



# JAPAN P&I NEWS

---

To the Members

## **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)—Singapore updated requirements for crew change for cargo ships (No.2)**

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) issued Port Marine Circular No.38 on 22nd September 2020 in relation to crew change procedures for cargo ships in Singapore. This news updates our previous news [No.1081](#) dated 26th June 2020 regarding Port Marine Circular No.27.

The summary of the Circular is as follows:

### (1) Sign-on

- In general, signing-on crew are required to serve 14-day Stay-Home-Notice (SHN) in the crew's originating country/region. The crew should be properly isolated (individual room with dedicated toilet) with strictly no interaction with others (including family members) at his/her place of residence, or serve the SHN in a dedicated facility/hotel.
- Crew from specific low risk countries/regions will either no longer be required to serve the SHN or serve a shorter SHN of 7 days.
- The crew must have a negative result from a COVID-19 test [polymerase chain reaction (PCR) type] taken at a government-approved or ISO 15189-accredited testing facility not more than 72 hours prior to departure for Singapore.
- The crew must be certified fit-to-travel by a doctor at his/her originating country not more than 24 hours prior to departure for Singapore.
- During the entire crew change process, the crew should not be in a group of more than 5 persons.
- The crew should not arrive Singapore to join his/her ship more than 2 days before the ship's departure from Singapore.
- The crew who had a positive COVID-19 PCR test result before will not be approved for crew change or required to take a COVID-19 PCR test again after SHN for a certain period, depending on the date of the positive PCR test result.

### (2) Sign-off

- The crew must not have gone ashore in the last 14 days before disembarking the ship and has remained well throughout that period.
- The crew must be certified fit-to-travel by a doctor in Singapore not more than 24 hours before disembarking the ship.
- MPA will facilitate pre-departure COVID-19 PCR testing for sign-off crew in Singapore. The cost of the tests will be borne by Ship owners/managers/agents, where applicable.

### (3) Stay at holding facilities

- Sign-on and sign-off crew may stay at designated holding facilities for up to 72 hours.

(4) General

- Ship owners/managers/agents must apply for crew change in Singapore by filling up the online form.
- MPA urges ship owners/managers/agents to submit applications at least 14 days before the planned crew change, especially if the application includes sign-on crew.
- MPA continues to expect all owners, agents, ships and individuals to ensure that the COVID-19 preventive measures are followed strictly.

For more information, please see attached MPA Circular No.38.

Yours faithfully,

**The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association**

Attachment: MPA Port Marine Circular No.38 dated 22 September 2020



## MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

### PORT MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 38 OF 2020

22 September 2020

Shipping Community

### **FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO CREW CHANGE FOR CARGO SHIPS IN THE PORT OF SINGAPORE**

1. MPA will continue to consider the following circumstances for crew change applications:

- (a) crew whose employment contract has expired;
- (b) additional crew on board whose sign-off would not affect the safe manning of the ship;
- (c) change of crew due to the sale or purchase of ship;
- (d) personnel who are not part of the ship's crew such as superintendents and service engineers;
- (e) compassionate grounds e.g. death of family member; or
- (f) the crew is no longer medically fit to work onboard the ship.

2. MPA has reviewed and revised the requirements for crew change as follows:

#### **Sign-on**

- (a) In general, all signing-on crew are required to serve 14-day Stay-Home-Notice (SHN) in the crew's originating country/region. The crew should be properly isolated (individual room with dedicated toilet) with strictly no interaction with others (including family members) at his/her place of residence, or serve the SHN in a dedicated facility/hotel.
- (b) Crew from specific low risk countries/regions will either no longer be required to serve the SHN or serve a shorter SHN of 7 days in his/her originating country/region prior to departure for Singapore. Please refer to MOH's website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest list of low risk countries/regions.

