

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES FOR SEA TRANSPORT

Overview

Providing members with the latest information on measures taken by various countries to combat this Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that could impact sea transport. The page might be updated several times per day, so please check back for the most recent information.

BIMCO is closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation on a global basis and will attempt to keep members updated on measures implemented by various countries to combat this outbreak which could impact sea transport:

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- › [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#) (Updated, 18 March)
- › [World Health Organization \(WHO\) - interim guidance/operational considerations on board ships](#) (Updated, 25 March)
- › [Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clauses](#)
- › [Management of Public Health Events on Board Ships - WHO Handbook](#)

- › [Port State Control Regimes \(Memorandum of Understanding\)](#) (Added, 27 March)
- › [European Union- Implementation Measures](#) (Added, 26 March)

*From 10 March 2020, Albania is officially in the list of affected countries with COVID-19. Restrictive measures, similar to those of other countries, are being imposed from the government. From 18:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs and from 10:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs there is movement curfew, and no one can be outside in the city (unless there are justifiable reasons) however the activity in the port (loading, discharging, formalities etc. are continuing as usually 24 hours).

Please note that cargo ships can be operated normally. For all, the ships that come to port, the crew is not allowed to go out to shore and no embarking or disembarking of crew is possible.

Actually in Durres port, the cargo ships continue with normal operations. During this period, only the ship agent (and the doctor) usually comes onboard to take the documents for the free pratique and no crew allowed to go out ashore.

At East Terminal (where the ship is supposed to be berthed for discharging petcoke) the commercial activity continues as per normal.*

*Source: North P&I Club

Algeria

General

Restrictions apply to all the ships coming from the following countries:

- › China
- › Vietnam
- › United Arab Emirates
- › Kuwait
- › India
- › Philippines
- › Bahrain
- › Oman
- › Cambodia
- › Iraq
- › Sri Lanka
- › Lebanon
- › Italy
- › Germany
- › United Kingdom
- › France
- › Spain
- › Russia
- › Belgium
- › Finland
- › Sweden
- › USA
- › Canada

- › Egypt
- › Nigeria
- › Nepal
- › Afghanistan

Restrictions are as follows:

- › Systematic health inspection at anchor by border health services in case of doubt quarantine of the ship
- › Limit as much as possible the shore access of the crew
- › Limit as much as possible the boarding of authorities and personnel
- › Systematic temperature checks of each person on board
- › Formally prohibit access on board by anyone with a temperature above 38 ° C
- › Below documents to be sent to the concerned authorities 24 hrs before arrival:
 - › Pre arrival documents
 - › Medical certificate of health of all members on board
 - › Crew list with date & port of embarkation
 - › Vaccination proof
 - › List of the last ten ports
 - › The last updated body temperature measurement taken during the last 24 hrs of all the members on board
- › The agent must be wearing gloves and face mask before boarding the vessel.

Coast guard has issued an instruction that all vessel must be inspected first by sanitary authorities at port and the Maritime health declaration must be sent before vessel berthing as this shall be received from master with prearrival docs. On-signers must be carrying medical certificate that proves their health and all off-signers must be inspected by port sanitary services and receive medical certificate before disembarking.

Port Restrictions

Annaba

As [per original notice \(26 February\)](#) received, any ship that has been the subject of a stopover at any Italian port will be quarantined until 'free services' are obtained.

Arzew

For vessels coming from Asia:

1. Maritime declaration according to the WHO (World health organization) international health regulations (R.S.I) article 37.
2. In case of declaration of fever or even mild respiratory problems, it would be preferable for the sanitary inspection to be carried out on road.
3. Plan a ship disinfection company to compensate for any eventuality.

For other provenance of ships:

1. Maritime declaration according to international health regulations (R.S.I)

Algiers

Coast guard issued an instruction that all vessels must be inspected first by sanitary services at ports and agents must send the Maritime health declaration before vessel berthing as this shall be received from master with prearrival docs.

If there are any declarations, the vessel will be kept on the road first. If there are no special declarations, the vessel will be berthed and inspected alongside.

Bejaia

Coast guard issued an instruction that all vessels must be inspected first by sanitary services at ports and agents must send the Maritime health declaration before vessel berthing as this shall be received from master with prearrival docs.

If there are any declarations, the vessel will be kept on the road first. If there are no special declarations, the vessel will be berthed and inspected alongside.

Ships is to email the 10 last ports and crew list to be provided to port authority prior to the ships arrival

Skikda

Coast guard issued an instruction that all vessels must be inspected first by sanitary services at ports and agents must send the Maritime health declaration before vessel berthing as this shall be received from master with prearrival docs

If there are any declarations, the vessel will be kept on the road first. If there are no special declarations, the vessel will be berthed and inspected alongside.

Sanitary doctor for vessels with Chinese crews have requested for crews list with date of sign on, in order to do inspection on road or alongside

** Temporary suspension of flights and maritime transport between Algeria and France, from Thursday 19th March as order coming from Algiers Prime Minister to the Minister of Public Works and Transport.

* *Source: [Wilhelmsen](#), ** [Algeria Press Service](#)*

Angola

On 18th March 2020, the Angolan Government by [Presidential decree](#) established provisions to close sea borders, starting on 20 March 00:00 Hours.

This regulation is to be imposed for 15 days extended to additional similar periods if considered necessary. Under this new regulation, all crew change and foreigner technical personal assistance is suspended. Nevertheless, the Angolan Government will safeguard the assistance to ship's crew in case of medical emergency.

Source: [Seatrade](#)

Argentina

*With the declaration of [Provision 1644/2020](#) the Argentine government is effectively processing restrictions of all visa applications from the following political entities:

- › Mainland China
- › Republic of Korea
- › Islamic Republic of Iran

- › Japan
- › United States of America
- › United Kingdom
- › European Union
- › Schengen Area*

** 15th March - Argentina will close its borders for 15 days to non-residents in order to contain the spread of this disease as announced by the President of Argentina on Sunday, 15th March. A day earlier, the Argentinian government published a decree establishing a 30-day ban on entry of non-residents who have travelled to a country highly affected by COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

* Source: *Vega & Co.*, ** Thomson Reuters

Australia

On 1 February 2020, Australia introduced isolation and additional border recommendations for people arriving in Australia who have left or transited through mainland China in the 14 days before arrival in Australia.

Australian citizens, permanent residents, and their immediate family, legal guardians and spouses, along with New Zealand citizens eligible for a subclass 444 visa who normally reside in Australia, are exempt from these measures.

For the marine industry, the above new requirements only apply to ships which meet the additional Coronavirus (COVID-19) requirements listed below. Ships that do not meet the requirements will follow the standard reporting and arrival procedures for Australia including reporting of ill or deceased persons.

All ship masters will be required to answer the following health screening questions as part of their entry reporting:

1. Has the ship been in mainland China in the last 14 days?
2. Has any person on the ship been in mainland China in the last 14 days?
3. Has any person on the ship been in contact with a proven case of novel coronavirus infection in the last 14 days?

For commercial ships that departed mainland China in the last 14 days

- › All crew will remain on-board while the ship is berthed in Australia.
- › Crew are only able to disembark to conduct essential ship functions and crew must wear personal protective equipment while performing these functions.
- › The restrictions above apply until 14 days has elapsed since the ship or any person on-board left mainland China

For commercial ships with crew joining from mainland China

- › Where a commercial ship has crew joining the ship and that crew have travelled to or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days, all crew are to remain on-board the ship.
- › Crew are only able to disembark to conduct essential ship functions and crew must wear personal protective equipment while performing these functions.
- › The restrictions above apply until 14 days has elapsed since the ship or any person on-board left mainland China

Some other scenarios

- › Commercial ships, from any destination, with any passengers or crew who have been ill in the previous 14 days will be put into negative pratique and no people may disembark during this time.

- › Commercial ships , from any destination, with any passengers or crew who have been in contact with a proven case of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days
- › Crew and passengers who are Australian citizens, permanent residents, their immediate family, legal guardians and spouses, will be allowed to disembark the ship. They may be required to follow self-isolation recommendations.
- › Any crew not disembarking in Australia are advised to wear a surgical mask while not on the ship when performing ship functions. They must not leave the port or they will be subject to self-isolation requirements.
- › The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will advise whether a crew change may go ahead at a particular port following application to undertake a crew change via MARS.

As of 1st March foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) who are in Iran on or after 1 March 2020, will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days, from the time they have left or transited through Iran. Australian citizens and permanent residents will still be able to enter, as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependants only). They will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the day they left Iran.

