**1. Are the Courts in your jurisdiction open and functioning as per normal?**

No.  According to the latest announcement by the Judiciary on 8 April 2020, the General Adjourned Period ("**GAP**") will continue to 3 May 2020 subject to review.  During GAP, all court/tribunal hearings will generally be adjourned unless they are urgent and essential business as directed by the judges.  Registries and offices at various levels of courts and tribunals will also remain closed.  That said, urgent and essential hearings will continue to be handled in accordance with the established mechanisms, including the Duty Judge system.

**2. If not, are there any exceptions to the arrest of ships and / or are other injunctive or enforcement procedures available?**

Urgent matters or hearings can be submitted to the Duty Judge.  Documents can be filed electronically and further directions will be given by the Duty Judge.  According to the latest list of urgent and essential hearings/matters to be handled by the court published by the Judiciary, urgent application for injunction will still be heard during GAP.  Although the list does not expressly include arrest of ships and other enforcement procedures, they are likely to be handled by the Duty Judge if it can be shown that the application is urgent.

**3. Can Judicial Sale of Ships still take place?**

As far as we are aware, there is no clear guideline on this.  As such, whether judicial sale will take place would depend on the particular circumstances of the case and the directions of the Court.

**4. Do you know how long the Courts in your jurisdiction will be closed for?**

See the answer to Question (1) above.

**5. Is the flag registry in your jurisdiction (if applicable) operating as per normal in terms of the registration of ships and registration of mortgages and deletion of same?**

Yes.  The Hong Kong Shipping Registry is operating as per normal in terms of the registration of ships and registration of mortgages and deletion of same.

**6. Has your flag administration issued any special exemptions for the period of the Pandemic?**

Yes – as a deviation from its practice, the Hong Kong Shipping Registry will consider to accept “electronic notarization” of certain documents during the Covid-19 pandemic period, if certain strict criteria are met in advance.   Members are encouraged to communicate with the Hong Kong Shipping Registry directly in advance if normal notarisation of documents is not possible during the Covid-19 pandemic period.