- (c) The crew must have a negative result from a COVID-19 test (polymerase chain reaction (PCR) type) taken at a government-approved or ISO 15189-accredited testing facility not more than **72 hours** prior to departure for Singapore.
- (d) The crew must be certified fit-to-travel by a doctor at his/her originating country not more than 24 hours prior to departure for Singapore.
- (e) During the entire crew change process, especially during the journey to join the ship in Singapore, the crew should not be in a group of more than five (5) persons, and must remain in the same group. There must be no interactions between groups.
- (f) The crew should only arrive Singapore to join his/her ship not more than two (2) days before the ship's departure from Singapore.
- (g) Crew who have recovered from COVID-19 must submit documentary proof of his/her past diagnosis of COVID-19 based on the **earliest** positive PCR test result. The guidelines are as follows:
  - i. If the date of the positive PCR test result is **21 days or fewer** before the date of arrival in Singapore, he/she will not be approved for crew change.
  - ii. If the date of the positive PCR test result is **between 22 to 90 days** before the date of arrival in Singapore, the recovered crew need not serve the SHN at his/her originating country/region and take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before departure for Singapore.
  - iii. If the date of the positive PCR test result is **between 91 to 180 days** before the date of arrival in Singapore, he/she must serve a 14-day SHN at his/her originating country/region. The recovered crew need not take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before departure for Singapore, but if he/she develops symptoms during the SHN period, he/she must be tested for COVID-19.
  - iv. If the positive PCR test result is **more than 180 days** before the date of arrival in Singapore, he/she must serve a 14-day SHN at his/her originating country and take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before departure for Singapore.

### **Sign-off**

- (a) The crew must not have gone ashore in the last 14 days before disembarking the ship and has remained well throughout that period.
- (b) The crew must be certified fit-to-travel by a doctor in Singapore not more than 24 hours before disembarking the ship.
- (c) MPA will facilitate pre-departure COVID-19 PCR testing for sign-off crew in Singapore in accordance with the prevailing national policy. Please refer to <https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/pre-departure-test> for more information. Ship owners/managers/agents will bear the cost of the COVID-19 tests of their crew, where applicable.

### **Stay at holding facilities**

3. Sign-on and sign-off crew may stay at designated holding facilities for up to **72 hours**. Please refer to **Annex A** for details of the designated holding facilities.

## General

4. Ship owners/managers/agents must apply for crew change in Singapore by filling up the online form at [www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/operations/crew-change](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/operations/crew-change) or scan the QR code below.



<https://go.gov.sg/flagship-crewchange>

5. MPA urges ship owners/managers/agents to submit applications at least 14 days before the planned crew change, especially if the application includes sign-on crew. For foreign-flagged ships, crew change will be considered if the ship meets all prevailing requirements, and are in Singapore for cargo operations, bunkering and/or other marine services.

6. For crew changes to take place safely, MPA continues to expect all owners, agents, ships and individuals to ensure that the COVID-19 preventive measures are followed strictly. Any breach will be taken seriously.

7. Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to [crew\\_change@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:crew_change@mpa.gov.sg)

8. This circular supersedes Port Marine Circular No. 36 of 2020.

CAPT KEVIN WONG  
PORT MASTER  
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

**Designated holding facilities for SIGN-ON crew**

Floatels @ Tanjong Pagar Terminal

Rooms: Air-conditioned with *en suite* bathroom

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner included. Meals will be delivered to the room.

For reservations, please contact:

+65 8939 7507

[floatelsg@dracoventure.com](mailto:floatelsg@dracoventure.com)

**Designated holding facilities for SIGN-OFF crew**

Seacare Hotel

Rooms: Air-conditioned with *en suite* bathroom

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner included. Meals will be delivered to the room.

For reservations, please contact:

Phang Jing Huei

+65 6818 2680

[reservations@theseacarehotel.com.sg](mailto:reservations@theseacarehotel.com.sg)

Accommodation vessel Posh Bawean

Rooms: Air-conditioned with *en suite* bathroom

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner included. Meals will be delivered to the room.

For reservations, please contact:

Jonathan Ng

+65 9740 4775

[reservations@paccoffshore.com.sg](mailto:reservations@paccoffshore.com.sg)