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## **COVID 19 - Guidance on the reporting of occupational diseases**

**Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crew of Merchant Vessels, Skippers and Crew of Domestic Passenger Ships and Inland Waterways Vessels**

*This notice should be read with the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, as amended.*

*This MIN expires 30 September 2020*

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### **Summary**

This Note gives guidance on the reporting of diagnosed COVID-19 cases among seafarers on board ships, where there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The employer of a seafarer on a UK ship must report to MCA when they are notified that a seafarer who works (or has worked) on a ship is suffering (or did suffer) from an occupational disease (The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, regulation 11A).

1.2 Reportable occupational diseases are specified in MSN 1850 (M) Annex 1. They include -

- “Any disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent.”

## **2. COVID-19 cases**

2.1 In respect of COVID-19, an employer is only required to make a report when a seafarer has been diagnosed as having COVID 19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work. This must be reported as a case of occupational disease.

2.2 In accordance with MSN 1850(M), a case is reportable only if the employer has received a written diagnosis of a specified disease from a medical practitioner.

2.3 If there is reasonable evidence that a seafarer diagnosed with COVID-19 was likely exposed because of their work, this must be reported as an exposure to a biological agent using MSF 4159. An example of a work-related exposure to COVID-19 would be a medical practitioner,



nurse or seafarer who is diagnosed with COVID-19 after treating or caring for someone with COVID-19.

2.4 This is in addition to the requirement to report any case or suspected case of COVID-19 to a port health authority before arrival in a UK Port.

### 3. Making a report

3.1 A report must be made on form MSF 4159, available from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) :  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/occupational-disease-report-form-for-uk-registered-merchant-ships-msf-4159-rev-0714>

3.2 The completed form should be sent to [mlc@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:mlc@mcga.gov.uk).

### More Information

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Published: May 2020  
Please note that all addresses and  
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