

MEMBER ALERT



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NEW BIMCO COVID-19 CREW CHANGE CLAUSE FOR TIME CHARTERPARTIES

Although global travel restrictions are beginning to ease, those which remain in many countries continue to impede crew changes. As a result, BIMCO has produced a new clause designed to give owners the liberty to deviate for the purpose of effecting crew changes under tightly defined circumstances. The clause also provides an option for charterers to contribute to the crew change in recognition of the potentially high cost of making a COVID-19 related arrangements of this kind.

Crew changes are usually for owners' account under a charterparty. The extraordinary and unusual circumstances created by COVID-19 have left some owners unable to conduct crew changes on a ship's trade route. With crew now remaining on board for periods beyond their contracts of employment, owners require the flexibility to deviate to an alternative place if crew changes cannot be effected at the places to which the ship is ordered by charterers. This clause is designed to help them with that process and to encourage charterers to assist.

The clause can be downloaded from the BIMCO website, together with explanatory notes providing a guide to its use and application, at:

<https://www.bimco.org/contracts-and-clauses/bimco-clauses/current/covid-19-crew-change-clause-for-time-charter-parties-2020>

Your Managers recommend that Members take note of this information and be guided accordingly.