



Parties to the Nauru Agreement

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To: FSMA Vessel Operators

Dear Operators,

Subject: Observer Accommodation onboard FSMA vessels

I am writing to you about observer accommodation onboard FSMA vessels which has been a longstanding area of concern on some vessels for observers and Observer Coordinators.

As you would be aware, clause 21, Annex V, Part 7 of the FSMA requires that *"The operator shall provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the Parties or the Administrator, with full insurance cover and with food, accommodation and medical facilities equivalent to those provided to officers of the vessel."*

While many vessels are to be congratulated for the excellent accommodation they provide for observers, some vessels are clearly not yet providing *"...food, accommodation and medical facilities equivalent to those provided to officers of the vessel"*.

The 27th meeting of the FSMA Parties in 2022 considered this issue and endorsed the Minimum Standards for Observer Accommodation set out in Attachment 1. The intent of these standards is to set out more clearly the minimum expectations for the provision of food and accommodation to observers by all FSMA vessels.

I would be grateful if you could ensure your vessel captains are aware of, and comply with, the Minimum Standards.

I am aware that the requirement for single cabin accommodation for 2023 may be difficult for some operators to meet in the short term. For those operators, we would certainly expect that dual cabin accommodation (shared with an officer) would be made available for observers immediately and that operators would work with their Home Parties to develop practical plans to transition to single cabins for observers (at the earliest practical opportunity).

All other Minimum Standards should be able to be met immediately.

I have asked the PNA Observer Agency to report to me on fleet-wide compliance with the Minimum Standards towards the end of 2023.

Thank you and I look forward to your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sangalofa Clark
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Mr. Duncan Souter & Mr. David Byrom, PNA Observer Agency

Attachment 1

FSMA Vessels Observer Accommodation

Minimum Standards

1. **Accommodation** – observers should be provided with single cabin accommodation, or alternatively dual cabin accommodation shared with an officer, and from 2023 onwards, all observers should be provided with single cabin accommodation.
2. **Potable water** – a minimum of 2 litres of bottled water per observer per day should be provided by the vessel.
3. **Food** – food provided to the observer should be of a reasonable standard, equivalent to officers of the vessel.
4. **Smoking** – observer accommodation must be a non-smoking zone (if the observer is a non-smoker).
5. **Bed bugs** – a certification of regular fumigation of vessel for bed bugs must be provided at the observer placement meeting.
6. **Workplace** – the observer must be provided with a desk, chair and secure locker with privacy to work.
7. **Toilet and shower facilities** - clean, hygienic toilet and shower facilities that are operational, not shared with multiple crew and with reasonable levels of privacy, must be provided for the observer.