



Date: March, 09TH 2020

CIRCULAR Ref.: 0036C/TG/03/20

Subject: “COVID-19 – Implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO instruments / IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1, 19 February 2020”:

To: Ship-owners / Operators, Representatives of Togo flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars.

Scope: Following reports regarding the impacts on the shipping industry resulting from the sudden and rapid outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the purpose of this “Merchant Marine Circular” is to inform all interested parties related with the International Ship Registry of Togo on the content of the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1, 19 February 2020.

1. Following reports received regarding the impacts on the shipping industry of the sudden and rapid outbreak of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), IMO has issued a Circular Letter (No.4204/Add.1, 19 February 2020), which is included attached for easy reference, advising Member States and others on implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO Instruments. The letter urges Flag State authorities, port State authorities and control regimes, companies and shipmasters to cooperate, in the current context of the outbreak, to ensure that, where appropriate, passengers can be embarked and disembarked, cargo operations can occur, ships can enter and depart shipyards for repair and survey, stores and supplies can be loaded, certificates can be issued and crews can be exchanged.
2. The principles of avoiding unnecessary restrictions or delay on port entry to ships, persons and property on board are contained in articles I and V and section 6 of the annex to IMO’s Facilitation Convention.
3. In addition the IMO Circular Letter provides a list of several IMO instruments (including the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973; the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004; the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978; and resolution A.1119(30), Procedures for port State control, 2017), containing provisions that may be relevant to the impact on shipping caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
4. Finally, the IMO Secretariat informs on a respective communication received from the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the issue in subject. ✱



5. The Togolese Ship Registry and the Togolese Maritime Authority strongly urge all interested parties involved to take due consideration of the content of the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1, 19 February 2020 and undertake respective action as appropriate.

For the International Ship Registry of Togo


Vera N. Medawar
Ship Registrar

For the Togolese Maritime Authority


MACHONAWÉ BAKAI
Director

Encl.: IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1, 19 February 2020