Marine Pilots' Association of Sri Lanka

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Re: Covid 19 - Urgent safety precautions to be followed by vessels calling seaports of Sri Lanka

The Marine Pilots' Association of Sri Lanka (MPASL,) would like to bring to your attention due to Covid 19(Corona Virus) outbreak, the much needed safety precautions to be adhered by vessels when in transit within harbours of Sri Lanka.

In order to mitigate the threat of transmission Covid 19(Corona Virus) to the Marine Pilots and harbour maritime community, the following measures must be followed by all vessel operators:

- Vessel's crew attending to Pilot services and the bridge team should be equipped with proper PPE. (E.g. Respiratory protection equipment, gloves etc.)

- Any crew member entering the bridge should thoroughly wash their hands and face prior to entering the bridge, and wash their hands again immediately upon entering.

- Please maintain a supply of hand sanitizer on the bridge. Any member of the bridge team, including the Pilot, should use hand sanitizer on their hands immediately after touching their face.

- Please only allow essential personnel in the wheelhouse while a Pilot is onboard.

- Cool and dry conditions should be maintained on the bridge. Avoid humid conditions which may enable a virus to stay alive on surfaces.

- In the hour prior to the pilot boarding, wipe down the entire bridge with a 5% solution of bleach water (including the chart table, instruments, chairs, helm, entire console, handrails, windows, etc.)

- All coffee cups and utensils on bridge should be washed thoroughly.

- Pilots may make awareness of the above conditions a part of the Master/Pilot Exchange.

- If the helmsman or ship's officers see the Pilot fail to comply with any of the above conditions, they should speak up and remind the Pilot to do so

Capt. Sugath de Silva   Capt.Sopaka Karunasundara
Secretary   President
MPASL   MPASL