



25-7-2020

For immediate release

Shipowners support tightening measures for crew changes in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) supports the government and health experts that crew change arrangements be tightened to safeguard the local community, whilst facilitating essential crew changes to support the many seafarers who have been working hard at sea for many months to ensure that the world supply chain for all vital goods, such as fuel, food and medical supplies, continue to function at this difficult time for the global community, including Hong Kong.

At present, shipping companies have already been asked to postpone or re-schedule their crew change operations in Hong Kong for at least three weeks unless the operations are absolutely necessary. For essential crew change operations, there are already precautionary measures in place, including requirements for seafarers to take a COVID-19 test within 48 hours before coming to Hong Kong and to take another COVID-19 test upon their arrival at the airport, and requiring shipping companies and agents to provide isolated, point-to-point transportation from arrival to departure.

Mr Bjorn Hojgaard, Chairman of the HKSOA, said: “In view of the very fast-changing situation in Hong Kong, we advised the government to implement some more tightening measures for crew changes, including replacing the policy at airport from “test-and-go” with “test-negative-and-go”; allowing only Hong Kong Flag-ships and ships of Hong Kong-registered companies to perform crew changes in the next couple of weeks; and imposing penalties on any parties found to be in breach of the law.”

“We hope that the government will take our advice. The coronavirus pandemic impacts us all. Nobody can tell how this will play out eventually, but one thing is certain - we need many “Key Workers”, including seafarers, to help us win this battle.”

For enquiries, please contact Miss Peggy Kan (HKSOA) at 2520 0206 or hksoa@hksoa.org.

Note

The press statement issued on 23 July 2020 is attached for reference.



25-7-2020

即時發放

船東支持香港收緊船員換班措施

香港船東會 (HKSOA) 支持政府和衛生專家的建議，收緊船員換班安排，在保障本地社區安全的前提下，容許輪換持續工作多月的海員，以確保重要物資的供應鏈，如燃料、食品和醫療用品，能繼續為全球社會包括香港，在目前的艱難時刻繼續正常運作。

目前，船東會已要求航運公司暫緩非必要輪換在香港的船員至少三周。至於有迫切需要的船員輪換工作，政府已經做好了預防措施，包括要求海員在抵港前 48 小時內做好病毒測試，並在抵達香港機場後再進行一次測試。船務代理公司及航運公司亦須提供從出發地到目的地的點對點隔離運輸。

香港船東會主席 Bjorn Hojgaard 先生說：「鑒於香港疫情的變化，早前我們已建議政府收緊對船員輪班採取措施，包括以「測試陰性放行」取代「測試放行」；未來幾周僅允許香港船隻和香港註冊公司安排船員輪換等，並對違例者採取處罰措施。我們希望政府能採納我們的建議。新冠病毒肺炎疫情影響所有人。沒有人知道最終疫情會怎麼發展，但有一點是肯定的，我們需要許多「關鍵員工」，包括海員，才能夠贏得這場戰役。」

如有詢問，請聯絡香港船東會 Peggy Kan，電話 25200206 或電郵 hksoa@hksoa.org。