15 March update:

The Australian Government announced:

- › all travellers to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days
- › a ban on cruise liners from foreign ports arriving at Australian ports for 30 days.
- › Travel restrictions - The Australian Government announced on 12 March 2020 that travel restrictions will continue to apply to travellers arriving from any part of mainland China, Iran, Republic of Korea and Italy.

19 March update - Precautionary self-isolation requirement for commercial ships entering Australia

The Australian Border Force (ABF) via their [19th March official release](#), announced:

- › Precautionary self-isolation requirement of 14 days for all entering Australia including via aircraft and ships on 16 March.
- › Restrictions continue to apply to:
 - › Mainland China
 - › Iran
 - › Italy
 - › Republic of Korea
- › Maritime crew can leave the ship to perform their duties
- › Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn when outside the accommodation
- › PPE must be worn when non-crew members are onboard
- › Crew change is possible, if
 - › The crew transfers are done directly between the ship and airport /accommodation
 - › Self-quarantine for 14 days when in Australia

20 March update

ABF has issued [another release on 20th March](#) and announced as follows:

- › The Prime Minister of Australia announced on 19th March that from 2100 AECST 20 March, non-Australian citizens and non-Australian residents will NOT be allowed to enter Australia, via aircraft or sea ships. In addition to Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family, the following are also exempted:
 - › New Zealand citizens ordinarily resident in Australia (subclass 444 visa)

› Airline crew and maritime crew - Maritime crew includes anyone required to be part of a crew operating or providing services to support the operation of a commercial vessel or a government vessel in Australian waters. Commercial vessels is defined as any vessel involved in commercial activity or person involved in the provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors. For crew and crew changes, the above release on 19th March applies.

Tasmania - After declaring a state of emergency, the Tasmanian Government issued a [notice on 19th March](#) regarding Tasmanian border restrictions. Exemptions apply which include flight Crew and ship crew, for the limited period of delivery of persons, freight or logistics into, within and out of Tasmania, and for no other purpose.

Western Australia - See [declaration here](#) made under the Emergency Management Act for Western Australia which appears to require strict isolation measures with no exception made for seafarers joining a ship, which would have an effect on prohibiting crew changes. This seems to be in excess of ABF requirements . At the time of reporting this, BIMCO has been informed that this is being looked into and we await further development on this.

27 March on Western Australia: further restrictions to be imposed on travel from 31 March 2020. Western Australian intrastate travel is defined as movement through the boundaries of the regions of Western Australia. These regions are:

- › Perth and Peel (due to their close proximity, the Perth and Peel regions will combine into one region)
- › South West
- › Great Southern
- › Goldfields-Esperance
- › Mid-West
- › Wheatbelt
- › Gascoyne
- › Pilbara
- › Kimberley.

Western Australians will not be permitted to leave their regional boundary. Police have the power to enforce these restrictions and fines of up to \$50,000 can be issued.

Exemptions will apply for:

- › employment purposes
- › medical reasons
- › health and emergency services
- › people living in 'border communities', who may not have access to groceries or supplies within their region
- › transport of essential goods
- › compassionate grounds.

For full details on the above, please refer to the [Western Australia Government COVID-19 updates](#).

Extension of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Certificates - AMSA issued [Marine Notice 02/2020](#) taking a pragmatic approach allowing for an extension of up to 6 months.

For updated information, please click on the following links below:

- › [Restrictions on commercial ships for entry to Australia](#)
- › [Coronavirus information sheet for the marine industry](#)
- › [Australian Maritime Safety Authority \(AMSA\) handling of corona virus outbreak](#)

For precautionary measures in individual ports, we kindly refer members to the overview provided by GAC Australia. Please find the overview [here](#)

Azores

*Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, ports of the Azores Islands remain open for the following purpose of calls, to be authorised on a case-by-case basis:

- › Bunker calls
- › Receiving spare parts
- › Medical disembarkations (duly proven)
- › Repairs
- › Load/discharge operations

Crew not allowed to come ashore, unless for urgent medical attendance. No crew changes are allowed.

'Source: North P&I Club

Bahamas

24 March - The Bahamas Maritime Authority issued [Technical Alert 20-03](#) taking a pragmatic and practical approach for extensions, postponements etc relating to SEAs, certificates, seaman's record books, inspections etc. [Technical Alert 20-04](#) refers to BMA change of office hours due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Restrictions to apply via "[Emergency Powers \(COVID 19\) \(NO. 2\) Order, 2020](#)" effective 9 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and will expire at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, unless otherwise stated. According to [information provided by GAC](#), the state of emergency will be extended until 30 April. Preventative restrictions include:

- › No visitor shall be permitted to enter and disembark for any reason including transiting through The Bahamas.
- › All airports including private airports and fixed-base operations (FBOs) shall be closed to incoming international flights carrying any visitor unless written permission of the Competent Authority has been granted.
- › All sea ports shall be closed to regional and international seafaring and private boating.
- › Air and sea restrictions do not apply to: outgoing flights or ships, cargo flights or cargo ships, commercial courier flights, emergency medical flights or emergency flights approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.
- › All international visitors currently in The Bahamas are urged to immediately work with their airline to make travel arrangements to safely return home. Those who choose to remain in The Bahamas should prepare to do so for an indefinite period of time.
- › No person shall offer for hire or seek to travel on any mail boat, sailing inter island, except for transport of freight; or inter island private commercial sea transport.
- › All residents will be placed on a 24-hour curfew and are to remain at home to avoid contact outside of their family, except for those who have been deemed essential workers, or have special permission from the Commissioner of Police. Residents can leave their homes for essential travel to the doctor, grocery store, bank, pharmacy or to refuel; as well as for outside exercise, not exceeding an hour and a half per day between the hours of 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Proper social distancing guidelines of at least six feet (6ft.) must be followed at all times while outside the home.
- › All public beaches, markets and docks will be closed, and no vehicles are permitted on any public or private roads for any purpose other than stated above

To keep updated, please refer to the [Government of Bahamas: news and press releases](#).

Bahrain

According to information released by the [Ministry of Interior on 5 March](#), Bahrain will deny the entry to any individual with a travel history - including transit - within 14 days to any the following:

- › China
- › Iran
- › Iraq
- › Korea, Republic of

Additionally, [as declared on 16 March](#), **on-arrival visas** are no longer possible effective from 18 March 2020.

For the most recent restriction, please refer to the [Ministry of Interior, Nationality, passport and residence affairs](#)

Bangladesh

Vessels calling Chittagong must be declared free of Coronavirus, please see the original release [here](#) as well the [form](#) required.

According to [circular dated 23 March](#) issued by the Ministry of Shipping are all disembarkation from ships prohibited.

According to [Office Order](#) issued by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority - all types of ship operations under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade (PIWT&T) between Bangladesh and India are suspended up to 31 March 2020.

Belgium

*Antwerp: All incoming ships must present a Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH), which the master must submit 24 hours before entering the port, stating whether there are any actual or suspected cases of illness on board together with a list of the last ten ports. The ship is checked for this by Saniport. If there are any suspicions, the ship may be obliged to remain off the coast and a doctor may go on board. The ship will not get a pilot and will not be permitted to enter port.

The Port of Antwerp Covid-19 Taskforce [has] confirmed on **23 March** that the port remains 100% operational thanks to the daily efforts and commitment of all employees.

Handling on the terminals is going ahead normally, there is sufficient manpower available to deal with cargo, and drivers are arriving and departing without too much delay.

However, several points for attention are being monitored, including:

- › The different approaches of Belgium and the Netherlands. Port of Antwerp is served by Flemish and Dutch pilots. The Dutch position starts from a controlled contamination, while the Flemish standard is much stricter.
- › Manpower: at the moment everything is under control. The availability and allocation of employees is essential for correct functioning of all port services. In addition, fall-back scenarios are being drawn up to assure continuity of service.*

20th March - Directorate-General for Shipping Policy support issued [instructions](#) for crew leaving ships and crew change in Belgian ports. In short, they are as follows:

- › Crew Change: due to travel restrictions in Belgium and other European countries, change of crew in Belgian ports is difficult at this time. Recommended: no crew change in Belgian ports. If the maximum time of crew members on board is about to exceed, please contact the flag State administration for further instructions

- › Shore Leave: crew members are still allowed to leave the ship during their stay in a Belgian port. However they have to be compliant with the current Belgian measures. This means that they are not allowed to leave the vessel in group, maximum two persons at the time and always keep a distance of 1,5 meter.
- › General Recommendations: all crew members to stay on board as much as possible and to avoid any contact with local inhabitants as much as possible.

**Source: North P&I Club*

Benin

*20 March - The Benin government has decided to restrict entry and exit at its land borders, effective from 19 March. Only crossing judged necessary will be allowed. Quarantine will be automatically applied to any person attempting to not follow the restrictions.

