



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MARITIME ORGANIZATIONS (NAMO)

National Association of Maritime Organizations, Inc.
P. O. Box 3487
Norfolk, VA 23514

March 20, 2020

Mr. Todd Owen
Executive Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

RDML Richard Timme,
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy
U.S. Coast Guard

Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19) (SARS-CoV-2)

On behalf of the National Association of Maritime Organizations, Inc. (NAMO), we write to ensure the wellbeing of our ship agents while maintaining their continuity of operations as Critical Infrastructure Workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

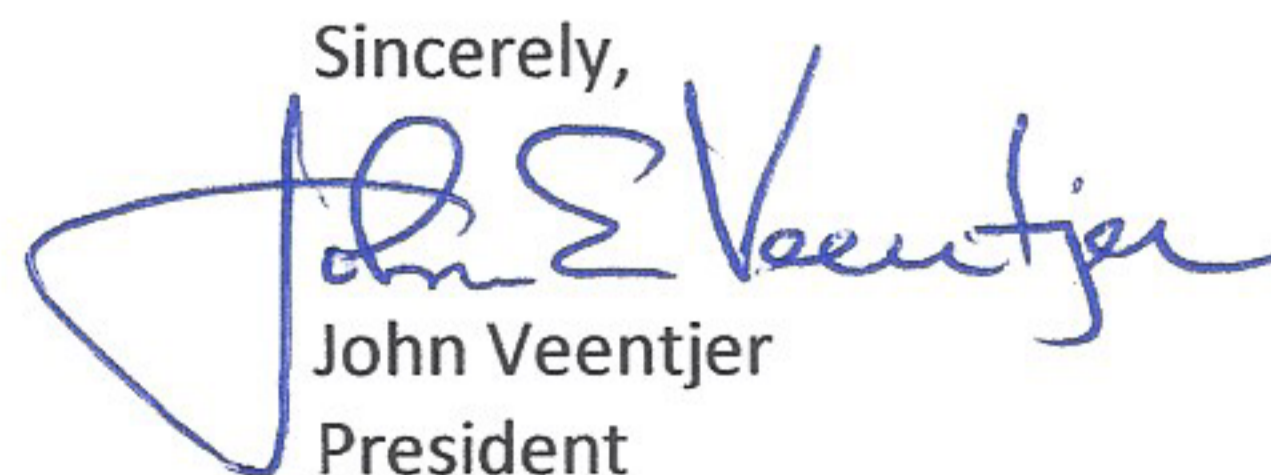
First, we support the attached Guidelines from the Association of Ship Brokers and Agents that outline suggested temporary measures regarding vessel attendance by ship agents.

Additionally, in the event that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agents or U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Officers choose to not board a vessel, NAMO also requests an accommodation for ship agents to enter and clear a vessel, as well as pay fees due, electronically wherever possible in order to minimize COVID-19 transmission.

Second, NAMO respectfully requests acknowledgment that ship agents should be exempt from any state or local quarantine and shelter-in-place mandates in accordance with the attached DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance, as ship agents are essential to the regulatory compliance and logistics elements of vessel port calls as the ship-to-shore interface, including processing federally and commercially mandated documentation onboard.

Finally, NAMO respectfully requests that CBP and/or USCG provide a letter recognizing the essential role of the ship agent as a "maritime transportation worker" in CISA's Critical Infrastructure Worker Guidance, also allowing them to conduct normal operations via electronic alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Veentjer
President