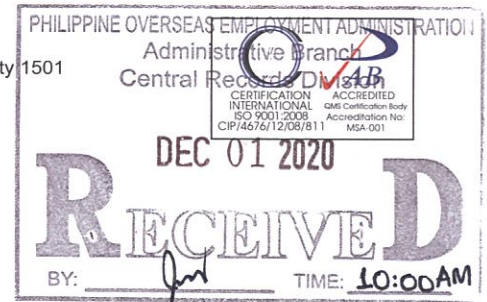




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Good Practices on Pre-Embarkation Facility for Seafarers

The public is hereby informed of the launch of an enhanced quarantine and testing facility in Manila that the International Maritime Employers' Council Limited (IMEC) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) in cooperation with the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) have established.

The facility aims to directly address the concerns raised over the authenticity of COVID-19 tests which have been taken in the Philippines and over the efficacy of pre-embarkation quarantine protocols undergone by joining Filipino crews. The components of the facility are as follows:

1. Quarantine Facility/Hotel Accommodation

- Two (2) selected hotels that will act as a one-stop-shop for swabbing and quarantine facilities for joining crew to cater to IMEC Member companies as well as a third party security company(ies) that will assist with the monitoring of the crew during their quarantine phase;
- Initially block-booked 290 single occupancy rooms at the selected hotels that facilities can offer sufficient accommodation for joining crews;
- Online/contactless booking through a coordinator at itfimeccrewchange@amosup.org.

2. Quarantine and COVID-19 Testing

- Seafarers will be tested upon arrival in the facility and at the end of the quarantine period;
- Swabbing will take place in the respective quarantine rooms of the seafarers;
- Swab test results will be provided within 24 hours;
- Meals will also be served in the rooms of the seafarers;
- Body temperatures and COVID 19 symptoms of those in quarantine will be monitored and video recorded twice daily;
- CCTV footage is being reviewed every day to ensure the strict implementation of protocols;
- Third-party security personnel are designated to closely monitor, 24 hours a day, the hallways where the seafarers are billeted to ensure strict compliance of the protocols by all concerned;

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- COVID-19 negative test certificates and quarantine certificates will be made tamper proof using blockchain technology that is verifiable by competent authorities in the receiving country.
3. **Transportation.** The manning agency is in charge of the transportation of the seafarers during their transfer to the facility as well as their transfer from the facility to the airport or sea port at the end of quarantine.

During the embarkation process, the sanitation officer sees to it that the vehicle which will bring the seafarer to airport/seaport is sanitized first before it is used. The hotel coordinator checks the body temperature of the driver as well as the observance of the 50% load capacity of the vehicle before it is allowed to proceed to airport or seaport.

4. **Costs.** Access to above-enumerated amenities are at no cost to the Filipino seafarer and shall be co-shared by the following:
- IMEC manning agency-members will be responsible for hotel room and RT PCR Tests; and
 - All other costs will be taken care of by IMTF-AMOSUP.

The above practices are being shared to the public to encourage partners in the manning and seafaring industries to emulate or benchmark with the same.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

Source : IMEC Circular (20) 106
IMEC and ITF launch enhanced quarantine and testing facility in Manila

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