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Circular Letter No.4231/Add.1  
2 April 2020

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communications from the Government of the Republic of Italy**

The Government of the Republic of Italy has sent the attached communication, dated 23 March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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Rome, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020  
(p.o.c. Rear Admiral (ITCG) Luigi GIARDINO  
e-mail: [segreteria.reparto6@mit.gov.it](mailto:segreteria.reparto6@mit.gov.it))

**Ministry of Infrastructures and  
Transport**

*Italian Coast Guard Headquarters  
Safety of Navigation and  
Maritime Security Department*

HE Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary General of  
International Maritime Organization

**Subject: Measures to Address Covid-19.**

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

Stringent restrictions have been implemented by the Coastal States as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. In its efforts to abide by these restrictions, the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters is facing criticism related in particular to a sharp slowdown of ships going into dry-dock and, in some cases, the banning of ships' access.

Consequently, ships are no longer in the position to start the dry-dock survey by the time required by SOLAS Regulation I/10(a)(v), although it has been demonstrated that the dry-dock was scheduled well in advance.

In adapting to these changes and in order to ensure the ships' safety, the Italian Coast Guard has introduced measures to verify – within the time period established by the current rules - the condition of the bottom of the ships flying the Italian flag.

In particular, in cases of justified impossibility for the ship enter dry-dock, it has been decided that the in dry - dock bottom ship's inspection can be postponed subject to the satisfactory result of an in-water bottom survey. In light of the ongoing emergency situation, this is the approach we will continue to take until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

We would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information regarding the postponement of the required bottom dry-dock inspection circulated to all Member States of the IMO.

Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian Coast Guard avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The General Commander  
Vice Admiral (ITCG) Giovanni PETTORINO**