

**Commonwealth of Dominica**



**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

**Policy Letter:** 02-20 – Designation of Seafarers, Marine/Maritime Workers, and Aviation Personnel as Key Workers Providing an Essential Service by the Commonwealth of Dominica During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**REFERENCES:**

- (a) International Maritime Organization (“IMO”) Resolution MSC.473(ES.2) - Recommended action to facilitate ship crew change, access to medical care and seafarer travel during the COVID 19 pandemic, adopted by the MSC on 21 September 2020;
- (b) United Nations (“UN”) Resolution A/75/L.37 - International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 2 December 2020; and
- (c) International Labour Office (“ILO”) Resolution GB.340/Resolution(Rev.2) - Resolution concerning maritime labour issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, adopted by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office on 8 December 2020.

**APPLICABILITY:** ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MANAGERS, AND MASTERS, SEAFARERS, SURVEYORS/INSPECTORS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

In light of the challenges presented to vessels and seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related crew change crisis, the IMO, UN, and ILO (among other bodies) have each urged the nations of the world to designate seafarers, other marine and maritime workers, and aviation personnel as “key workers” providing an essential service in order to facilitate crew changes and repatriation, through the above-referenced resolutions.

On 30 October 2020, the Commonwealth of Dominica designated all seafarers, marine/maritime workers, and aviation personnel as key workers providing an essential service in order to facilitate timely crew changes and seafarer repatriation, and forwarded this information by above-referenced letter to the IMO. This Circular is provided to relay that designation to all relevant parties.

The Commonwealth of Dominica will work to facilitate crew changes and seafarer repatriation and to ensure the avoidance of undue or inadvertent restrictions on seafarers, marine/maritime, and aviation personnel. The Administration remains ready and able to assist shipowners, managers, and masters with facilitating crew changes and seafarer repatriation in any way it is able. Please contact the Technical Department for assistance if such a situation arises.

Further, the Administration urges all nations to designate seafarers, marine/maritime workers, and aviation personnel as key workers providing an essential service and to aid the Administration with its requests related to carrying out crew changes and seafarer repatriation in their respective jurisdictions.

There are no specific required actions as a result of this informative Circular, save to aid in the safe and efficient process of conducting crew changes and/or seafarer repatriation wherever and whenever possible.

**Any questions can be directed to:**

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