

MEMBER ALERT

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STOWAWAYS IN BRAZIL

Following a number of recent incidents involving stowaways at Brazilian ports, our correspondents have issued the following advice regarding the procedures currently adopted by the authorities:

1. The Master must inform port authorities of any stowaway present on board, prior to the vessel arriving at a Brazilian port, otherwise heavy penalties will be imposed. The Master will be subject to criminal proceedings if he tries to hide any stowaway who is subsequently discovered.
2. The vessel will be visited by the Port Health Authority upon arrival. If the vessel has arrived from a Yellow Fever area, valid vaccination certificates must be produced for each person on board. Any stowaway without such a certificate will have to be vaccinated. The vessel will normally be quarantined for at least six days and a heavy fine levied.
3. The Immigration Police will interview any stowaway on board then remove him to police headquarters for further questioning. A fine will be levied for each stowaway. All stowaways will be lodged onshore under guard, at the Owner's expense. Political asylum is difficult to obtain in Brazil and any stowaway requesting asylum will be allowed one appeal only, should his request be refused at first instance.
4. Arrangements will be made as soon as possible to return a stowaway to his country of origin. If his country has diplomatic representation in Brazil, an Emergency Travel Document will normally be obtained; otherwise, a Travel Document will be issued by the Ministry of Justice. Furthermore, a permit must be obtained from any country to be transited by the stowaway. Airlines now require two police escorts to accompany each stowaway back to their country of origin, with all expenses paid. Permission must be obtained from the Ministry of Justice, which normally takes about 30 days.
5. The agent attending the vessel, or an agent appointed by the Owner, must sign a guarantee with the Federal Police, assuming responsibility for all costs involved, before the vessel is allowed to sail.

For further information, please contact the Managers.....

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