Visas will be restricted. Government reserve their rights to deny visa to any applicants as from now until further notice. All travelers arriving in Benin by flight will be conveyed automatically and compulsorily to quarantine zones for 14 days.

Quarantine zones are hotels requisitioned by government. Quarantine costs are on foreign travellers' account.

Port calls are still going on. However, vessel berthing and cargo operations will be delayed, with a possible waiting time of up to 4 hours. Berthing is now subjected to Cotonou Port Authorities' approval based on information provided at least 72 hours prior to arrival (vessel port of call list, Maritime Declaration of Health, crew list mentioning place of embarkation, health declaration for crew members duly filled out).

Green light for cargo operations will be granted only after proper health authorities inspection carried out. Anticipate a delay up to 6 hours.*

**Source: North P&I Club*

Brazil

According to an announcement from ANVISA (Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency), all foreign flagged ships are required to go through a medical evaluation prior to issuing the mandatory certificate of free pratique. See the original release [here](#)

Please view local restrictions for the ports of Paranagua and Antonina here [port service order 012/20](#)

For the latest news from Brazilian health authorities, click [here](#)

20 March - referring to port operations, the Ministry of Infrastructure classified logistics services as essential for the country, reporting that measures will be adopted to safeguard the stevedores and workers on site, guaranteeing the vessels operations. The health authorities' procedures remain the same, with the master reporting medical conditions on board upon arrival at anchorage, aiming to obtain the free pratique. Vessel's with possible cases of Coronavirus, will be submitted to quarantine and the infected crew member moved to a hospital for treatment.

24 March: all major ports, airports and land corridors are open and functioning normally, amid government guarantees to protect the workers and ensure the continuity of cargo operations and logistics services during the pandemic. There are no reports of port congestions or delays in bunker supply and cargo delivery. The transit of seafarers (for shore leave and crew change) is restricted or is not permitted in some ports and terminals.

*For the latest news, view [Proinde's dedicated page](#).

*Source: North P&I Club

Bulgaria

Mandatory requirement to provide information of any crew boarding the ship from international waters for the past 14 days prior to ship arrival. The required information is the crew name, date, and port of boarding, etc., which is part of the health declaration.

The agent must monitor the local electronic clearance system for comments published and in case the ship is not approved by the health inspectorate due to potential threat etc., the representative(s) of health and border police authorities will board the ship first for health inspection. They should wear protective equipment and perform thermo-scanning of the crew by a contact-free thermometer to avoid any clearance delays.

Ship agents shall receive instructions prohibiting the crew to disembark the ship and/ or limit any human contacts with crew and passengers on board minimum 14 days from the last voyage originating from any of high risk considered territories (see below). The instructions /prescriptions must be duly relayed to Captain/ crew and all authorities concerned. The instructions shall bear prescriptions of how the loading-discharging operations should be done, under minimal human contact and with mandatory PPE protection

Measures should be inserted in field "Remarks" in the Government vessel electronic clearance system

Health inspectors are first to board the ship for a detailed inspection and temperature measure of crew and passengers.

For crew arriving via domestic airports, there are thermo-cameras installed which do the necessary screening

During the ship's stay, in case any of the crew is showing symptoms corresponding to these of coronavirus, the agent must be immediately informed to alarm and act as per the instructions received from health inspectorate.

Territories considered as a primary source for COVID-19 transmission: China, Italy, Iran and Korea.

*Source: Wilhelmsen

Cameroon

According to a circular issued by the Port Authorities of Cameroon, all ships calling from countries at risk (not otherwise specified) must wait at outside port limits for a minimum of 14 days, before medical evaluation. A positive evaluation is required before berthing is permitted. Please find the original release [here](#)

Canada

Transport Canada issued [Marine Security Notice #2020-003](#) giving temporary measures to all foreign flagged ships, in particular pre-arrival information 96 and 24 hours requirements on health conditions of crew members and passengers. The said notice has also similar measures, though less stringent for domestic ships.

25 March- The Canadian government has announced that all borders are closed to all foreign nationals except US citizens until 30 June 2020. According to information provided at the Canadian Governments [website](#), airline or marine crew members are exempted. See also Transport Canada's [Ship Safety Bulletin](#) confirming the unrestricted movement of seafarers/crew members.

According to North P&I Club (23 March) - When flying into Canada, such seafarers must have in their possession a seafarer identity document issued in accordance with the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 2003 (ILO Convention No 185) supplemented by a passport; or other seafarer documentation, including proof of employment by a vessel operating out of a Canadian port; and a visa, if required.

Chile

19 March update: According to information provided by [Waypoint Port Services](#), the Chilean borders are closed and crew change prohibited. Please see the original press release [here](#)

Information on any suspected cases should be forwarded to the relevant authority. Please see the original release [here](#) (in Spanish)

China

According to [the Chinese Foreign Ministry](#), China is temporarily suspending entry of all foreign nationals effective from 00.00 28 March with the following visa exceptions:

- › Diplomatic
- › Service
- › Courtesy
- › C (maritime and airline crew)

See the most recent news from China Briefing [here](#) for updated information.

Hong Kong, SAR

According to [Notice to all shipping agents in Hong Kong](#), dated 18 March, effective from 19 March and for a duration of three months, the local government is imposing 14 days quarantine to people arriving at Hong Kong from foreign places. Crew members are exempted from these quarantine regulations.

Click [here](#) to check for latest press releases from the Hong Kong Center for health Protection.

Taiwan

With effect from 7 February 2020, Taiwan bans entry of foreign nationals who have visited China in previous 14 days, notwithstanding being eligible for visa-free treatment, landing visas as well as valid visas. Exceptions apply which would include medical certification. Please read [press release](#) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for full details.

With effect from 10 February 2020, Taiwan imposes home quarantine for all travelers transiting through other parts of China. Please see the original release [here](#)

Please find the latest press releases from the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control [here](#)

Colombia

Colombian Maritime Authority's measures: undertake an exhaustive verification by port health authority of health conditions of seafarers that have been recently to Asian ports.* If voyage has been less than 15 days, ships coming from China will be automatically quarantined by port health authority to complete the 15 days incubation time as required. All crew changes must be reported in advance to the Colombian port authorities. Chinese crew must carry a medical report (recent) and informed to State Health Authority in advance by agents and will be observed during their transfer.

All seafarers while at port must wear mask, gloves inside forecastle and on deck.*

Congo

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date and maritime health declaration.
- › All trade vessels will go through temperature check and screening by port health before boarding team will be allowed on board.
- › Vessel will only be quarantined if coming from infected countries, and stay anchorage or if master reports any illness on board which give reason for checking of suspected cases. Period 15 Days. Still not officially confirmed as a method by authorities.
- › All boarders closed and flights suspended unless cargo flights.

Source: *OBT Shipping*

Congo, DR

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date and maritime health declaration.
- › All trade vessels will go through temperature check and screening by port health before boarding team will be allowed on board.
- › Vessel will only be quarantined if master reports any illness on board which give reason for checking of suspected cases. Period 14 Days
- › All passenger flights has been suspended in 30 days since 20.03.20

Source: *OBT Shipping*

Cyprus

*13 March - latest directive was issued by the Ministry of Health today and comes into effect as from 14th March which basically provides as follows:

Category 1: Mandatory quarantine, under medical supervision, at their home (if available) or at a place designated by the Ministry of Health for 14 days after departure from any of the below countries irrespective of any apparent symptoms:

- › Hubei Province of China
- › Italy
- › Iran
- › Republic of Korea.

Category 2: Self-isolation and telephone surveillance at their home or place designated by the Ministry of Health (avoiding close contact and travel, observing basic hygiene rules, monitoring and reporting symptoms at hotline 1420) for 14 days after departure from the following countries:

- › China (excluding Hubei Province)
- › Japan
- › Hong Kong
- › Germany
- › France

- › Spain
- › Greece (Territory of Achaia, Ilias and Zakynthos)
- › United Kingdom
- › Switzerland

Category 3: Self-monitoring (with instructions for adhering to basic hygiene rules and restricting travel to the most necessary) and in the event of symptoms to call hotline at 1420, for 14 days after leaving the following countries:

- › Greece (excluding Achaia, Iliia and Zakynthos)
- › Netherlands
- › Sweden
- › Belgium
- › Singapore

The Directive provides that all passengers in categories 1 and 2 will be directed to the doctor's airport office whereas at ports self-isolation will be limited to cabins.

