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Circular for P&I Clubs

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Correspondents for:

Britannia, British Marine, Carina, Charterers P&I Club, China P&I Club, EF Marine, GARD, Hydor, ITIC, Korea P&I Club, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), North of England P&I Club, MS Amlin, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, The Standard P&I Club, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, Thomas Miller Specialty, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC)

Venezuela – Coronavirus prevention measures

The deadly Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak which is causing international reaction has Latin American nations also taking actions to prevent its spreading within the region. The outbreak begun in late December 2019 at the City of Wuhan-China, but it was not until 30 January 2020 that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it an "international health emergency".

The Venezuelan Ministry of Health (Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud) published a first Official Bulletin on 24 January informing that no cases have been reported nationwide, including general preventive recommendations for the population. A second Bulletin was released on 2 February updating the situation and stating that "the corresponding measures are being taken as a result of the declaration of emergency of interest in public health of international importance decreed by the WHO, among them, the activation of the National Preparedness and Response Committee".

It was also announced that actions began to identify possible suspicious cases at the Maiquetia International Airport with the collaboration of the National Institute of Civil Aeronautics and the airlines that operate international flights, for the filling and analysis of the traveler's identification form. This measure is said to be implemented shortly in others international airports and ports.

On the other hand, no specific instructions or procedures have been established by the National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA). However, on 2 February the aquatic authority published Circular No. 04 containing basically recommendations addressed to ship agencies, shipping lines, manning companies, travel agencies and port operators asking them to disseminate information related to preventive measures in connection with the Coronavirus among seafarers, passengers and other people on board the ships, in order to reduce the risks of exposure of this disease on ships, ports and marine terminals, as well as paying attention to the manifestation in humans of the associated symptoms.

The Circular also makes reference to the general recommendations from the World Health Organization which include avoiding direct contact with people suffering symptoms from acute respiratory infections, extreme personal hygiene measures including breathing protections and avoid unprotected contact with farm animals or wild animals; remitting to the Official Bulletins issued by the Venezuelan Ministry of Health, the IMO Circular No. 4204 dated 31 January 2020 and the information provided by the International Maritime Health Association to shipping companies.

Although no cases have been reported in our country, we continue monitoring the matter and seeking information/instructions from the National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA) and local Port Captaincies on the Coronavirus, to revert immediately with updates if necessary.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

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