



Merchant Shipping Directorate



CREW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPS CALLING AT AUSTRALIAN PORTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information Notice 37

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters, Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to a recent Notice published by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) concerning the temporary approach to the maximum continuous period that a seafarer can serve on board a vessel until 28 February 2021. Inter alia, the Notice stipulates that:

- 1) Where port State control inspectors identify that a seafarer has a valid seafarer employment agreement (SEA), signed by all parties, and has served on board a vessel for less than 11 months without taking leave, no action will be taken.
- 2) Where inspectors identify that a seafarer has a valid SEA and has served on board a vessel for more than 11 continuous months, the master will be required to provide a plan for the seafarer's repatriation, approved by the flag State. The plan must ensure for the repatriation of the seafarer before having served a maximum continuous period of 14 months.
- 3) Where inspectors identify that a seafarer does not have a valid SEA, the master will be required to facilitate a valid SEA or otherwise repatriate the seafarer.
- 4) No extensions of service without taking leave beyond 14 months will be accepted by AMSA unless the master or owner demonstrate to AMSA that:
 - a. all possible efforts have been made to repatriate the seafarer without success;
 - b. the seafarer has provided written confirmation accepting the extension; and
 - c. a plan to repatriate the seafarer within a month has been put in place.

The cooperation of all concerned is solicited, to ensure that the contents of Marine Notice [10/2020](#) issued by AMSA are observed and complied with to avoid unnecessary delays for ships calling at Australian ports.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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