

To whom it may concern

Regarding change of crew on Norwegian vessels during Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on the 30 January 2020 in response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China. Several countries have implemented measures to reduce the exposure and transmission of the virus to their citizens. This also impacts shipping.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has received inquiries from vessel managers with regards to difficulties completing planned crew changes. Further seeking acceptance for crew to continue service on board in cases where certificate of competence, health certificate etc is outdated and/or to exceed MLC service threshold.

The NMA considers this to be a situation outside of the vessel managers control.

Valid until further notice the NMA issues a general acceptance of crew members to continue service on board Norwegian vessel until a suitable arrangement can be made. Vessel manager should seek to resolve the situation as soon as possible and complete crew change at first opportunity.

We further strongly advice vessel managers to seek guidance from local authorities in due time before arrival port on restrictions and other preventive measures currently in effect.

If any problems arise regarding this issue – owners may reach NMA 24/7 on + 47 52 74 50 00 for assistance.

Further references:

WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

IMO: <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Yours faithfully,

Lars Alvestad
Acting director general of shipping

