

## **PANAMA SAFEGUARDS SEAFARERS' RIGHTS DURING THIS WORLD HEALTH CRISIS**

The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) wants to emphasize that the measures adopted through MMN-003-2020 Coronavirus and Seafarers Employment Agreement and Certificates, on the extension of employment agreements for seafarers were implemented to safeguard their rights and working conditions during this health crisis (COVID-19).

Panama has, responsibly, taken various actions with the purpose of establishing mechanisms, procedures, instructions, administrative measures and communications, which serve as a basis to minimize the risks and impact of the health crisis on seafarers, particularly with regards to the impossibility of replacing crews onboard ships, as well as in the maritime industry, within the protocols established by international organizations, including the declarations and guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the worldwide health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The seafarers' welfare is and will continue to be a priority for the Panama Maritime Authority. The AMP has widely demonstrated its compliance with the modalities for repatriation, disembarkation and embarkation of crew members, which includes seven (7) different modalities through which, since the end of March 2020 to date, it has been possible for approximately 4,341 people (between passengers and crews) of various nationalities, including Panamanians onboard passenger, cargo, fishing and yacht ships, to return to their homes safely. In addition, some 20 humanitarian flights have been coordinated with other Government institutions (more details see note at the end of the press release).

The Panama Maritime Administration, like most ship registries worldwide, has expressed its concerns related to the special cases where crew members may have to continue their service more than 12 months due to international traveling restrictions imposed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Panama Maritime Authority may grant extensions of the SEA under exemptional circumstances (force majeure) and under revision on a case by case basis.

It is important to underline that the work carried out by the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) has been recognized and praised by international organizations such as the IMO and various diplomatic missions established in Panama who have publicly praised Panama's efforts to facilitate crew changes while urging all countries to fully comply with their obligations regarding crew changes, repatriation and access to medical care, encouraging the Republic of Panama to share its best practices with other nations since Panama was one of the first countries to provide humanitarian aid in March 2020 in its territory since each State is sovereign in its decision-making with regards to the sanitary measures adopted during this crisis caused by COVID-19.

Given the above and with the intention of the measures established in MMN-003-2020 to prevail, the Panama Maritime Authority's Administration has proceeded to modify the Marine Merchant Notice to strengthen and reinforce its initial purpose, which has always been and will continue to be the protection of seafarers, through the formal extension of employment agreements for seafarers, complying with the requirements established by the Panama Administration, such as the express consent of both parties (seafarers and ship owners) and with the purpose to ensure that the crew is protected under a legal figure in which the conditions of employment are maintained and the labor benefits of seafarers are guaranteed, like payment of their wages, annual paid vacations, overtime pay, medical attention on board and on land, their repatriation, among others, as established by the MLC 2006, which are the vital elements at the moment.

Panama works hard and tirelessly for its 318,000 seafarers onboard more than 8,000 ships that are registered under Panama's Flag, through the execution of actions that have been fully verified nationally and internationally, and which have also been reinforced during this time of crisis as the Declaration of the Republic of Panama in support of the Recommended Framework of Protocols issued by the IMO on safe crew changes due to COVID-19 through Circular No. 4204 / add14 (May 7, 2020), the Declaration in support of the decision of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to designate seafarers as "Key Workers" (May 17, 2020) and the adoption of Merchant Marine Notice No. 003-2020, through which seafarers' measures are adopted to be applied during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be noted that Panama shares the same adversities than other Ship Registries face, such as worldwide airport restrictions and sanitary fences that hinder crew changes.

Likewise, the Panama Maritime Administration invites all companies including those not having vessels in its fleet to consider Panama as a crew change hub. Panama has all the protocols in place providing helps to the seafarers need.

For more details please see <https://amp.gob.pa/crew-change-during-covid-19/>

Finally, Panama invites other countries to consider the actions implemented and join efforts for the benefit of all seafarers.

The Panamanian Maritime Administration will remain vigilant that the seafarers' rights are fulfilled.

