

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 18-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: COVID-19: EMERGENCY RESCUE OF INJURED AND SICK CREW MEMBERS AT CHINESE PORTS

Date: 16 April 2020

Guidance on the emergency rescue of injured and sick crew members at Chinese ports was issued jointly on 12 April 2020 by the following Chinese government bodies: Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the National Immigration Administration.

The [guidance is in Chinese only](#), but the key points are as follows.

1. Chinese seafarers on board Chinese flag ships who need shore assistance or medical treatment when they are at overseas ports may seek the assistance from the local Chinese embassies and consulates which will coordinate with local government for medical help.
2. Chinese seafarers on board non-Chinese flag ships at overseas ports may consult the local Chinese embassies or consulates for help through the manning agencies and the Ministry of Transport will coordinate the concerned flag States whenever it is necessary.
3. Chinese government will urge the foreign governments to implement emergency assistance and medical treatment through diplomatic channels in case sick crew members are refused by the local authorities for medical assistance and treatment.
4. All Chinese and foreign crew members suffering from injuries and sickness in Chinese ports should be treated in a timely manner whether or not they fall into the “Four Categories of Personnels” namely, confirmed patients, suspected patients, patients with fever but not confirmed with COVID-19 and close contacts with confirmed patients.
5. Ships may contact China Maritime Search and Rescue Center (CMSRC) for assistance at Chinese ports which will require the information of the seafarers in need including their health status and CMSRC will report to local Customs, immigrations and government departments for assistance.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

6. All seafarers will have to follow the local epidemic prevention and control procedures when they are seeking medical assistance and treatment.
7. Local governments are required to inform the local embassies and consulates of the respective foreign seafarers who are taking medical treatment in Chinese ports.