



CHINA

15 MAY 2020

Coronavirus, COVID-19

The following information was received from our correspondent Shanghai P&I 3 April:

QUOTE

Attached herein please kindly find our latest circular regarding the updated situation of crew changes in China for your easy reference, contents of which you will find self-explanatory.

UNQUOTE

Correspondents' contact details

Shanghai P&I Services Ltd.

Tel: +86 21 3539 2900 | Mb: +86 139 1610 7273

Email: caodong@shpni.com.cn, pandi@shpni.com.cn

Web: www.shpni.com.cn

The following information was received from our correspondent Huatai 15 May:

QUOTE

Kindly please find the attached Huatai Circular PNI[2020]07-- Latest update on disembarkation of injured/ill crew

UNQUOTE

Correspondents' contact details

Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service Ltd.

Add: 14F China Re Building, No 11 Jin Rong Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing 100033, China

Tel: 86 10 6657 6588, Fax: 86 10 6657 6501

Website: <http://www.huataimarine.com>

This Correspondent's advice is published by The Swedish Club as a service to members. While the information is believed correct, the Club cannot assume responsibility for completeness or accuracy.



Circular No.: SPI200401

Date: 3 April 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update – the situation of crew changes in China

Dear Sirs / Madams,

The issue of crew change that has arisen due to the coronavirus should be of particular concern to the international community. Every day, seafarers across the world are providing a front-line service to the global economy. Limitations on crew change have the potential to cause serious disruption to the flow of trade.

With growing concerns over the difficulties faced by shipowners in making crew changes given restrictions to limit the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been monitoring the situation in China as to the prospect of crew changes in Chinese ports, and would like to advise the following for your reference:

- **Chinese authorities are facilitating the crew changes for Chinese crewmembers in Chinese ports**

According to statistics, by the end of May 2020, about 10,000 Chinese seafarers will have their employment agreements or labor contracts expired, and need to disembark the ship. How to make proper arrangement to ensure the epidemic prevention and control measures during the crew change / entry into country is particularly important.

- **Shanghai authorities issued Notice on 20 March 2020 to facilitate the crew change at Shanghai port**

On 20 March 2020, Shanghai COVID-19 Epidemic Prevention and Control Office issued the Notice for "Health management requirements for crew members of ships returning to Shanghai from High-Risk countries", which clarified the requirements for changing crew members at Shanghai port.

Requirements for crew change and isolation:



SHANGHAI P&I SERVICES LTD. 力保海事服务（上海）有限公司

- The shipping companies and their agents shall report the plan of crew change to the customs, immigration office and maritime administrative department of the berth / terminal in advance;
- There is no need for quarantine / isolation if the period from the overseas high-risk country to the destination port is over 14 days;
- If the period from the overseas high-risk country to the port of destination is less than 14 days, the quarantine / isolation is required until the expiration of 14 days (counting from the time of ship departure from the last port recorded in the ship's deck log);
- The shipping company shall directly send the crew member who need to be quarantined to the designated isolation place;
- Crew member shall not leave the isolation place without approval during the period of isolation;
- If the crew member has a fixed residence in Shanghai, he / she can be isolated at home;
- If the crew member does not have fixed residence in Shanghai, the shipping company and its agent shall arrange place for centralized isolation. Single room accommodation and centralized closed management shall take place during isolation;
- The crewmember in isolation shall be subject to the supervision of the local health department and community, and their body temperature shall be measured twice a day. In case of any abnormal conditions such as fever, the shipping company and its agent shall immediately report to the local health department and arrange to transfer the crewmember to the designated medical facilities for treatment.

Circumstances where crew change is not allowed:

In the event where there is suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case of crewmember on board the ship, the local health authorities shall arrange to transfer the involved crewmember (with abnormal condition such as fever) to medical facilities of the port, and conduct test and quarantine for all other crew members of the ship. The shipping companies should follow the requirements of local customs, MSA and immigration authority to make sure that prevention measures are carried out for the ship and crew members. Before the risk of COVID-19 infection is eliminated, all crew members must be isolated on the ship, crew changes shall be strictly forbidden, and the existing crew members are not allowed to disembark at Shanghai.