Given the above any passengers / crew arriving from Italy will not be disembarked unless the 14 day period has passed, irrespective of any sign of symptoms. No directive or law has been issued by the Authorities with respect to "detaining" a ship. Although a ship may be cleared in (given that no physical contact is required to clear her in) the crew / passengers arriving from countries in categories 1 and 2 will not be permitted to disembark unless the measures contained in the directive are complied with. Once the 14 days have passed then the crew / passengers can be disembarked.

Please also note that agents have also been requested to provide the [questionnaire](#) to crew and passengers for completion prior to entry and submission the Authorities.

For your information preventative measures have this week been implemented with all schools in the Republic of Cyprus closed as from today until 23rd March and gatherings of more than 75 persons being banned. The government is set to introduce new measures which will be announced this evening by the President of the Republic of Cyprus. All borders with the Turkish occupied territory of Cyprus have closed until further notice.

As of 16 March 2020 (18:00 hours) until 30 April 2020, entry into Cyprus will only be permitted to citizens – regardless of nationality – who fall into the following categories provided that they hold a medical certificate confirming that they are free of the virus (issued within 4 days prior to the date of travel). Such certificate may only be obtained from designated centres in each country. Furthermore, upon arrival to Cyprus such persons will be quarantined for a period of 14 days in government quarantine facilities. It should be noted however, that practical difficulties in many countries are inhibiting the issuing of the required medical certificates thereby making travelling to Cyprus almost impossible.

- › Cypriot citizens.
- › Legal residents in the Republic of Cyprus.
- › European nationals or third-country nationals working in the Republic
- › Nationals of countries who are in a designated diplomatic service or mission under bilateral or international conventions.
- › Individual cases of European nationals or third-country nationals for unavoidable professional obligations, provided that the relevant authorization has been obtained from the competent Ministry.
- › European or third country citizens attending educational institutions in the Republic of Cyprus.

All surveyors and agents have been advised by the Cyprus Ports Authority that they are not permitted to go onboard vessels if they can carry out their work electronically (e.g. dealing with forms). Those who must attend onboard (e.g. for loading/discharge operations, taking samples etc) must do so only once the Master confirms in writing to the relevant port authority that the crew

will be isolated and kept away from those going onboard.

No crew changes are permitted (embarkation / disembarkation) within the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus.*

As of 18 March 2020, the Shipping Deputy Ministry will not be allowing the public access to its offices. However, services (e.g., register of Cyprus ships, flag state control matters, seafarers certification, maritime safety matters etc) will still be rendered by having certain measures in places which can be viewed in their [circular No.6/2020](#).

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Denmark

The Danish Government announced effective Saturday 14 March 2020 at 12:00 noon, the existing temporary border control will be expanded to include control of all of Denmark's borders as part of the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. This measure is expected to include a complete or partial closure of a significant number of train, air, and ferry routes for passenger traffic. Furthermore, this will also include a complete stop of all cruise ship traffic to Denmark. These border control measures will remain in effect at least until 13 April 2020.

Persons wishing to enter Denmark must expect to be rejected entry at the Danish borders, including in Danish airports, unless they have a worthy purpose for entering, e.g. if the person lives or works in Denmark or has been commissioned to provide goods or services in Denmark.

As regards the transport of goods, there is a strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining and not delaying the necessary supply chains, including food supply and Denmark's imports and exports to and from other countries. Therefore, there will not be blanket border control inspections of goods transport.

The Danish authorities are in dialogue with the carrier industry to plan an expedient implementation of these efforts so that they do not cause greater obstacles than necessary for suppliers of goods

* *Source: The Danish Police Authority , the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Dominican Republic

* 17 March:

1. Cruise ships are not being allowed to dock in Dominican ports for the period of 30 days as of today 16th March 2020.
2. All flights inbound and outbound are suspended between the Dominican Republic and Europe, China, South Korea and Iran for the period of 30 days as of 16 March 2020.
3. A quarantine requirement is being imposed for visitors who have been in any of the above listed countries during the previous two weeks.
4. Health screenings have been placed at airports and all arriving passengers must complete a travel history form.
5. Ship cargo operations are being carried out normally at all ports for now. We strongly recommend that all crew must stay on board.

The National Epidemiological Monitoring System (SINAVE) must be notified of any person presenting symptoms of the virus. Notification to the National Liaison Center for International Health Regulations (CNE-DIGEPI) could be performed by telephone, any day of the week, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at 1-(809) 686-9140 or toll free at 1-(809) 200-4091, from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am, also via mobile phone (829)-542-7009.

* Source: North P&I Club

Egypt

According to [circular 10/2020](#) ([Free translation](#) in English) issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population and provided to BIMCO by local members, all travellers will be subject to medical screening upon arrival. Any person suffering from high temperature - above 38 degrees Celsius - and at least one symptom of acute respiratory illness will be subject to a secondary screening and potentially transfer to a local designated hospital. The circular doesn't explicitly mention any period of quarantine.

** Minimum contact and strict use of PPE. In practice, the working mechanism consists of Authorities checking all ships arriving from the listed countries at outer anchorage.

In cases of only 1 suspect case/sick person, crew is disembarked, ship disinfected, all returned on board and ship allowed to enter port.

In cases with 2 or more sick crew members, ship is to remain at roads in quarantine.

Risk areas widened to include Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore, Iran, Italy, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain and Thailand.

Disinfection is carried out by the state Quarantine Department at the ports.**

**17 March:

- › All vessels arriving for Suez Canal Transit and/or entering Egyptian Ports will be subject to the examination by the Medical Quarantine
- › Special attention will be given to those vessels coming from Chinese ports and/or any other hot spots. If any crew members are suspected of being infected or any actual case is detected, the vessel will be held from transiting the Canal or entering the ports.
- › Personnel dealing with those vessels (including but not limited to; pilots, agencies, mooring crew, etc.) will be recorded by the Medical quarantine, and will have a permit to board (confirming that they are free from inspection), it is also possible that they will be further examined/monitored upon disembarking.
- › Egyptian ports are open but are implementing precautionary and preventative measures.
- › So far there have been no reports of disruption to shipping through the Suez Canal.
- › The east side of Port Said is closed, while the west side remains open with limited operations. The port of Alexandria is only accepting vessels to discharge cargoes and the port of Damietta is restricted to container ship activity only.
- › Surveyors have not been told of any restrictions imposed on boarding vessels to carry out surveys.**

* Source: [Fairtrans Marine, Trading & Forwarding S.A. E.](#), [Pan Marine Shipping Services](#), [Khedivial Marine Agency S.A.E](#), [Inchcape Shipping Service](#) and [Kadmar Shipping](#)

**Source: North P&I Club

Equatorial Guinea

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list + other documents.
- › Vessels will be cleared at anchorage and screening will be done
- › Crew change not possible any longer and airport has been closed for passenger traffic.

Source: [OBT Shipping](#)

France

Depending on the requirements of the French ports, certain documents are given to / required by ships and crew: [Travellers' Advice \(TA\)](#) issued by the French Ministry of Health, [Déclaration Maritime de Santé \(DMS – health maritime declaration form\)](#) and [Lorient questionnaire](#).

*24 March - Information as follows:

- › Except for performing security & safety tasks related to their vessel, crew members are subject to confinement measures and are no longer permitted to disembark during calls.
- › As for crew changes, the European Union having now officially closed its borders, all crew changes are suspended for non-EU crew members as they are no longer allowed in or out of the country. As for EU crew members, situation will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Authorities and under the strict provision that the repatriation can be proven “necessary/essential”. (BIMCO advice: *please see EU section for details*)
- › French ports are still operating, most of them normally, some on a downgraded scale. Stevedoring companies are still working with limited personnel, and Agents around the country are now reduced to a bare-minimum staff and limiting their attendance onboard vessels to a strict minimum to avoid contact.
- › All the services of the Ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Paris are reported operational.
- › Surveyors across the country have confirmed to date that, while they are prepared to attend urgent and important matters onboard vessels with the necessary protective gear and measures in place, they will most probably have to reconsider more simple assignments (such as draft surveys, pre-loadings and so on) on a case-by-case basis as such might be considered as “non-essential” by the Authorities in case of control.

Ports in France will also have local restrictions. Please refer to ship agents SEA INVEST for [details](#). *

*Source: North P&I Club

Gabon

*Preventive measures at the following ports as [per Information Note](#):

Gabon

Any ship must send to the Harbour Master's office of the port of call, three (03) days before its arrival:

- › The list of the ten (10) last ports called
- › The list of crews changed and the visas of the last ten countries called by these crews.

