



Association of Ship Brokers & Agents (USA) Inc.

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To: Whom it May Concern:

Re: Ship/Vessel Agent deemed Essential Worker

In accordance with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) guidance on *Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers* providing guidance to state and local jurisdictions and private sector in considering how to manage and continue access and re-entry for essential workers during periods when access restrictions are in-effect by public health authorities and other executive branch authorities related to quarantines, social-distancing, isolation and/or shelter-in-place, the Association of Ship Brokers & Agents (USA) Inc. affirms that ship/vessel agents should fall under the Transportation and Logistics title, Maritime Transport Workers and specifically Port Workers.

Agents are the compliance and logistic conduit for up-to-date and accurate information passing between the vessel, USCG, CBP, the terminal, the port community and its local stakeholders. In general, boarding the vessel, particularly on arrival, has and will continue to be an essential and necessary best practice among certified U.S. agents.

The threat of the Coronavirus spreading is a serious concern for everyone and requires special practices to be temporarily implemented by many federal, state and local port regulators. We want to assure you that our member agents are taking similar appropriate measures to protect their health and safety and at that of their above partners in the nation's commerce. In carrying out their responsibility to physically attend aboard each vessel assigned to them, ship agents play a key role in ensuring that the critical flow of maritime commerce continues with minimal interruption.

We are providing this letter to our member ship/vessel agents for their use as needed to provide proof to local state and local regulators of the essential nature of their job in facilitating international trade.

Regards,

Jeanne L. Cardona

Executive Director