



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