

**RE: GENERAL ADVICE CORONAVIRUS CIRCULAR –
AUSTRALIA'S REGULATORY RESPONSE**

In members' interests we have made contact with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in respect of any advices to ship owners and operators in respect of the Coronavirus outbreak in China.

As of yet, no Marine Notice has been issued by AMSA pursuant to the *Navigation Act (2012)(Cth)*, however we expect that a cautionary notification as to best practice may be imminent.

Previously, when dealing with the containment of viral outbreaks AMSA has noted the following recommendations as issued by maritime stakeholders, many of which are pertinent to the current outbreak. Relevantly:

1. the Masters of ships arriving into Australia from Chinese ports should ensure that all passengers, special personnel and seafarers are aware of the risks, how the virus can be spread and how to reduce the risk.
2. the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code requirements on ensuring that unauthorised personnel do not board the vessel should be strictly enforced throughout the duration of the vessel being in Chinese ports.
3. the Master should give careful consideration to granting any shore leave whilst in impacted ports.
4. the shipowner/operator should avoid making crew changes in the affected ports.
5. after departure from impacted Chinese ports all passengers, special personnel and seafarers should be aware of the symptoms and report any occurring symptoms immediately to the person in charge of medical care or the Master.
6. in the event of a suspected diagnoses of Coronavirus on a ship, immediate expert medical advice should be sought and the event should be reported as soon as possible to the next port of call.

With regulatory response pending, the above measures may assist in minimising exposure.

Best Regards,
COCKS MACNISH