

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 08-22

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: REPATRIATING UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS

Date: 9 March 2022 (renewed 4 April 2024)

In late February the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) issued an [official statement](#) on crew changes of Ukrainian seafarers. Noting the views of MTWTU and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Tokyo MoU have issued the following guidance:

- Paris MoU, [Guidance on repatriation of seafarers due to situation in Ukraine](#); and
- Tokyo MoU, [Interim Guidance Relating to the Ukrainian Seafarer Repatriation Due to the Regional Conflict](#).

Both MoUs have adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach on extending periods of service on board ships. In addition, the Tokyo MoU has noted that payment of wages in accordance with Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 may be difficult and that alternative arrangements may need to be put in place to pay seafarers and facilitate allotments to dependents.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") is also aware that other port States have issued internal guidance to their port State control officers urging them to take a practical and pragmatic approach, including ensuring that:

- Contracts extended beyond their expiration are supported with valid seafarers' employment agreements or extensions and the individual seafarer agrees; and
- Shipowners provide evidence of travel and destination to friendly neighbouring countries with sufficient monies for land transport where flights are not available in the event a seafarer wants to return home at the end of their contract.

Very importantly, for RMI-flagged ships covered by International Bargaining Forum (IBF) contracts, there are now agreed [IBF Recommendations on the management of the repatriation of seafarers affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)¹. In addition to encouraging affected seafarers to extend their contracts, the guidance details expectations for employers in repatriating seafarers to third countries, including those who wish to continue their travels home. Seafarers requiring medical disembarkation are also addressed.

¹ This document can be accessed [directly via hyperlink](#) by clicking on the title at the top or bottom of the provided web page.

This MSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.

The Administrator supports a pragmatic approach to this situation and supports the flexibility that is being afforded by the various port States and other entities. If flag State approval for the extension of contracts is necessary on a case-by-case basis, please contact the Administrator at: seafarers@register-iri.com.