



Athens, Greece

LTR- 117 -2020

19 May 2020

Dear Dr. Pateras,

The Embassy of the Philippines in Athens wishes to inform you of the following revised procedure for the issuance of repatriation endorsement by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to the Bureau of Immigration (BI), for the entry/transit of foreign crew members onboard vessels anchored in the Philippines:

1. The written request may be made by the cruise lines directly to the Department of Foreign Affairs, without need of an Embassy or Consulate endorsement;
2. For ease of processing, the request for entry/transit of foreign crew may be done on a per-ship/vessel basis;
3. The request shall indicate the full passport name, nationality, passport number and departure flight details (i.e. date, time and flight number) of the foreign crew; and
4. The request should be sent directly to the Office of Consular Affairs of the DFA through email address oca.visa@dfa.gov.ph (cc: jo.racho@oca.dfa.gov.ph) at least three (3) days before the scheduled departure flight of said foreign crew.

The Philippine Embassy notes that, per the BI Seaport Operation Section, the DFA's endorsement for the entry/transit of foreign seafarers for repatriation should be received at least one (1) day by the Bureau of Immigration before the seafarers' scheduled flight in order to make the necessary arrangements with the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) of the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) for the disembarkation of the seafarers.

In this regard, the Philippine Embassy would like to request you to disseminate the above information to your organization's members, especially cruise companies and manning agencies in charge of repatriation of foreign crew onboard vessels anchored in the Philippines in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


ROSARIO P. LEMQUE
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Dr. GEORGE PATERAS

President

Hellenic Chamber of Shipping

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Cc: **POLO-OWWA Athens**