Libreville

Any ship coming from or having called at least one of the ports of the countries in the grip of the epidemic (see list of countries below), whose duration of departure from these ports until arrival at the port is between fifteen (15) and twenty eight (28) days, the procedure for accessing the port is as follows:

- › Give the information on the on-board health certificate;
- › Give the list of crews, copies of passports and up-to-date seaman's books.

If the ship calls in a country plagued by an epidemic in the 14 days preceding its arrival at the port :

- › Fourteen (14) day quarantine of the vessel;
- › Morning and evening temperature control by medical and / or paramedical staff;
- › During this entire emergency period, gloves, FFP2 masks and the application of hydro-alcoholic solutions will be required for health workers and all other stakeholders of the port platform who may be in contact with so-called suspect ships ;

- › The medical and / or paramedical staff followed by the Inspectors of the National Institute of Public Hygiene and Sanitation, will board the ships before berthing at the same time as the pilots, all with adequate PPE;
- › Access to these ships is prohibited for any person before the advice and disembarkation of medical and / or paramedical staff and that of INHPA,
- › No crew member is allowed to alight from the ship until further notice,
- › No crew change is authorized until further notice in the Ports of Libreville,

Any breach of these provisions exposes the offender (s) to the sanctions provided for this purpose.

List of countries or cases of coronavirus have been detected: Apart of the Republic of China, the following countries are considered at risk:

Japan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Australia, Germany, Taiwan, Usa, Macao, Vietnam, France, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Philippines, Russia, Italy, India, England, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Nepal, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Malaysia, Australia, Belgium*

* Source: North P&I Club

Gambia

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date.
- › Vessels will be cleared at anchorage by health before receiving green light to proceed usual inward clearance and granted free practice is done alongside if vessel clear the health check at anchorage.
- › No quarantine period announced for vessels coming from affected countries.
- › No specific measurement announced for vessels with suspected cases, however individuals will be quarantined.
- › All crew changes has been suspended, thus cargo transport still available.
- › Travelers from any affected countries will be sent in 14 days quarantine.
- › SN brussels (21.03 – 19.04) and Royal Air Maroc will suspend flights from Banjul.

Source: *OBT Shipping*

Ghana

All the country's land, sea and air borders will be closed from midnight 22 March.

The Ghana Port Harbours Authority (GPHA) has set up an interagency committee to initiate and apply standard operating procedures (SOPS) in the ports of Takoradi and Tema.

On 17 March, ships calling in Tema and Takoradi must now follow the following procedures:

- › 7 days before their expected arrival, vessels should complete and return by email the attached [COVID-19 form](#);
- › When the vessel comes within the 25-mile VHF signal zone, it should start emailing daily updates on the crew's health to the Harbour Master and the Incident Commander in his capacity as the Director of GPHA Health Services. Full contact details are provided in the circular.
- › Before berthing, all vessels arriving in Tema and Takoradi must anchor at Quarantine Anchorage pending clearance by Port Health Inspectors.
- › Fully-gowned Port Health inspectors will use the GPHA launch to board the vessel where they will screen crew members by taking their temperatures and reviewing both their COVID-19 forms and their Maritime Health Declarations.

If a suspected case is found:

- › A sample for testing will be taken from the suspected case and any crew members who have been in contact with the suspected case will be confined to their cabins. If necessary, the suspected case will receive first aid on board.
- › The vessel must fly the yellow flag and both national and port security forces will ensure that nobody enters a 100 m perimeter around the vessel.
- › The launch boat used to board the vessel will be fumigated.
- › GPHA expects test results to be available within 6-12 hours.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 onboard:

- › The confirmed case will be evacuated taking strict precautions to avoid contagion.
- › The vessel will be quarantined at anchorage for 14 days.

If the result is negative but the sick crew member needs further medical attention, he will be disembarked for treatment at Tema General Hospital and the vessel will be allowed to berth in the usual manner. If no suspected case is found, the vessel will be authorized to berth.

** Source P&I Club*

Gibraltar

[Port Circular 7](#) issued by Gibraltar Port Authority prohibits all crew change.

For the latest circulars, we kindly refer to [Gibraltar Port Authority](#)

Source: GAC

Greece

20 March - Extensions of Seafarers' Employment Agreements (SEAs)

[Circular](#) issued by the Hellenic Republic Authorities on the above.

*According to [information from the Ministry of Shipping](#) provided by local members, there are currently no operational restrictions to shipping as per 4 March. Suspected cases should be isolated and treated onboard.

For the latest information, please refer to the [Ministry of Shipping](#) (In Greek)*

**For ships coming from countries where the virus is in a wide outbreak, all port personnel who visit on board and/or liaise with the ship's crew must wear simple protective face masks and maintain a minimum distance of more than 1 metre from any other person. Same measures apply to all visitors, either seafarers, surveyors, technical or vessel representatives included.

For all ships docked in Piraeus Port Authority/ Piraeus Container Terminal premises, regardless of the country of origin, for crew disembarkation/return, a private car provided by the ship agent will be used for the crew transportation. Pick up and drop off point is the ship's ladder and the crew will in no way mingle with the port employees. Same measure applies for the transportation of all visitors who wish to enter the port facility. It should be clarified that any private bus, mini bus or taxi arranged by the agent for this purpose, should be accompanied to/from the ship by a private car provided by the agent.

The port personnel is recommended to minimize contact with the ships' crew and communications with the ships are carried out by email to the extent possible.

Compulsory use of face masks and protective gloves is followed by stevedores who go on board to carry out their tasks.

There are private companies engaged in disinfection, however when a ship is believed to have been possibly affected by the disease, the State Hygiene Authorities will initiate action and decide for the measures to be taken. **

* Source: [Patrikios Shipping](#), ** North P&I Club

Guinea

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date.
- › Vessels will be cleared at alongside and checked by port health for temperature control on arrival as well as requested for implementing hand sanitizing measures while alongside. Also PPE will be requested to be used
- › No quarantine period announced for vessels coming from affected countries.
- › No specific measurement announced for vessels with suspected cases, however individuals may be quarantined.
- › All airports has been closed effective 21.03.20 for a 30 days period or until further notice.

Source: [OBT Shipping](#)

Guinea Bissau

- › No Specific statements related to vessel inward clearance as of yet from authorities of Guinea Bissau.
- › No crew will be allowed to disembark the vessel.
- › All movement from land or airport has been closed as of 18.03.2020 until further notice.

Source: [OBT Shipping](#)

Guyana

According to [Notice to Mariners Advisory \(1\)](#) with regards to COVID19 are all seaports closed to international ships with the exception of international merchant ships. No shore leave or crew change shall be granted.

Follow the [Maritime Administration Department](#) for the most recent circulars.

Haiti

As of midnight, Monday 16 March 2020, the government has implemented flight restrictions and closure of the border with the Dominican Republic. All flights to and from Haiti and destinations in the Dominican Republic, Canada, Latin America and Europe will be suspended for two weeks. Flights between Haiti and the United States will continue.

The Government of Haiti stated that all travelers from the U.S. must have a document showing that they have tested negative for coronavirus before boarding. The Government of Haiti did not specify what proof passengers should present and has not yet provided instructions to airlines.

The Government of Haiti will continue to conduct health screenings for arriving passengers.

The Minister of Interior announced that the border with the Dominican Republic will be closed to passenger traffic, but goods crossing the border will still be permitted if personnel transporting the goods are screened at the border.

CPS Terminal at Port au Prince is implementing the IMO's guidance. The Port Authority has not issued yet any memorandum

regarding the other terminals.

Ship cargo operations are being carried out normally at all ports for now. Strongly recommended that all crew must stay on board.

**Source: North P&I Club*

India

The Indian government has imposed restrictions on landing permits to Chinese citizens and foreigners residing in China. Please find the original release [here](#). Please find a port statement from Chennai addressing the same issue [here](#).

The Directorate General of Shipping has issued the following circulars:

- › [Mumbai No.3](#)
- › [No. 5 \(Indian seafarers on crew change\)](#),
- › [No. 6 \(extension of seafarer certificates\)](#)
- › [Clarification note of 24 March](#)

The above clarification note in short clarified - no restriction of sign on/sign off of Indian seafarers in ports of India. However, utmost caution to be exercised in respect of sign off in foreign ports due to international and/or domestic travel restrictions imposed by their authorities. Also, stoppage of immigration of passenger traffic at 107 check posts including all sea ports is applicable only for passengers and NOT crew.

Each port must prepare standard operation procedure to prevent the import of coronavirus from maritime transportation. The consequence – with exceptions – is that different requirements apply to each port.

