

10 April 2003

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Sirs

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

Members should be aware of the global alert issued by the World Health Organisation on outbreaks of an acute respiratory disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in several areas including Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Canada and Singapore.

The main criteria for suspect cases of SARS are:

Main symptoms:

- High fever (more than 38 degree Celsius)
- Respiratory symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulty:

and

Travel/Close Contact History:

- Travel history to affected areas within 2 weeks of onset of the symptoms:
- or have been in close contact with persons diagnosed with SARS.

Based on the advice of the World Health Organisation if SARS is suspected, the following action should be taken:

- Inform the Master who should report the illness to the local Port Health Authorities and request the ship's agent to arrange for appropriate medical assistance on arrival of the sick crewmember.
- Provide a face mask (surgical mask) for the sick crewmember to reduce the amount of droplets coughed into the air. Masks should be changed if they become moist, hard to breath in, physically damaged or visibly soiled.
- Crewmembers in close contact with the unwell crew should also wear masks while attending to the crewmember with the suspected case.

- The sick crewmember should be isolated to a confined area on the vessel.
- Designate one toilet facility for the use of sick crew.
- All masks, napkins, tissues, utensils, trays used by the sick crewmember should be disposed of into leak resistant plastic bags.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after each contact with the sick crewmember.
- Disposable gloves should be used for any contact with the body fluids of the sick crewmember.
- Instruct the sick crewmember in proper hand washing procedures.

Further Recommendations to Minimise the Risk of SARS.

- Crewmembers should maintain good personal hygiene and wash hands with soap and water frequently.
- Avoid sharing towels or utensils.
- Cough or sneeze onto tissue or paper napkins and dispose immediately.
- Wash hands after sneezing or coughing.

Members should seek current advice from the local port agents. Further advice is also available from the World Health Organisation website (www.who.int/csr/don/en/) which is currently being updated daily.

Yours faithfully
A BILBROUGH & CO LTD
(MANAGERS)

This Circular is also being posted on the Association's website (www.lssocom.com).