



The International
Chamber of Shipping

17 April 2020



The International
Transport Workers
Federation

To Shipping Company HR Personnel
Manning Agents
Vessel Masters

Facilitation Certificates for International Transport Worker – Seafarer

Dear Sir/ Madam,

As we are sure you appreciate, seafarers undertake a hugely important service every day in ensuring the delivery of vital supplies around the world - even more so in these unprecedented times. We understand however, given the severe restrictions in travel that are currently in place, that seafarers can find it difficult to transit between their home countries and the ship. In order to help facilitate this the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers Federation have produced a draft template that can be completed and shown to officials.

We recommend that your company uses this template which, once fully completed and on company headed paper, should be given to affected seafarers.

The United Nations bodies, namely the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization, along with the European Commission, have stated that Seafarers should be officially recognized as key workers and granted exemptions from travel restrictions so they can join and leave their ships and return home without impediment, while complying with infection control.

It is important for companies to be able to ask State representatives to recognize the need of the highly globalized shipping industry, with its multinational workforce, to smoothly undertake crew changes. This will enable ships to continue to operate and to ensure the swift embarkation, disembarkation and repatriation of crew members.

The attached letter certifies that a seafarer should be allowed free passage to travel between their home and their vessel and has participated in a medical screening. It will need to be completed with the company providing the following details :-

Seafarer's Name _____

Seafarer's Date Of Birth _____(Type here)

Passport Number _____

*Seafarer's book number _____ (if applicable)

*Seafarer's Identity Document Number _____ (if applicable)

Position on Board Ship _____

Employer's Name _____

Ship Name _____

Ship IMO Number _____

Is joining the ship in (name of port) _____

Is leaving the ship in (name of port) _____

Yours faithfully,

Natalie Shaw
Director Employment Affairs

ICS

Fabrizio Barcellona
Assistant Secretary
Seafarers' Section
ITF