



Challenges and Actions

Assisting Seafarers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Marine Department, Hong Kong, China
November 2020



Challenges

- Crew Change Restrictions at Maritime Ports
- Expiry of Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA)
- Port State Control Issues
- Expiry of Crew's Certificate of Competency (CoC), Medical Fitness Certificate and Unavailability of Training Courses
- Operational Constraints

Actions - taken by the Hong Kong Marine Department

- The setting up of an Information Portal on matters related to COVID-19 for easy access by seafarers and shipping companies
(<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/news/COVID19.html>)
- Process of applying for SEA extension
- Arrangement for the extension of CoC, relevant Endorsement, and medical fitness certificates
- Departmental Work Arrangements to support HK ships and seafarers

Actions - Cooperation with other Parties

- Assistance for Hong Kong Ships and Seafarers at Ports outside Hong Kong
 - Other Maritime Administrations, Organizations, port Authorities etc.
 - China Embassy/Consulate
- Best Practices for Shipping Companies' consideration
 - Charter flight
 - Vacation leave overseas/on board
 - Repatriation by sea (Full/Partial)

Actions - Crew Change in Hong Kong

Under “Suppress and Lift” Strategy

Month in 2020	Confirmed COVID-19 cases	Implementation date of adjusted crew change measure	Crew change for goods vessels with cargo operation	Crew change for goods vessels without cargo operation	Crew change for cruise ships	Number of sign-on and sign-off crew involved in crew change
Feb	81	8-Feb-2020	√	√	√	25,032 (8-Feb-2020 to 28-Jul-2020)
Mar	586					
Apr	357	9-Apr-2020	√	X	X	
May	47					
Jun	121	8-Jun-2020	√	√	X	
		27-Jun-2020	√	√	√ (quota : 300 per day)	
Jul	2,067 (with peak of 149 cases on 30-Jul-2020)	10-Jul-2020	√	√	√	
Aug	1,538	29-Jul-2020	√	X	X	4,055 (29-Jul-2020 to 17-Oct-2020)
Sep	257					
Oct	150 (up to 17-Oct-2020)					
Total number of sign-on and sign-off crew (from 8-Feb-2020 to 17-Oct-2020)						



Thank You!

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