

Circular 02-17-20-04

RE: Stowaways in South Africa

Ingosstrakh has recently faced with increase of stowaway cases on boards of insured vessels. Under the current pandemic Covid-19 situation these cases become much more complicated as vast majority of countries don't allow to disembark and repatriate stowaways due to Covid restrictions. Please find the below loss-prevention advice in respect of stowaway cases in South Africa prepared in accordance with recommendations of SAMSA (South African Maritime Safety Authority) and under assistance of Messrs. P&I Associates (Pty) Ltd.

Prevention and management.

Several steps should be taken to minimize the risk:

- Ensure the crew is well trained and conscious of the need to fend off stowaways.
- Safe management systems and/or ship's security plans should be in place and known by the crew.
- Adequately light the vessel at port, to illuminate stowaways.
- Unused areas such as hawser-pipe covers, storage lockers, and cargo holds should be properly secured.
- Access points such as gangways and pilot ladders should be hoisted when the ship is at anchor at night. Only essential access is to remain open and unlocked, and regular inspection is required in such areas.
- Schedule security inspections, including regular deck patrols when the ship is at anchor. Consider engaging local security guards for ship searches.
- Logbook entries should be maintained regularly.
- Conduct a thorough search for potential stowaways prior to departure.
- An unauthorized person who is recognized as a trespasser can be handed over to the port authority at minimal costs before the ship sails.
- Use equipment such as CO2 detectors, heat detectors, sniffer dogs and heartbeat detectors.
- The crew should understand the vessel's security plan and the risks faced at a particular port.
- Strictly observe registration of the visitor's logbook and make head counts before departure.

- The ship should comply with ISPS Code.

If a stowaway/ trespasser is discovered on board – the following documents should be readily available to assist local authorities to investigate promptly and assist with disembarkation.

- The vessel security plan in respect of the search conducted prior to departure;
- The report issued by the Master regarding the discovery of the stowaway / trespasser;
- The statement of facts issued by crew members;
- The statement of the stowaway/ trespasser questionnaire completed by stowaway;
- Pictures of the stowaway/ trespasser;
- Pictures of the entry point and various hiding places utilized by the stowaway/ trespasser, prior to being discovered;
- Head and shoulder passport type photograph;
- Any CCTV footage showing them embarking the vessel.

We would like to additionally draw Shipowners' attention to the need of immediate report about any stowaway incident to Ingosstrakh which remains of paramount importance for further handling of the case in the most professional and effective manner.

If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ingosstrakh.

Best regards,

Ingosstrakh Insurance Company

P&I Department