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MIGRATIONS.
SUPERNUMERARIES WITHOUT VISA. A HIGH EXPENSE.

We have recently seen an increase of supernumeraries arriving to Argentina without holding the necessary VISA when required. Event though this normally involves Crew's wives, it is applicable to other relatives or passengers whether underage or not (crewmembers on board are exempted of holding VISAS).

In such case, the carriers are subject to a fine imposed by the Migration Authorities which nowadays ranges minimum/maximum about USD 400 ~ USD 10,000. Nonetheless, these fines have been usually on the low side and did not imply significant expenditure for the Clubs and their Members.

Nevertheless, in recent cases, the Migration Authority decided to place on board permanent custody by Coastguards, during vessel's stay in jurisdictional waters (since the vessel arrives to roads until her outward clearance). In fact, regrettably, Migrations seems to treat supernumeraries as stowaways regarding their custody, placing two or three officers on board (we have seen up to five officers).

The above exercise implies high expenses which shall be borne by the owners and can be estimated – for each person without visa – in the region of about USD 45 per each escort per 4-hours shift; plus the lunches to change the guard every two shifts (8 hours) whilst the vessel is at roads with a cost of about USD 950 every time they are used.

Thereafter, a shipowner carrying a supernumerary or passenger on board without visa could face an expense for custody of about USD 1,000 or USD 3,500 per day – depending whether at berth or roads – plus the corresponding fine.

Whilst we are working to revert or minimise this situation with the Migration Authorities, **it is highly recommended to Clubs' Members to ensure that every supernumerary or other passengers on board** carry the corresponding VISA, where applicable, if there is a possibility for the vessel to call Argentinean ports.

The Nationalities which are required to hold a VISA can be consulted on the Argentinean Migrations' webpage following this link: <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/indexP.php?visas> and the ship's agents should be consulted in every opportunity.

We shall keep monitoring the situation and will keep you posted. In the meantime, we remain at your disposal if clarification or additional information is needed.

Yours faithfully

PANDI LIQUIDADORES SRL

Ref. Circular 005/20116