SHANGHAI P&I SERVICES LTD. 力保海事服务（上海）有限公司

➤ **Ministry of Transport of PRC issued Notice on 1 April 2020 to strengthen the management of crew changes for Chinese crewmembers at Chinese ports**

The notice makes it clear that the shipping company or the seamen dispatching agency shall make a plan in advance for the crewmember that will be signed off from the vessel. The crew themselves shall fill in the “Onboard Isolation Health Record Registration Form of Crew”, and relevant documents shall be submitted to the responsible department of the local government of the place where the crew change is to take place.

In case it has been over 14 days since the ship’s departure from last berthing terminal outside China when she arrives at the Chinese port, and also the “Onboard Isolation Health Record Registration Form of Crew” shows that the health condition of the crewmember is normal, then the crew member can go through the entry procedures and disembark / sign off from ship after passing the customs health quarantine

If the duration is less than 14 days, and the “Onboard Isolation Health Record Registration Form of Crew” shows that the health condition of the crewmember is normal, the crew member can go through the entry procedures and disembark / sign off from ship after passing the customs health quarantine, but the crewmember should be isolated for observation at home or designated site at the place of entry according to the requirements of the local government, so as to make up for the 14 days.

If the “Onboard Isolation Health Record Registration Form of Crew” shows that the crewmember’s health condition is abnormal, or there is abnormal health condition observed during signing off / disembarkation, or the crewmember fails to pass the customs health quarantine, then the crew change should be immediately suspended, and the case shall be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the epidemic prevention and control.

● **The crew changes for non-Chinese crewmembers at Chinese ports becomes almost impossible at current stage**

As the pandemic overseas increases, China is facing stronger pressure to prevent imported cases of COVID-19. Thus the country has tightened the management of passengers entering the Chinese border, which makes the crew changes for non-Chinese crewmembers almost impossible. We hereunder listed some latest updates on the regulation implemented by Chinese authorities:

➤ **Temporary Suspension of Entry into China by Foreign Nationals as per formal announcement issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC on 26 March 2020**

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, China has decided to temporarily



SHANGHAI P&I SERVICES LTD.

力保海事服务（上海）有限公司

suspend the entry into China by foreign nationals holding visas or residence permits still valid to the time of this announcement, effective from 0 a.m., 28 March 2020.

Entry by foreign nationals with APEC Business Travel Cards will be suspended as well. Policies including port visas, 24/72/144-hour visa-free transit policy, Hainan 30-day visa-free policy, 15-day visa-free policy specified for foreign cruise-group-tour through Shanghai Port, Guangdong 144-hour visa-free policy specified for foreign tour groups from Hong Kong or Macao SAR, and Guangxi 15-day visa-free policy specified for foreign tour groups of ASEAN countries will also be temporarily suspended. Entry with diplomatic, service, courtesy or C visas will not be affected. Foreign nationals coming to China for necessary economic, trade, scientific or technological activities or out of emergency humanitarian needs may apply for visas at Chinese embassies or consulates. Entry by foreign nationals with visas issued after this announcement will not be affected.

The suspension is a temporary measure that China is compelled to take in light of the outbreak situation and the practices of other countries. China will stay in close touch with all sides and properly handle personnel exchanges with the rest of the world under the special circumstances. The above-mentioned measures will be calibrated in light of the evolving situation and announced accordingly.

➤ **Notice on Further Reducing International Passenger Flights during the Epidemic Prevention and Control Period**

In order to resolutely contain the increasing risks of imported COVID-19 cases, and in accordance with the requirements of the State Council for joint prevention and control of the epidemic, Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has issued a Notice on 26 March 2020, in order to further reduce the number of international passenger flights in China.

According to this Notice, with effect from 29 March 2020, each Chinese airline is only allowed to maintain one route to any specific country with no more than one flight per week; each foreign airline is only allowed to maintain one route to China with no more than one weekly flight. Meanwhile, Airlines shall take stringent prevention and control measures on the flights to/from China and ensure passenger load factor no higher than 75%. In accordance with the need for epidemic containment, CAAC may issue policy to further reduce the total number of international passenger flights. Airlines therefore are required to closely follow information released, analyze the situation and make contingency plans in advance, and handle in a proper way the issues such as extension and refund of sold air tickets, etc.

