28 April 2020

Marine Advisory: 16/2020

SUBJECT: Guidance to Assist Seafarers with Possible Crew Health Concerns due to COVID-19

Dear Shipowners/Operators/Seafarers:

The purpose of this Marine Advisory is to provide guidance to owners, operators, and seafarers as to the reporting of cases of comprises to seafarer mental and physical health aboard; and other concerns regarding the safety and well-being of seafarers aboard Liberian flagged vessels during this global COVID-19 pandemic.

For any of these cases arising on your vessel(s) that you feel this Administration need be aware of, you should immediately communicate this to the Administration for review and support, including assistance in liaising with Port States and Coastal States for repatriation. Please report these concerns directly to RegsAndStandards@liscr.com.

Liberia is working closely with industry stakeholders (such as ICS, IMO, and ITF) to continue the efforts toward having seafarers receive the “key worker” designation, and to facilitate the opening of key ports and channels for the ability to allow crew-exchanges to be conducted in a controlled and safe manner. By informing the Administration of these cases, the data can continue to be used in support of these efforts at the International level.

Further, please note, shipowners are urged to take note of various initiatives to improve conditions for seafarers regarding issues related to seafarers' wellbeing, and particularly mental health and bring this to the attention of seafarers on board their ships. Some of these initiatives are listed below:

The International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) have published Guidance from CHIRIP Maritime which focuses on seafarer wellbeing during COVID-19 pandemic.

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