



**INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY OF GABON  
COMMISSIONAIRE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**INTERSHIPPING SERVICES LLC.**

**OFFICE 601, AL SAWAN 1, AL RASHIDIYA 03, AJMAN, U.A.E P.O BOX 4295**

**T: + 971 6 74 28 120 F: +971 6 744 1270**

**EMAIL : [admin@intershipping.com](mailto:admin@intershipping.com) WEBSITE : [www.intershipping.com](http://www.intershipping.com)**

**MARCIR: 08/2020**

**DATE:28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**To :** Representatives of Gabon flagged vessels, Deputy Commissioners, Ship-owners & Ship-operators. Masters, Flag State Surveyors and Recognized Organizations.

**Subject:** “I.M.O. Circular Letter No.4221, 18 March 2020: Communication from the Government of the People's Republic of China, Guidance on the prevention and control of COVID-19 on board (Version 1.0)”.

**Scope:** This Marine Notice communicates to all interested parties related to the International Ship Register of Gabon a comprehensive manual issued by the Peoples Republic of China on the COVID-19 outbreak providing “Guidance on the prevention and control of COVID-19 on board (Version 1.0)”.

**References:**

- a. [IMO Circular Letter No.4221, 18 March 2020.](#)
- b. COVID-19-Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers MARCIR 07/2020 dated 11th Mar 2020.

1. Further to previous IMO Circular Letters and MARCIR 07/2020-11.03.2020 on the COVID-19 outbreak this Marine Notice aims to communicate to all interested parties a comprehensive manual issued by the Peoples Republic of China on the COVID-19 outbreak providing “Guidance on the prevention and control of COVID-19 on board (Version 1.0)”.
2. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China sent to the IMO Secretariat the attached communication, together with the translation, dated 11 March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization. The document provides recommendations and guidance, based on relevant documents developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), together with the experience gained by shipping companies, on the prevention and control of COVID-19 onboard ships, and on personal protection of crew members.

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3. IMO together with industry partners and the World Health Organization, has been developing and issuing *practical advice and guidance on a variety of technical and operational matters related to the coronavirus*. Emphasis is attributed by the IMO to the seafarers on ships. They are, unwittingly, on the front line of this global calamity.

**To be read in conjunction with this Circular**

[IMO Circular Letter No.4221, 18 March 2020](#) *(Please click on the link)*