Please find below highlighted points:

- › Shore leave is prohibited if the vessel has recently called on infected countries or countries in South East Asia. Both categories are unspecified. This applies at least to Paradip, Odisha and Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- › Certain medical PPE must be kept on board such as gloves and face masks. This applies to Chennai and ports in Gujarat and Maharashtra
- › Extended health declaration, temperature screening and similar office procedures apply in most ports and states.

Original releases from states:

- › [State of Tamil Nadu](#)
- › [State of Goa](#)
- › [State of Gujarat](#)
- › [State of Maharashtra](#)

Original releases from individual ports:

- › [Dhamra](#)
- › [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)
- › [Kakinada](#)
- › [Krishnapatnam](#)
- › [Paradip](#)
- › [Mormugoa](#)

- › Tuticorin
- › Visakhapatnam

Original releases on port Standard operation procedures

- › SOP on Haldia and Kolkata, West Bengal
- › Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- › SOP on Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Indonesia

*18 March - the following will be implemented at all Indonesian ports:

- › Incoming ships from all other countries will first be inspected by Quarantine officer at anchorage.
- › Nobody can come on board, no loading activity can be conducted before arrival inspection by quarantine officer is completed. Free Pratique will only be granted if crew are not suspected of coronavirus all crew are in good condition after inspection completed.
- › Arrival inspection will take about 2-3 hours by quarantine officer at outer anchorage. If any crew member is suspected to have the coronavirus disease, all activity will be suspended and vessel will be quarantined. She will not be allowed to proceed alongside jetty or load at anchorage, and shall wait for quarantine officer's decision with indefinite waiting time.
- › Any person who has spent the last 14 days or more in mainland China is not allowed to enter, or transit, through Indonesia and Indonesian ports.*

The Indonesian port of Tanjung Priok requires a pneumonia-free declaration prior to arrival including the last 10 ports of call. Please see the original release [here](#) (in Indonesian).

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Iraq

*17 March - Ministry of Communications General company of Ports for Iraq have informed all agents that Masters of ships that have called at a Chinese port within the last 30 days before arriving in Iraq are requested to provide a statement 3 days before arriving in Iraqi territorial waters that crew onboard do not have any symptoms of corona virus (high temperature, sore throat, coughing or breathing difficulties).

If any such symptoms are noted, the Master should inform port authority prior to arrival and await further instructions.

The Iraqi government has imposed curfew in all cities of Iraq starting from 11 PM Tuesday 17th of March until 11 PM 23rd of March except for medical staff. As of now the impact on port operations is unknown.*

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Ireland

Port authorities may refuse the arrival of a ship unless a health declaration form has been filed. This applies to the following:

- › Ships with previous port calls to China within the past 30 days of arrival
- › Crew members or passengers with recent travel history to China
- › Suspected COVID-19 cases onboard
- › Suspected contact with COVID-19 cases

Please find the original release [Marine Notice 06 of 2020](#)

20 March 2020 - The Irish Maritime Administration (IMA) issued marine notice [No.14 of 2020](#) , providing procedures allowing for a temporary extension to the validity of seafarer certificates; giving an extension of 6 months from date of expiry. The same applies for SEAs. If a crew member needs to leave the ship due to urgent circumstances and cannot be replaced immediately due to COVID-19 travel restrictions the shipowner/Company manager should contact the Marine Survey Office for a dispensation or revised MSMD (minimum safe manning document) as may be applicable. For port state control inspections, the IMA will accept expired seafarer certificates of competency/proficiency and medical certificates as long as letters of dispensation by their flag State administration are produced. This marine notice shall expire on 31 August 2020 and the provisions outlined therein will no longer be applicable. However, towards the end of August, a further marine notice will be issued to update status.

23 March 2020 - IMA issued marine notice [No.15 of 2020](#), providing information relating to extensions and postponement pertaining to statutory certificates, audits and inspections for Irish-registered ships.

Israel

Restrictions may apply if the ship has called any of below countries and regions or any person onboard have a recent travel history within 14 days to the same:

- › Australia
- › Austria
- › Mainland China
- › France
- › Germany
- › Hong Kong
- › Italy
- › Japan
- › Macau
- › Singapore
- › South Korea
- › Spain
- › Switzerland
- › Taiwan
- › Thailand

Please find the original release [here](#) and [amendment here](#)

According to instructions from [Israel Shipyards Port](#) provided to BIMCO by local members are crew onboard ships in Israeli shipyards prohibited from leaving the living area and deck house unless explicit permission is provided from VP Operation.

For the Port of Ashod, berthing is possible, but crew mobility is restricted if the ship or any onboard has been in any of the above mentioned countries. Please find the port circular [here](#)

* Source: [ICL Fertilizers](#)

Italy

All ships should forward a request for free patique (Please find a copy [here](#)) and a health declaration (Please find a copy [here](#)) 6 hours prior to arrival. Please find the original release [here](#) (in Italian)

*There are no limitations for ships entering the ports of Trieste and Monfalcone. The Trieste and Monfalcone Port Authority have issued a [note dated 24 February 2020](#) which provides advice for ships. In case of coronavirus the ship will remain at roads and the infected person will be disembarked by means of Harbour Master's launch boat with health assistance on board.

Agents will board the ships with masks and/or protective suits.

Italy's prime minister published a decree on 9 March "laying down urgent measures to contain and manage the epidemiological emergency brought on by COVID-19" and extending the emergency measures introduced by the previous day's decree to all of Italy. The measures will be in force until 3 April, subject to any further measures being introduced. In brief, people must avoid travelling anywhere in the country. The head of Italy's Civil Protection Service advise that the travel restrictions: (a) do not apply to the transport and transit of goods or to the entire supply chain to and from the affected areas; and (b) do not prevent individuals from travelling for work- or health-related reasons, or for other needs. *

On 10th March, the Port of Ravenna advised that the port remains operational despite the town being in lockdown.

23 March: As per [BIMCO news piece](#), the Italian Ports Association has given the following assurance:

- › Operations in ports are carried out with adequate measures.
- › Ports are, therefore, fully operational with all their regular services guaranteeing complete functionality of all those offices dedicated to control and verification (i.e. Port Authority, Customs, Harbour Master, Health department offices and so on).
- › All restrictions enforced by the Italian Government are referred only to the Cruise sector.
- › The measures adopted by the Government in no way restrict the transport of cargo in the country. The precautionary obligation of the so-called "Free Sanitary Practice" issued by the Local Office of Maritime Health remains in force. This document authorizes ships to berth, and all Italian ports are equipped and ready to apply any new measures deemed necessary by the Italian Office of Civil Defence, without compromising cargo operations.

*The Courts remain operative only for urgent procedures, such as arrest or payment injunctions, which can be filed electronically (system now in use in Italy).Mediation and negotiation proceedings are suspended until 15th April 2020. All time bars and prescription terms expiring between 9th March 2020 and 15th April 2020 are suspended. *

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Ivory Coast

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date.
- › All trade vessels will go through temperature check and screening by port health.
- › Any suspected persons will be quarantined at a nominated hospital for blood testing.
- › Vessel will only be quarantined at anchorage if master reports any illness on board which give reason for checking of suspected cases. Period 14 days.
- › All international flights has been suspended.
- › A curfew has been initiated, thus not affecting operations in ports.

Source: OBT Shipping

Japan

23 March - Japan's Ministry of Justice is denying permission to land to the following foreigners, unless the circumstances are exceptional:

Foreigners who have stayed in any of the following cities/provinces/regions within 14 days prior to the application for landing:

- › People's Republic of China: Hubei Province, Zhejiang Province
- › Republic of Korea: Daegu-guangyeok-si, or Cheondo-gun, Gyeongsan-si, Andong-si, Yeongcheon-si, Chilgok-gun, Uiseong-gun, Seongju-gun, Gunwigun in Gyeongsangbuk-do
- Islamic Republic of Iran: Gilan Province, Qom Province, Tehran Province, Alborz Province, Isfahan Province, Qazvin Province, Golestan Province, Semnan Province, Mazandaran Province, Markazi Province, Lorestan Province
- › Italy: Veneto Region, Emilia-Romagna Region, Piedmont Region, Marche Region, Lombardy Region, Aosta Valley Region, Trentino-South Tyrol Region, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Liguria Region
- › San Marino: whole country
- › Swiss Confederation: Canton of Ticino, Canton of Basel-Stadt
- › Spain: Chartered Community of Navarre, Basque Autonomous Community, Community of Madrid, La Rioja
- › Iceland: whole country
- › Foreigners who have Chinese passports issued in Hubei Province or Zhejiang Province in the People's Republic of China.
- › Foreigners who were on the cruise ship, Westerdam, departed from Hong Kong.

