

BSM asks Suez Canal Authority to release three more crew members

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Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement (BSM), the technical ship manager of containership **Ever Given** (IMO: 9811000), has asked the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) to release three of the crew members on board.

BSM said that the 25 Indian national crew members currently on the vessel were all safe, in good health and in good spirits. “Day-to-day operations onboard the vessel continue with the seafarers aboard conducting routine fire and safety drills alongside ongoing planned vessel maintenance”, BSM said.

When the vessel went aground all crew on board were within the terms of their contracts. However, BSM reported yesterday April 29th that the delays in allowing the vessel to depart meant that three crew members were now due to be relieved. BSM said that “requests to allow the overdue crew to depart have been granted by the Suez Canal Authority (SCA). Minimum safe manning standards for the vessel will be maintained at all times and crew members who depart the vessel are being relieved.”

All crew members have full internet access and can communicate with their families. The vessel is fully supplied with food, including 20 days of fresh fruit and vegetables, and a resupply of fresh drinking water was completed on April 17th. All crew wages have also been paid in full.

Ever Given ran aground while under pilotage in the Suez Canal on March 23rd and blocked the channel for six days, leading to a 400-plus back-up of ships in total. BSM noted that there were no reports of pollution or cargo damage and initial investigations ruled out any mechanical or engine failure as being a cause of the grounding.

Meanwhile, owner Shoei Kisen has filed an appeal against the ship’s detention, which will be heard in an Egyptian court on May 4th. Shoei Kisen wants the vessel to be allowed to continue its voyage so the cargo could be delivered, while negotiations in regards to the claim continue.