Final Note: Our Administration has accomplished,

- Crew Exchange in passenger, cargo, fishing vessels, and yacht, following all protocols on each the cases,
- Seven (7) modalities established for crew exchanged,
- 4,341 crew members & passengers, disembarked,
- 271 embarked crew members from more than 50 nationalities successfully repatriated

Vessel	Amount of Crew Members / Passenger Disembarkation	Date	Disembarkations' Nationalities	Embarkation
MONARCH	88 Crew Members	10/05/2020	Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala	
	51 Crew Members	19/03/2020		
MONARCH	2600 Passengers	19/03/2020	Panama, Colombia, Venezuela	
SOLOMON SAPPHIRE	10 Crew Members	12/05/2020	Solomon Islands	
SOLOMON TOPAZ	11 Crew Members	12/05/2020	Solomon Islands	
MARCO POLO	1 Crew Members	12/05/2020	Belgium	
SILVER EXPLORER	4 Crew Members	20/05/2020	Mexico, UK, United States, Argentina, Germany, Ukraine	
	1 Crew Members	19/05/2020		
	4 Crew Members	26/05/2020		
	1 Crew Members	28/05/2020		
CARNIVAL MIRACLE	1 Crew Members	20/05/2020	United States, Albania, Macedonia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Chile, Estonia, Mexico, Italy, Romania, Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia.	
	4 Crew Members	25/05/2020		
	8 Crew Members	27/05/2020		
	6 Crew Members	30/05/2020		
	1 Crew Members	31/05/2020		
YATCH AVE MARÍA	11 Passengers	19/03/2020	Australia, Irlanda, Germany	
YATCH MARIGOT-OHANA (New Zeland)	4 Passengers	01/04/2020	New Zeland, UK, Germany	
YATE PATEA (New	3 Passengers	01/04/2020	New Zeland	



Zeland)				
Request for Various Yachts (Embassy of Canada)	5 Passengers	24/03/2020	Canada	
Request for Various Yachts (Embassy of Germany)	4 Passengers	23/03/2020	Germany	
Carnival Imagination to Carnival Miracle	31 Crew Members	18/05/2020	India, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Portugal, Italy, the Philippines, Romania, Peru, Ukraine, Indonesia	
Carnival Inspiration to Carnival Miracle	36 Crew Members	18/05/2020	Croatia, Bosnia, India, UK, Mexico, Philippines, Italy, Estonia, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand, Indonesia	
Silver Muse to Silver Explorer	16 Crew Members	19/05/2020	Serbia, Italy, Egypt, Argentina, Macedonia, Poland, Tunisia, Morocco, Ukraine, Brazil	
Zaandam to Rotterdam	798 Passengers	27/03/2020	Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Holland, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, United States	
MS MARINA	2 Passengers	18/03/2020	Panama	
	6 Crew Members	06/06/2020		
N DISCOVERY	1 Crew Members	11/04/2020	Panama	
Rhapsody of the Seas	36 Crew Members	26/05/2020	Panama	3 CM
	7 Crew Members	9/06/2020		
Caribbean Princess	25 Crew Members	28/05/2020	Panama	
Transshipment Carnival Miracle y Carnival Glory	91 Crew Members	11/06/2020	Philippines, India, Indonesia, Myanmar	
USS Laramie	19 Crew Members	10/06/2020	United States	20 CM
Windsurf y Windstar	36 Crew Members	21/06/2020		
PTI Sextans	10 Crew Members	22/06/2020	Philippines, Croacia Bulgaria	10 CM
	5 Crew Members	23/06/2020		10 CM
Grand Princess	3 Crew Members	23/06/2020	European Union	
	24 Crew Members	25/06/2020		
Seaborn Sojourn	5 Crew Members	23/06/2020	European Union	
	12 Crew Members	25/06/2020		
Oosterdam	12 Crew Members	23/06/2020	European Union	
	9 Crew Members	25/06/2020		
Carnival Corporation PLC (Charter Flight)	296 Crew Members	24/06/2020		238 CM (25/06/2020)
Koningsdam	21 Crew Members	25/06/2020		
Star Princess	22 Crew Members	25/06/2020		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,341</b>			<b>271</b>