* Source: North P&I Club

Kazakhstan

24 March 2020 - Kazakhstan announced one-month state of emergency until 15 April. Servicing of ships from Azerbaijan and Iran at the sea ports of Aktau and Kuryk has been suspended as a temporary measure. Crews of foreign cargo vessels are not permitted to leave their ships and the transportation of people and vehicles with drivers has also been halted.

*Source: North P&I Club

Kenya

The following ships are subject to early screening before berthing:

- › Ships with recent calls to China
- › Ships with onboard crew members with recent travel history to China
- › Ships with suspected cases onboard

Please see the original release [here](#)

Please see the news section on Kenya Ports Authorities website [here](#) for the most recent news.

Korea, Republic of

For ships arriving at Korean ports from or via China, the National Quarantine Station and related authorities have set up an enhanced screening measures for the crew on board.

National Quarantine Station officers are boarding those ships to check the body temperatures of each crew along with handing out questionnaires to be filled out personally by all crew members.(source: *Spark International*)

Free pratique will only be granted after passing the above onboard quarantine inspection.

*Restrictions on crew changes etc for Chinese seafarers or those who embarked in China

The following crew/passenger are restricted to enter Korea:

1. All Chinese seafarers with passport issued in Hubei province is prohibited to enter Korea
2. All valid Korean visa issued in Hubei province has temporarily lost its effect until further notice.
3. All foreigners that have visited Hubei province in the past 14 days is prohibited to enter Korea.
4. All foreigners transit without visa to Jeju Island in Korea has temporarily lost its effect

Other potential restrictions due to Coronavirus

- › All crews (Chinese, Filipino, Indian..) who intend to join/disembark to/from the vessel in Korea are allowed to enter Korea require a VISA. Transit passengers without a VISA for Chinese and foreigners from China will not be allowed.
- › Hong Kong and Macau are now designated as countries affected by Coronavirus. Fever monitoring of all crew and crew members of ships arriving from Hong Kong and Macau and a concentrated quarantine inspection for all crews and passengers will be conducted.
- › Cruise ships are not allowed to call at any port in Korea temporarily. However, if the cruise ship needs bunkering and store supplies without disembarking from the ship, she can call at anchorage only.*

25 March - In light of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the United States and the rise in the number of imported cases from the US, starting 0:00 of 27 March, a stronger screening process will be applied for inbound travellers from the United States. To keep updated, please refer to [Korea Center for Disease Control & Prevention \(KCDC\)/Press Releases](#)

* Source: *Wilhemsen*

Kuwait

* With clear reference to IMO [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.2](#), the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health have issued a [clarification note to Circular no. 3](#), which now recommends cargo ships from the below mentioned high risk areas to be able to berth, while prohibiting direct contact with the crew and preventing them from disembarking. This measure will be under the continuous co-ordination with the Port Health Section - Ministry of Health :

- › China and Hong Kong
- › Italy
- › Japan
- › Singapore
- › South Korea
- › Thailand

Regardless of the above, all arrivals irrespective of nationality with a travel history within 14 days to any of the above-mentioned countries are banned according to [Circular no. 3](#).

***Kuwaiti Ports Authority announced that due to the recent increase in cases in Iran, the Kuwait port authorities have suspended all ship movements from Iran for ships calling Kuwait with immediate effect until further notice.

With effect from 6 March, the Ministry of Health in Kuwait has imposed a ban on travellers arriving from, or who have visited in the last two weeks, the countries listed below::

- › China and Hong Kong SAR

- › South Korea
- › Italy
- › Iran
- › Iraq
- › Japan
- › Singapore
- › Thailand ***

A temporary travel ban expiring on 13 March has been imposed on travellers from the following countries:

- › Bangladesh
- › Egypt
- › India
- › Lebanon
- › Philippines
- › Sri Lanka
- › Syria

Ships calling from countries with a permanent travel ban are allowed to berth with the prohibition of direct contact with the crew and no disembarkation allowed. Irrespectively of this, ships from the following countries are not allowed to berth:

- › Iran
- › Iraq

** Oil sector ships are exempted from circular No (3) 2020 with certainty and care for the boarding of preventive health personnel in ports - Ministry of Health boarding ships coming from the countries above.

*** On 12 March it was advised that the Kuwait government have taken a series of exceptional measures in a bid to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, halting commercial flights and sending public sector employees on a public holiday for two weeks starting from today until 26 March 2020.

Maritime navigation and normal operations at all Oil Terminals (Mina Al Ahmadi & Mina Abdulla) and Commercial ports (Shuwaikh and Shuaiba) will continue as usual without any hindrance.

* Source: [GAC \(Kuwait\)](#), ** [Wilhelmsen](#), *** [North P&I Club](#)

Lebanon

* 17 March - Following measures taken:

- › The Lebanese government announced on 15 March 2020, a medical state emergency, obliging all citizens to remain at home except for extreme necessity until 29th March 2020.
- › The Government has declared the airport, airspace and all sea and land borders as closed for passengers as from Wednesday 18th March until 29th March 2020, except for UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon), diplomatic missions and cargo aircraft.
- › Ports in Lebanon will be closed to passengers, but cargo is still permitted entry.
- › The measures applied at the Lebanese ports for commercial vessels consists of members of the Ministry of Health attending onboard the vessels arriving from countries at risk and prior to their berthing checking the body temperatures of all crew members onboard to verify whether any of them are suffering from any of the symptoms of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Depending on the findings of the Ministry's representatives, measures are decided on a case-by-case basis.*

According to information from local members, entry into the Port of Beirut is restricted by a pre-arrival medical examination by the port's medical staff if the vessel is calling directly from China.

All ships should report the previous 10 port calls. Please see the revised release [here](#)

** Source: North P&I Club*

Liberia

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date.
- › No specific measurements implemented by the port up till this date concerning inward clearance.
- › No quarantine period announced for vessels coming from affected countries.
- › No specific measurement announced for vessels with suspected cases, however individuals may be quarantined.
- › All passenger flights will be suspended from 23.03.2020 at 2359 hrs Lt. This does not include cargo flights.

Source: OBT Shipping

Libya

*As of 16th March 2020, Libyan Authorities announced that due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic all air, ground and maritime Libyan borders will be closed for 3 weeks (with potential extension).

If a vessel is calls to Libya from a country that has recorded COVID-19 cases, the vessel will go into quarantine for 14 days at anchorage. The quarantine period starts to count from the date the vessel sailed from previous port of call. Thereafter, it will undergo an inspection by the Health Ministry. If it is found "clean", it will then be permitted to enter the port.*

** Source: North P&I Club*

Malaysia

Malaysian Shipping Notice ([MSN 02/2020](#)) of 18th March is issued for ship managers and seafarers and provides, amongst others, the following measures :

- › All China, Italy, South Korea, Iran and Japan flagged ships or any ship that had entered any ports in those countries in the last 14 day from their arrival to Malaysian waters, are PROHIBITED to enter any Malaysian ports.
- › Foreign seafarers are NOT ALLOWED to sign-off or going ashore in any Malaysian ports and water.
- › All seafarers are NOT ALLOWED to sign-on, in any Malaysian ports and water.
- › The ones ALLOWED to sign-off and disembark at the DESIGNATED PORT are only Malaysian seafarers, constantly developed COVID-19 symptoms from Malaysian-flagged ships.
- › All foreign seafarers currently serving on board Malaysian-flagged ships, not having any COVID-19 symptoms or been to China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days, are ALLOWED to continue their normal service onboard Malaysian-flagged ships. This also applies to seafarers of Malaysian nationality.
- › All foreign seafarers are PROHIBITED to change ship in any Malaysian ports and water
- › All seafarers of Malaysian nationality who already possessed COVID-19 symptoms or have been to China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days, MUST UNDERGO proper health screening and isolation only at the DESIGNATED PORT, and their contract of SEA will be terminated.

- › All foreign seafarers who already possessed COVID-19 symptoms or have been to China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days, MUST UNDERGO proper health screening and isolation onboard as mentioned in Annex 1 of MSN 05/2020.
- › All cruise ships are PROHIBITED from entering any Malaysian ports

For Kuantan Port, ships having a record of the last 3 ports that are from China will be required to furnish information at least 48 hours prior to arrival as well as subjected to screening process before any disembarkation can take place. Please find original release [here](#).

Malta

On 17 March, the Merchant Shipping Directorate (MSN) of Malta issued MSN 158 in addition to an earlier [MSB 157](#), advising that extension of SEA, validity of seafarer certificates, statutory certificates, surveys, audits and inspections, would be considered on a case-by-case basis. For full details, please see [MSN 158](#).

