



**INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY OF GABON
COMMISSIONAIRE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS**

INTERSHIPPING SERVICES LLC.

OFFICE 601, AL SAWAN 1, AL RASHIDIYA 03, AJMAN, U.A.E P.O. BOX 4295

T: + 971 6 74 28 120 F: +971 6 744 1270

EMAIL : admin@intershippingservices.com

WEBSITE : www.intershippingservices.com

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DATE: 26th April 2021

To : Representatives of Gabon flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Ship-owners & Ship-operators, Masters, Recognized Organisation and Flag State Surveyors.

Subject: “COVID-19 & Seafarer’s: Updates and Operational Considerations”.

Scope:

The current Marine Circular aims to inform all interested parties to the International ship registry of Gabon upon recent updates and operational considerations related to COVID-19 and affecting seafarers and crew changes based upon recent IMO regulatory developments.

References:

- a. ISR of Gabon, MARCIR. 19/2020 dated 22nd December 2020.
- b. I.M.O. Circular Letter No.4204/Add.35/Rev.5, 07.04.2021.
- c. I.M.O. Circular Letter MSC.7/Circ.1/Rev.25, 29.03.2021.

Designation of Seafarers as Key Workers

1. IMO has recently issued an updated list of Member States and Associate Members to the Organization that have designated seafarers as key workers via its **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.35/Rev.5 published on 07 Apr 2021.**¹ It informs that IMO received 56 notifications from Member States and two from Associate Members that have designated seafarers as key workers. The Circular Letter strongly encourages IMO Member States that have not yet done so to take action to address this issue and designate seafarers and other

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<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/COVID%20CL%204204%20adds/Circular%20Letter%20No.4204-Add.35%20-%20Coronavirus%20%28Covid-19%20-%20Designation%20Of%20Seafarers%20As%20Key%20Workers.pdf>



marine personnel² as key workers as a matter of urgency. As already indicated in the previous MARCIR. 19/2020 the issued list of Member States that have designated seafarer's as key workers includes also Gabon among the seven (7) Member States in reference to the African continent.

IMO GISIS –Online Module on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers

- IMO has recently set up an **online Module in GISIS of “Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers”** at <https://gisis.imo.org/Public/Default.aspx>, for the dissemination of information provided by IMO Member States regarding ports that facilitate crew changes, including information on the designation of National Focal Points on crew change and repatriation of seafarers. The module of “Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers” is part of the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS), an online database. The concrete IMO Secretariat initiative reiterates the fact that the difficulties surrounding repatriation and crew changes also have a major impact on the shipping industry and have been identified as a priority issue, with IMO and other organizations urging governments to intervene.

National Focal Points on Crew Change

- IMO issued an updated list of **National Focal Points on Crew Change via its circular letter MSC.7/Circ.1/Rev.25**, available on its website on 29 March 2021³, whereby, inter alia, it invited Member States and relevant national authorities to designate National Focal Points on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers, to coordinate action at the national level and to inform the Secretary-General accordingly so that Member States could be advised for the purpose of coordination. The list includes contact details on crew change of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, the Cook Islands, Cyprus, Dominica, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Vanuatu.
- The I.S.R. of Gabon** strongly associates with relevant policies and initiatives within the IMO context and the IMO secretariat responding to travel restrictions imposed by governments around the world, which have created significant hurdles to crew changes and repatriation of seafarers, and have led to a growing humanitarian crisis as well as significant concerns for the safety of seafarers and shipping.

² Other marine personnel may include, inter alia, fishing vessel personnel, marine pilots, marine surveyors, marine superintendents, offshore energy sector personnel, offshore support personnel and port workers.

³ [file:///C:/Users/Dell/Downloads/MS.C.7-Circ.1-Rev.25%20-%20National%20Focal%20Points%20on%20Crew%20Change%20and%20Repatriation%20of%20Seafarers%20\(Secretariat\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Dell/Downloads/MS.C.7-Circ.1-Rev.25%20-%20National%20Focal%20Points%20on%20Crew%20Change%20and%20Repatriation%20of%20Seafarers%20(Secretariat).pdf)