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13 January 2022

**COVID-19(22)02**

**TO: LABOUR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
BIWEEKLY MEMBERS MEETING PARTICIPANTS  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

**INFORMATION FROM JAPAN REGARDING SEAFARERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND INDIA AS OF 12 JANUARY 2022**

***Action Required: Members are invited to kindly note that new criteria for all seafarers coming from India and the Philippines by air are as follows (effective from 14 January 2022).***

1. Seafarers who may enter Japan shall isolate appropriate within a hotel accommodation (or an institute) in two weeks (not in their home).
2. Seafarers who may enter Japan shall take a PCR test within 24 hours (or the previous day) of their departure flight, in addition to 72 hours pre-testing.

Otherwise, those seafarers who may not meet the criteria will be refused to enter Japan (testing date, not certificate release date).

Note: For isolation in a hotel, until 27 January, they must stay as long as possible for two weeks. From 28 January, all seafarers coming from those countries must take two weeks of isolation in a hotel.

The MLIT strongly requests a minimization of crew changes in Japan unless in emergency or expiry of MLC limitation.

From late December 2021, the positive rate against COVID-19 at the airport check of seafarers from both countries has been exceptionally high. Thus, the Japanese quarantine authority has requested MLIT to announce new criteria for all relevant parties. Most seafarers who showed “positive” may not have completed two weeks of isolation.

JSA also remind companies to educate crew members about COVID-19 infection.

Natalie Shaw  
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