Notice on Further Strengthening the Personal Protection of Frontline Workers at the Port during the Outbreak of Covid-19 (the “Notice”)

On April 8, the P.R. China Ministry of Transport issued the captioned Notice. Below is the free English translation of the maritime transport related provisions, prepared by the ICS (China) Liaison Office:

With regard to water transportation ports, the Notice requires that pilotage agencies should deploy pilots’ protective equipment in accordance with the deployment of local epidemic prevention and control management agencies, and implement record management for pilots.

On the premise of ensuring the quality of ship safety inspection, frontline law enforcement personnel at all levels of maritime safety administrations shall try to avoid on-site boarding inspection of ships from countries and regions with high risk of epidemic situation; If it is indeed necessary to carry out boarding inspection, the relevant unit shall carry out the quarantine inspection of the ship to be boarded and the personnel on board, and carry out good self-protection.

The quarantine inspection of the ship's personnel is qualified and carried out on the premise of good self-protection. The first-line ship surveyors of ship classification societies at various levels and local ship inspection agencies at all levels should comprehensively assess the risks and take various measures to temporarily replace the boarding survey on the premise of ensuring the safe operation of the ship. Port enterprises should strengthen information sharing with shipping agents and customs, maritime and other units in accordance with the requirements of epidemic prevention and control. In the process of ship berthing, loading, unloading and supply, strict prevention and control measures such as direct contact between ship and shore personnel should be strictly implemented.
The frontline ship surveyors of classification societies at various levels and local ship inspection agencies at all levels should comprehensively assess the risks and take various measures to temporarily replace the boarding survey on the premise of ensuring the safe operation of the ship. Port enterprises should strengthen information sharing with shipping agents and customs, maritime and other units in accordance with the requirements of epidemic prevention and control. In the process of ship berthing, loading, unloading and supply, strict prevention and control measures such as direct contact between ship and onshore personnel should be strictly implemented.