

ACTIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CRUISE PORTS MEETING

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THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

- UN specialized agency
- Global standard setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping
- Technical assistance programmes that focus on human resources development and institutional capacity-building

MAIN CONCERNS IN SHIPPING DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

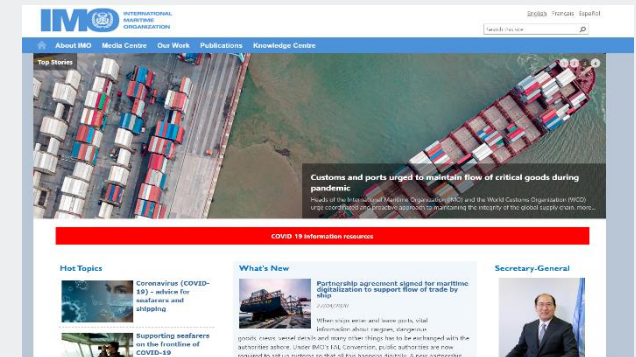
- **Crew change and repatriation of seafarers**
 - Designation of seafarers as key workers
 - Ease travel restrictions for seafarers (incl. passports and visas)
- **Protection of seafarers' safety and health**
 - Access to medical care and medical prescriptions
 - Mental health and wellbeing of seafarers
- **Facilitation of maritime trade**
 - Implementation and enforcement of IMO instruments: pragmatic, flexible and when possible harmonized approach for flag States, port State authorities and control regimes
 - Calls for stronger cooperation and collaboration between all stakeholders

OVERVIEW OF MEASURES TAKEN BY IMO TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Central repository of all information (www.imo.org)
- Technical advice to Member States and Industry (IMO CL 4204 series)
- Assistance to/support for seafarers- 'Seafarer Crisis Action Team' (SCAT)
- Regional meetings to share best practices regarding COVID-19, coordinated by SCAT and Technical Cooperation Division, expected to start in autumn 2020
- Close collaboration with shipping industry (IMO IGO's and NGO's)
- Close collaboration with other UN agencies (ILO, ICAO, WHO, UNCTAD,...)

CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF ALL INFO

- **IMO website**
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronaviruss.aspx>
- **Technical advice issued by CL (4204 and addenda),**
- **COVID-19 related notifications received from Member States**
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/COVID-19-Member-States-Communications.aspx>
- **Links to various information sources (Industry, UN agencies,..)**
- **WHO advice**
- **Press briefings**



COVID-19 - Member States and Associate Members Communications

IMO has received, and circulated, communications from Member states and Associate Members.

Table overview: List of Circular Letters with COVID-19 related notifications received from Member States and Associate Members (updated weekly)
 - [Download PDF](#)

Table of Circular Letters

Country/Territory	Circular letter	Subject
Argentina	CL.4287 (1 May 2020)	National measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic
	CL.4287/Add.1 (19 May 2020)	National measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic
	CL.4287/Add.2 (13 July 2020)	National measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic
Azerbaijan	CL.4223 (18 March 2020)	Contingency plans for ships and Seafarers
	CL.4223/Add.1 (17 June 2020)	Amendments to the adopted procedures for the mitigation of disruption to the delivery of essential services in the event of COVID-19 pandemic
Bahamas	CL.4225 (20 March 2020)	Guidance and recommendations – seafarers, certificates, ship surveys, audits, inspections, seaman record book and employment
Bahrain	CL.4285 (30 April 2020)	Extension of seafarers' certificates validity and extension of the surveys, audits and inspection windows
Bangladesh	CL.4239 (27 March 2020)	Information on certificates, MSMD, employment, surveys, audits and Port State Control Measures
Barbados	CL.4250 (6 April 2020)	Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers & General Guidance to Operators & Owners of Barbados registered ships
Belgium	CL.4255 (7 April 2020)	COVID-19 measures taken by Belgium
	CL.4255/Add.1 (8 July 2020)	Seafarers are key workers

GLOBAL DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE TO MEMBERS STATES, SEAFARERS, SHIPPING AND PORTS

- WHO guidance
- Industry guidance
- Dissemination of best practices (e.g. Singapore Crew Change Guidebook)
- Joint Statements and Calls for action (UN agencies, industry...)

Advice for IMO Member States, seafarers and shipping

IMO has issued the following circular letters:

- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.28](#) (26 August 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – WHO guidance to promote public health measures on cargo ships and fishing vessels
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.27](#) (26 August 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Protocols to mitigate the risks of cases on board ships
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.26](#) (3 August 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance on the gradual and safe resumption of operations of cruise ships in the European Union in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.25](#) (24 July 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Outcome of surveys by ICS and ITF on health protection measures on board ships in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.24](#) (13 July 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Outcome of the International Maritime Virtual Summit on Crew Changes organized by the United Kingdom
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.23](#) (1 July 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommendations for port and coastal States on the prompt disembarkation of seafarers for medical care ashore during the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.22/Rev.1](#) (25 June 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Singapore Crew Change Guidebook
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.21](#) (8 June 2020) - Joint statement IMO-UNCTAD – Call for collaborative action in support of keeping ships moving, ports open and cross-border trade flowing during the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.20](#) (5 June 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Accelerating digitalization of maritime trade and logistics – A call to action
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19/Rev.2](#) (22 July 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.18](#) (26 May 2020) - Joint Statement IMO-ICAO-ILO on designation of seafarers, marine personnel, fishing vessel personnel, offshore energy sector personnel, aviation personnel, air cargo supply chain personnel and service provider personnel at airports and ports as key workers, and on facilitation of crew changes in ports and airports in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.17](#) (21 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Preparing for post COVID-19 operations: considerations and practicalities for port community systems, single window and other electronic exchange platforms
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.16](#) (6 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – COVID-19 related guidelines for ensuring a safe shipboard interface between ship and shore-based personnel
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.15](#) (6 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) - Personal protective equipment
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14](#) (5 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

NEXT STEPS

- Council (C/ES.32) agreed on prioritization and reconstruction of the IMO meetings schedule

- **Extraordinary Session of All Committees (ALCOM) - 16-18 September. Remote meeting**
- **Facilitation Committee (FAL 44) - 28 September - 2 October. Remote meeting**
- **Council (C 124) - 12-14 October. Remote meeting.**
- **Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 102) - 4-11 November. Remote meeting**
- **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 75) - 16-20 November. Remote meeting**
- **Legal Committee (LEG 107) - 27 November - 1 December. Remote meeting**
- **Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 70) - 7-11 December. Remote meeting**
- **Consultative Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972) and Meetings of Contracting Parties to the Protocol 1996 (LC 42/LP 15) - 14-15 December. Remote meeting**

- Council invited Japan to present its proposals in document C/ES.32/4/10 concerning measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships to MSC and the FAL Committee, for further consideration and action as deemed appropriate
- Possibility to submit documents to FAL 44 under agenda item ‘Any other business’ (deadline Friday 11 September)

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