According to latest calculations of CAAC, there were only 108 scheduled flights from 29 March



SHANGHAI P&I SERVICES LTD.

力保海事服务（上海）有限公司

to 4 April, representing an additional 85.3% reduction from last week's 734 flights, which represented 1.2% of the country's total international passenger flights prior to the outbreak. According to this calculation, the number of people entering through the airports is expected to drop from previous 25,000 to below 5,000 per day from 29 March 2020.

➤ **The crew changes for non-Chinese crewmembers are basically prohibited at Chinese ports at this stage**

The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council held a press conference on 30 March 2020 to introduce the latest situation of preventing and controlling the import of overseas epidemic in accordance with the law.

According to Mr. Li Yang, Director of the International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Transport, at present, about 500 international-navigation cargo ships enter Chinese ports every day, with a crew number of about 7,000. The authorities are ready to take below measures in order to effectively prevent and control imported COVID-19 cases.

As most of the above-mentioned crewmembers are engaged in international transportation work outside China, they are not allowed to go ashore without the approval of relevant authorities, and all foreign ships are requested NOT to change foreign crewmembers in China to reduce the risk of imported cases of COVID-19.

Port authorities are also required to do a good job in the prevention and control of imported epidemic diseases. On the one hand, try to reduce the operation involving boarding ships. Where there is indeed a need to board the ship, protection measure should be in place trying to avoid the spread of the epidemic. In addition, in terms of port services, it should be ensured that ship inspection, material provision, loading and unloading operation are carried out normally to keep the smooth flow of international cargo transportation.

We hope the above will be of some assistance. If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact with us.

Yours faithfully,

Shanghai P&I Services Ltd.

Rm301, China P&I Centre, Building 7, No.18 Gongping Road,
Hongkou District, Shanghai 200082, China
24 hour Duty phone: +86 139 1610 7273

Email: pandi@shpni.com.cn | Web: www.shpni.com.cn

Shanghai | Guangzhou | Xiamen | Qingdao | Tianjin | Dalian | P&I Correspondents in China



**HUATAI
MARINE**

CIRCULAR

www.huataimarine.com
pni.bj@huatai-serv.com
Duty Phone: +86 13701125026

Circular Ref No.: PNI [2020] 07

Date: 14 May 2020

Latest update on disembarkation of injured/ill crew

Dear Sirs or Madam,

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, the Chinese government has implemented a strict entry policy. With effective from March 28th, 2020, foreign nationals holding valid visas or residence permits were temporarily suspended the entry into China. When it comes to marine industry, according to the “Guidance on the prevention and control of COVID-19 on board (V2.0)” (please kindly refer to Huatai Circular PNI[2020]05), sending crew ashore is strictly restricted. It is doubtless that these policies are helpful to contain COVID-19 case importation. On the other side, the policies bring obstacles in situations involving the disembarkation of injured/ill crew from ships.

We have recently received inquiries from Clubs/Shipowners regarding disembarkation of a crew who need urgent medical assistance in China. Upon checking with China MSA, a multi-sectoral joint guideline has been published on April 12th, 2020 by the Ministry of transport, Ministry of foreign affairs, State Health Commission, General Administration of Customs and State Administration of Immigration to solve the difficulty in injured/ill crew disembarkation. The Guideline gives guidance on emergency rescue and treatment of

injured/ill crew during the epidemic prevention & control period. In terms of treatment of injured/ill crew in Chinese ports, the Guideline requires that:

Treatment of injured/ill crew in Chinese ports

1) When a ship requests for rescue in a Chinese port, rescue measures shall be implemented for injured/ill crew regardless of whether they belong to the “four categories of personnel” or not. If necessary, the crew shall be transferred to the relevant medical institutions where the port is located for medical treatment to ensure that the crew is rescued in time. After receiving the ship’s rescue request, the Maritime Search and Rescue Center under its jurisdiction shall timely collect the information of the crew to be rescued and the health status of all the crew on board. Relevant Maritime Administration shall report to the Customs, Border Inspection and local people’s government (including health department) according to the procedures and cooperate with relevant departments to confirm the epidemic situation on board. When COVID-19 infection case is confirmed on board, proper treatment methods for “four categories of personnel” shall be implemented.

