



Merchant Marine **Notice**

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-410
(DCCM)
V.03

REPATRATION MODALITIES DUE COVID-19

No: **MMN-16/2020**

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to communicate that during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) remains highly committed to the international maritime industry and to our seafarers worldwide on board Panamanian-flagged vessels, by providing support for crew changes under the jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama, duly endorsed by the Ministry of Health (MINSA), through seven (7) different modalities:

2. **Modality 1: Repatriation or change of combined crew**

It consists of organizing the change of vessel crew about to arrive in jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama by shipping agencies which operate within the country. These crew changes would entail organizing charter flights both ways through airports, without the Republic of Panama, in non-pandemic-risk areas, where after having complied with Recommendation P1, and specifically under Letter A, number 1.1.10, on Document(s) which portray the condition of seafarers, the same must be presented through a certificate issued by a licensed physician and submitted for approval to MINSA.

It may consist of a charter flight in compliance with recommendations P2, P3, and P4 whose destination is Panama, for boarding on a later date through an Authorized Port, based on P5 and in compliance with recommendation P6 upon boarding a vessel with destination to our waters.

This form of entry shall also be used for Panamanian crew who have been sailing in vessels whose navigational routes do not include the Republic of Panama, and Whose contracts have been terminated; thus, requiring them to return to their places of residence, in compliance with recommendations P1, P2, P3, and P4.

In both cases, prior to boarding the flight to the Republic of Panama, when for risk analysis purposes MINSA requires that Covid-19 tests be made, the Shipping Lines must arrange the same and send the results to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Panama.

3. **Modality 2: Transfer of Crew from Ship to Ship**

It consists of authorizing the arrival of ships to jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama, through the Protocol for arrival of ships, so that an anchoring site can be assigned, and after approval by MINSA and the PMA, to begin to transfer the crew, medical equipment, and luggage from one ship to another, in order to direct the ships to the countries of destination, for the purpose of repatriating the crew being transferred. This type of transfer is of minimum risk, as they are carried out several miles away from land.

4. **Modality 3: Group Repatriation of Panamanian Crew by Ship**

It consists of authorizing the arrival of ships, either for anchoring or berthing purposes, to repatriate Panamanian crew, which has been previously arranged with confinement protocols within the ship. These requests must be accompanied with information related to the medical conditions of all crew members, period of confinement with external ship factors, and health and confinement protocols within the ship; additionally, the crew list and medical certificates of all of them. Crew members who have been disembarked based on their records, as well as the confinement times within the ship, may be placed in hotels authorized by the MINSA at the expense of the Shipping Line for a period of 14 days, or authorized for home quarantine in compliance with recommendation P12. In both cases, they shall only be transported by land from the Port to their destinations, via private transportation authorized by the MINSA.

5. **Modality 4: Ship to Ship Repatriation under Intermediate Land**

It consists of the exchange of crew members from the Atlantic to the Pacific or vice versa. Arrangements shall be made by using private land transportation previously authorized by the MINSA, to organize crew of different nationalities so they begin their travel to their final destinations, for the purpose of repatriating those who have been transferred.

6. **Modality 5: Change of Crew, Panamanian for Panamanian, in National Ports**

It consists of disembarking crew of Panamanian nationality or residence by the embarkation of crew of Panamanian nationality or residence.

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7. Modality 6: Change of Crew, Foreigner for Panamanian, in National Ports

It entails disembarking crew members of foreign nationalities for subsequent repatriation through coordination with the embassy of the corresponding nationality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the of crew members of Panamanian nationality or residence.

8. Modality 7: Embarkation of Panamanian Crew Abroad

When any Panamanian crew member is hired by a shipping line and his/her embarkation takes place in ports outside the Republic of Panama, he/she shall be subject to this modality.

9. Additionally, please note that the following documents can be located at the webpage link: <https://amp.gob.pa/crew-change-during-covid-19/>

- **Instructive for Repatriations, Embarkation or Disembarkation of Crew during the COVID-19 Pandemic Period**
- **Health Self-Declaration Form**
- **Crew Temperature Form**

September, 2020 – Repatration Modalities Due Covid-19.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

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