



## Circular Letter 03/2020

8 April 2020

**Subject: The role of IALA Industrial members during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**To: All National members and other relevant authorities**

Dear National member and other relevant authorities,

I would like to refer to IMO Circular Letter No 4204/Add 6, which contains a “Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic” and its implications with respect to Marine Aids to Navigation.

The overall aim of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) is to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through improvement and harmonisation of Marine Aids to Navigation worldwide and other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment.

IALA members include national authorities and other organisations that are legally responsible for the provision, maintenance or operation of Marine Aids to Navigation within their country for the safe and efficient movement of shipping. These responsibilities also include ensuring the unimpeded, safe and efficient navigational access to ports, thereby facilitating the international distribution of goods.

Industrial members of IALA are commercial organisations that manufacture and distribute Marine Aids to Navigation equipment, or organisations that provide Marine Aids to Navigation services and technical advice. Industrial members provide such services and advice to National Authorities and other organisations to assist them in fulfilling their obligations related to ensuring the safe and efficient navigation.

Consequently, the Industrial members of IALA play a vital role in contributing their knowledge and expertise in the provision and maintenance of critical Marine Aids to Navigation infrastructure thereby actively facilitating international maritime trade and supply chains.



I am therefore writing to urge that IALA Industrial members are considered as critical suppliers, and their employees as “key workers”, involved in the essential sector of maritime transportation in your region and that they will be allowed to remain operational during any potential restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Zachariae'.

Francis Zachariae  
Secretary-General