Four categories of personnel refer to:

AA. the COVID-19 confirmed patients

BB. suspected COVID-19 infected patients

CC. patients who can not be excluded from COVID-19 infection

DD. close contacts of COVID-19 confirmed patients

2) The Maritime Search and Rescue Center shall coordinate the rescue operations in

accordance with the relevant emergency response procedures, cooperate with the relevant departments in accordance with the relevant provisions of the local people's Government and rescue the injured crew in a timely and safe manner.

3) When necessary, the Maritime Administration shall focus on maintaining the traffic order at sea in the process of crew transfer and rescue and cooperate with the relevant departments to carry out rescue work.

4) The relevant local departments shall inform foreign crew's embassy and consulate in China according to the rescue conditions.

Our branch offices have recently successfully handled some cases relating to disembarkation/repatriation of injured/ill crew. For example, our Dalian office successfully arranged repatriation of an Ethiopian 1/E who suffered suppurative synovial arthritis. Our Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai, Ningbo colleagues also handled crew injury cases and arranged proper treatment for the crew ashore. According to our experiences, we have to go through complex procedures of getting permission from various local authorities, such as Border-Port Quarantine Department, Marine Safety Administration, Exit and Entry Administration Department, Immigration Inspection Station, which as far as we understand, not a single one can be omitted.

In response to the Guideline, the local authorities of Chinese ports are optimizing the crew rescue procedures. We are optimistic and trust that the obstacles in disembarkation of an injured/ill crew in Chinese ports shall be overcome step by step.

In addition, the joint guideline raises requirements in situations involving Chinese injured/ill crew on Chinese flag ships abroad and Chinese injured/ill crew on foreign flag ships abroad. We also summarize the relative contents for Clubs/Shipowners' kind consideration.

Treatment of Chinese injured/ill crew on Chinese flag ships abroad

1) The Chinese flag ship shall report to the shipping company in the first time, and the shipping company shall report to the Chinese Maritime Administration timely after receiving the report. At the same time, the ship may apply for remote medical assistance in accordance with the procedures and relevant international guidelines.

2) If the crew requires emergency rescue ashore, the ship can seek assistance from local Chinese embassy/consulate to coordinate with local government and medical department to fulfill the international obligations stipulated in the Maritime Labor Convention 2006, International Health Regulations, etc. to rescue the injured/ill crew according to the ship's requirements, the crew's situation and local medical conditions. As the obligator, the shipping company shall provide necessary resource support.

3) Chinese Maritime Administration shall urge the shipping company to provide necessary support for injured crew's emergency rescue in accordance with the emergency response procedures.

4) If a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection case is found on the ship, and the coastal state or port state refuses to provide emergency assistance, the Ministry of Transport shall inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a timely manner and urge the foreign side to render emergency assistance through diplomatic channels. The crew can also seek assistance from local port authorities in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Maritime Labor Convention 2006.

Treatment of Chinese injured/ill crew on foreign flag ships abroad

1) After receiving the report, according to the principle of "dispatching party shall be

responsible”, the crew’s manning agent shall firstly report to the relevant embassy and consulate for assistance. A timely report of the relevant situation to the Chinese Maritime Administration is also necessary.

2) Chinese Maritime Administration shall urge the crew’s manning agent to provide all necessary resource support to the injured/ill crew in accordance with the emergency response procedures, and report the relevant situation to the Ministry of Transport in a timely manner.

3) If necessary, the Ministry of Transport may contact the competent authority of the flag state for coordination.

As a result of our continuous efforts in dealing with such cases, our Huatai Marine Team has established close cooperation relationship with local authorities and a smooth channel in disembarkation of a crew who need urgent medical assistance ashore. If any similar occasion occurs when your vessel calls at a Chinese port, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,



Yu Limin

President