**COCKS MACNISH P&I CORRESPONDENTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA –**

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING RECENT AMSA MARINE NOTICE REGARDING MAXIMUM PERIOD OF SHIP BOARD SERVICE FOR SEAFARERS**

I thought that it was timely to draw your attention that AMSA has issued a new Marine Notice (04/2020) regarding the maximum period of ship board service for seafarers. After 1 October 2020 AMSA will operate on the following basis:

1. Where inspectors identify that a seafarer has a valid Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) which has been signed by all parties and is being complied with and has served on board a vessel for less than 11 months without taking leave then no action will be taken.
2. Where the period is more than 11 months but less than 13 months the Master will be required to provide a plan for the seafarers repatriation (approved by the Flag State) that results in the repatriation of the seafarer before the seafarer has served a maximum continuous period of 14 months.
3. Where inspectors identify that a seafarer has a valid SEA and has continuously served on board a vessel for more than thirteen months **the vessel will be prohibited from departing port** until AMSA is provided with a plan for the seafarers repatriation which is approved by the Flag State and results in the repatriation of the seafarer before the seafarer has served a maximum continuous period of 14 months.
4. Where inspectors identify that a **seafarer does not have a valid SEA** the Master will be required to arrange repatriation of the seafarer (which may require shoreside accommodation until repatriation can be arranged). If the departure of the Seafarer means that the vessel’s **minimum safe manning requirements cannot be met** then the vessel will be **prohibited from departing port**.
5. No extensions of service without taking leave beyond 14 months will be accepted by AMSA unless certain things can be demonstrated to AMSA and the seafarer has agreed.

Regards,

Ashley Nichols