

Circular 224/2020

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Deputy Registrars and other interested parties

Subject: Extension of Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) Service Period Due to Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and MLC temporary exemption.

Attachment: MCI Circular 136/2015.

Date: 13th February 2020

A. Summary

In January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

International efforts to stem the spread of the outbreak has led to an increasing number of countries and their port authorities placing immigration restrictions **which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when the SEAs of the crew expire.**

In light of the above MCI will issue extraordinary exemptions from the requirements of MLC Standard A2.4 (ii) for any seafarer who is not permitted by the State of the port at which he/she was scheduled to disembark, and as a result will be on board the vessel for more than 11 months.

Requests for such extraordinary exemptions must be addressed to mlc@maritimecookislands.com at least 1 week in advance of the scheduled disembarkation date.

For further information or clarification please contact the MLC department at mlc@maritimecookislands.com