instruments that may contain relevant provisions on the impact on shipping brought about by the said deadly disease, which includes, but are not limited to the following:

1. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; as amended;
2. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973; as amended;
3. International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;
4. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978; and
5. Resolution A.1119(30), Procedures for Port State Control, 2017.

Based on the said Circular, COVID-19 is a severe public health challenge that requires all IMO Member States to have an understanding and full cooperation to overcome challenges that may arise in relation to the implementation and enforcement of the relevant IMO instruments.

In addition, the IMO Secretariat has received the following communication from the International Labour Organization (ILO):

"In the context of the evolving coronavirus outbreak, the effective protection of the health and safety of seafarers should be a priority. Under the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, flag States must ensure that all seafarers on ships flying their flag are covered by adequate measures for the protection of their health and that they have access to prompt and adequate medical care whilst working on board. The Convention also requires port States to ensure that seafarers on board ships in their territory who are in need of immediate medical care are given access to medical facilities on shore."

In compliance, the MARINA has issued the following Flag Advisories for the protection of the seafarers and facilitation of trade in light of this public health challenge:

MARINA Advisory No. (Date Issued)	Title	Salient Features	Contact Points
2020-04 23 January 2020	Adoption of Necessary Measures to Prevent, Monitor and Report the Spread of Novel Corona Virus (NCOV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion in the Safety Management System of the company and ships the necessary measures that address the highest precautionary vigilance and cooperation to prevent, monitor and report cases of nCoV 	Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) (02) 852-9126 (+63(995) 4007336
2020-06 03 February 2020	Additional Precautionary Measures to Ensure the Safety of Filipino Seafarers Onboard Ships Engaged in International Voyages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of additional precautionary measures in consistent with the declaration of the World Health Organization (WHO) of a global emergency called the "Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)". The additional measures include active surveillance or monitoring, early detection of possible cases, isolation or quarantine, contact tracing or finding the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Organization 1211 Geneva Tel.+41-22 7912111 Manila: National Tuberculosis Centre Bldg., 2nd Flr., Bldg. 9, Department of Health, San Lazaro Hospital Compound Sta. Cruz, Manila Tel: +632 3387479 +632 3388605 +632 7438301 loc. 1931 +632 731 3914 who@wpro.who.int

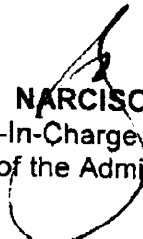
J. J. Mar 2020

		<p>people confirmed with cases have interacted with and prevention of onward spreading of the NCoV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No travel or trade restriction is imposed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOTr Action Center Hotline (02)8790-8300 (02)8726-4925 • MARINA (02) 852-9126 (+63(995) 4007336 www.oadm@marina.gov.ph www.oss@marina.gov.ph • Department of Health (02)8651-7800 +69(918) 8888364 callcenter@doh.gov.ph • Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) (02)8551-0357 (02)8834-4881 (02)834-4160 • Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office, DFA 8834-4052 moao@dfa.gov.ph
2020-08 February 2020	Guidance Concerning Filipino Seafarers Onboard Vessels Affected by Restrictions in connection with 2019 NCoV Outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seafarers onboard Philippine-flagged ships whose STCW certificate expires or about to expire but cannot disembark as planned due to some restrictions imposed by other Port States, the MARINA may issue the necessary dispensation permit upon application of the concerned manning/crewing agencies and shipping companies pursuant to MARINA Circular No. 2011-02. 	<p>Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) (02) 852-9126 (+63 (995) 4007336 www.oadm@marina.gov.ph</p>
2020-09 05 February 2020	International Maritime Organization (IMO) Circular Letter Nos. 4203 and 4204 on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is further to the objectives of WHO to increase awareness and to prevent the spread of the nCoV, all concerned are directed to observe precautionary measures enshrined under IMO Circular. • Any information related to the 2019-nCoV are required to report to the concerned government agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Coast Guard (02) 8527-8482 to 89 (02) 8527-3880 to 85 www.coastguard.gov.ph • Bureau of Customs (02) 8527-3557 www.boc.ocom@customs.gov.ph • Bureau of Immigration (02) 8465-2400 binoc_immigration@hotmail.ph immigPH@gmail.com • Bureau of Quarantine (02)8527-4678

J 3 Mar 2020


Finally, the IMO gave an assurance that any updates on COVID-19 shall be brought to the attention of the relevant organs of the Organization such as the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the FAL Committee and the Legal Committee.

For the information and compliance of all concerned.


YADM NARCISO A VINGSON JR
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Administrator

Date of Publication: 06 March 2020
Business Mirror
Date of Submission to ONAR:

OSS/3March2020

 3 Mar 2020

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1
19 February 2020

To: All IMO Member States
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **COVID-19 – Implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO Instruments**

The Secretary-General informs that he has received reports regarding the impacts on the shipping industry resulting from the sudden and rapid outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In response to this situation, the Secretary-General has issued guidance through Circular Letter No.4204.

Flag State authorities, port State authorities and control regimes, companies and shipmasters should cooperate, in the current context of the outbreak, to ensure that, where appropriate, passengers can be embarked and disembarked, cargo operations can occur, ships can enter and depart shipyards for repair and survey, stores and supplies can be loaded, certificates can be issued and crews can be exchanged.

The principles of avoiding unnecessary restrictions or delay on port entry to ships, persons and property on board are also embodied in articles I and V and section 6 of the annex of the FAL Convention.

Several IMO instruments contain provisions that may be relevant to the impact on shipping caused by the outbreak of COVID-19. These include, but are not limited to:

- the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974;
- the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973;
- the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;
- the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978; and
- resolution A.1119(30), *Procedures for port State control*, 2017.

In addition, the Secretariat has received the following communication from the International Labour Organization (ILO):

"In the context of the evolving coronavirus outbreak, the effective protection of the health and safety of seafarers should be a priority. Under the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, flag States must ensure that all seafarers on ships flying their flag are covered by adequate measures for the protection of their health and that they have access to prompt and adequate medical care whilst working on board. The Convention also requires port States to ensure that seafarers on board ships in their territory who are in need of immediate medical care are given access to medical facilities on shore."

COVID-19 is a severe public health challenge that requires understanding and close cooperation among all Member States to overcome challenges related to the implementation and enforcement of the relevant IMO instruments.

The Organization will continue to closely monitor the situation and the Secretary-General will provide additional information as appropriate and will bring these matters to the attention of the relevant organs of the Organization, in particular the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Facilitation Committee and the Legal Committee.