



**Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
Italian Coast Guard Headquarters**

Department VI
Safety of Navigation and Maritime Security

Subject: COVID-19 Measures

The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a significant impact on global trade and the global maritime industry.

The epidemic and subsequent measures led to the interruption of regular maritime transport operations, which have currently returned to normal, although critical issues remain in some geographical areas of the Far East.

The following initiatives therefore remain in force:

A. Seafarers as “key workers”

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary restriction of non-essential travel to Italy have been applied. However, the government of the Republic of Italy, by means of the decree of 22nd March 2020, considers sea transport as a necessary and essential service and, consequently, seafarers as essential workers.

In the light of the above, confirming that seafarers are designated as "key workers", in order to facilitate crew changeover and repatriation, the government of the Republic of Italy – by the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport - asks the Secretariat to kindly have this information circulated to all member states of the IMO and to add Italy to the list of Countries that have designated seafarers as "key workers" (see Circular Letter No. 4231/Add.16).

B. “No crew change” clauses in charterparties

As per IMO Circular letters No. 4204/Add.36 dated 18th December 2020 and No. 4204/Add.36/Rev. 1 of 23rd December 2020 “*Certain charterers are demanding the inclusion of “no crew change” clauses in charterparties, that is, no crew changes can occur whilst the charterer’s cargo is aboard*”.

In this context the ITCG invited the Companies to adhere, in a convinced and decisive manner, to the appeal of the IMO and to what is in the present Circular by enforcing the regulatory instruments which-impose the correct and natural turnover of personnel on board.

Rome, 11th October 2023

THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT
Vice Admiral (ITCG) *aux* Luigi GIARDINO