According to a local member the following restrictions apply:

In Malta Freeport Terminals:

- › Disembarkation of crew members is prohibited, unless permission is granted by Port Health and Transport

Oiltanking Terminal

- › Shore leave is prohibited - apparently with no exemptions
- › Ships waste shall be handled by shore side contractors
- › Ships at berth are not allowed to receive supplies and spares - effective from February 29
- › Ships at berth are not allowed to perform crew change - effective from February 29

**In addition, ships are being requested to show the Yellow flag in accordance with the International Code of Signal to signify that the ship is healthy. It is to remain up until the Medic gives the green light to start operations.

It is understood that same procedures are in place in the Port of Valletta.**

**On 12 March, the following was sent by the Authorities in Malta to all service providers, ship agents and bunkering operators at Malta in respect of services provided outside Maltese territorial waters:-

- › All ships must be cleared by Port Health prior to port entry.
- › Cruise liners arriving from an Italian/Sicilian port (LPC) are NOT Permitted.
- › Cruise ships arriving from a port other than Italian/Sicilian are Permitted subject to Port Health clearance.
- › Any requests involving passengers from Italy/Sicily are NOT Permitted.
- › Any request involving passengers not coming from Italy/Sicily are permitted and are subject to Port Health clearance.
- › Requests from local work boats WTW / OTW are subject to Port Health clearance.
- › Conveyances involving crew changes WTW and OTW are NOT Permitted. Crew changes are only permitted whilst vessels are in port subject that applicable procedures are in place including Port Health clearance.
- › Conveyance vessels requesting to proceed to OTW are to process a normal arrival and departure notification and are also subject to port formalities including Port Health clearance.

With regards to the dis/embarkation of surveyors, mooring master, etc... Port Health doctor to be consulted prior to authorising.**

Marshall Islands

International Registry to the Marshall Islands maintains a [COVID-19 advisory page](#), including the Marine Notice (MN) 7-052-2 from the Republic of Marshall Islands allowing for extended SEAs.

Mauritania

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list + other documents.
- › Vessels will be cleared at anchorage and screening will be done
- › Crew change not possible any longer and airport has been closed since 17th of March for passenger traffic.

Source: OBT Shipping

Mexico

The Mexican Navy Secretariat has issued guidelines for a ship arriving with infectious diseases, including Coronavirus, or suspicions thereof. Should a ship have a suspicious case of Novel Corona virus, the guidelines from the Mexican Navy are as follows:

1. The Master of the ship shall inform Port Agents of the sick person(s) who present symptoms similar to the Covid-19 (or as per applicable medical guidelines issued by national and/ or international authorities, such as WHO or IMHA for instance).
2. Port Agents shall proceed to give notice to the International Health Service (Sanidad Internacional / S.I.).
3. S.I. will coordinate with the Harbour Master the applicable safety protocols to be imposed on the ship.
4. The Harbour Master will coordinate with traffic control, and likely order any suspect ship to remain at anchorage until further notice.
5. While at anchorage, S.I. will board the ship to either confirm as negative or positive the symptoms of the crew member in relation to the Coronavirus. If positive, the ship shall be placed in quarantine until the virus is eradicated.

The Mexican Merchant Marine, has issued recommendations based on the WHO's Circular No. 4202 from the 31st of January 2020. These are mainly aimed at preventing the spread of the virus in the maritime community.

On the 27th of February 2020, the President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, stated that ships with suspicious cases, or confirmed coronavirus would be treated indiscriminately, and that they would not be denied access without previous fair treatment and protocols.

Morocco

Prior to arrival the follow documents must be forwarded:

- › Previous ports calls
- › Maritime Health Declaration
- › Crew list with temperature of each crew for 4 days before arrival
- › [Public Health Passenger Form](#) for each crew
- › Port control must be advised if there are suspected cases onboard

** Source: Somaship S.A.R.L and Universal Shipping*

Mozambique

13 March - Port Health requirements: due to Corona Virus, all ships must send the required information before arrival at Beira Port:

- › Maritime Health Declaration
- › Crew list which is mentioned the countries where all crew members have embarked the vessel
- › List of 10 Port of Calls Before Beira
- › Yellow fever vaccination list
- › Declaration from Master confirming that all crew members are in good health conditions since from last Port of departure until arrival in Beira Port
- › Vaccination list

In case it is verified of any risk situation to Public Health and confirmed that ship is coming from infected Countries or crew members, Captains have to declare in Maritime declaration and inform all concerned before arrival of ship, then will be analysed how long the ship has taken from previous Port until Beira, at least ship must have stand 14 days allowed from World Health Organisation, hence Port Health authorities will allow berthing of ship and Port Health officer will be the first to be on board with appropriate machine to measure the temperature of all crew members, if not have been verified high fever temperature vessel will be allowed to work but all crew members will not be allowed to go ashore.

**Source: North P&I Club*

Myanmar

*18 March - The Myanmar Immigration Authority suspended visa on arrival for all Chinese citizens. Maritime Port Authority no longer gives shore passes to Chinese crew and no longer allows crew change. Port health officers will attend and board all incoming ships on arrival. Health cards will be given to each crew to complete and sign on arrival. Master of ship must declare crew health prior vessel arrival.

Effective 15 March 2020, travel suspension for any foreigner who has travelled to Korea and China virus hot spots in the past 14 days. Myanmar citizens who have been to hot spots in Korea and China will be quarantined at designated facilities. All individual who travelled to areas in Korea that were not hot spots will be subject to 14 day home quarantine. Anyone who has travelled to Italy, Iran, France, Spain, Germany will be subject to 14 day quarantine at a designated facility. *

**Source: North P&I Club*

Namibia

As per 26 March The Namibian Ports Authority have issued the following relevant circulars:

- › [Additional Contingency Measures for the Corona Virus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#), dated 17 March, effectively suspending crew changes (Bullet 2) and imposing the PPE requirements (Bullet 1)
 - › Goggles
 - › Masks (FFP2 or better)
 - › Surgical gloves
 - › The above to be worn when boarding foreign ships
- › [Additional Mitigation measures - Corona Virus \(Covid-19\) Pandemic](#), dated 25 March, imposing a minimum of 14 days quarantine at anchorage "calculated as the duration from the last port of call or the last crew interaction with another vessel/rig

at sea" before medical clearance and berth may proceed

For the most recent circulars, we kindly refer to [NAMPORT](#)

Source: [Irish Shipbrokers](#)

Netherlands, the

*24 March - The port of Rotterdam remains operational. Cargo handling and production continues unabated. The Harbour Master Division is monitoring safety and public order on the water 24/7.

The Port of Rotterdam Authority has taken steps to safeguard the continuity of business operations and is advising and assisting clients to keep them informed of developments. As the situation relating to the spread of coronavirus is changing very rapidly, new measures including those requiring additional measures are likely in the days and weeks to come.

The following measures have been taken:

- › Employees of the Port of Rotterdam Authority are working from home as much as possible and can be reached by email. Operational services continue and the Harbour Coordination Centre remains accessible 24/7.
- › All events, receptions and non-essential training courses have been postponed or cancelled.
- › All seagoing vessels are required to submit a Maritime Declaration of Health (MDoH) before arriving at, or being piloted in, the port of Rotterdam. That procedure is already in place for cruise vessels. It does not apply to inland shipping.*

**According to information received from local members, there are no restrictions issued by the Dutch government on passenger traffic.

However - considering the above - local terminals and port authorities may have issued their own preventive measures. Ships calling from affected areas may be liable to the following preventive measures:

- › Crew change by boat
- › Early medical screening**

26th March - the Netherlands' Maritime Affairs (Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate) has now enforced [a contingency plan](#) (via IMO) in relation to granting of extensions for ships' certificates, surveys, annual ISM audits, dispensation for Minimum Safe Manning compliance, seafarers' certificates etc.

* Source: [North P&I Club](#), ** [MariTeam Shipping Agencies](#)

New Zealand

Any foreign travellers who have left or transited through mainland China (excluding Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan) after 2 February 2020 will not be allowed to enter New Zealand. Please see updated release (5th February) [here](#) from New Zealand authorities for full details.

The Government has announced temporary restrictions on travellers arriving in New Zealand from mainland China or Iran as a precautionary measure to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

The restrictions prevent foreign nationals travelling from or transiting through mainland China or Iran from entering New Zealand. These measures will be in place until Tuesday 10 March 2020 at this stage. This position will be reviewed every 48 hours.

People who are exempt from the temporary restrictions are:

- › New Zealand citizens (including those from the three Countries of the Realm: Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands), permanent residents and their immediate family
- › Australian citizens and permanent residents whose primary place of established residence is New Zealand
- › air crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

People exempt from the temporary restrictions should self-isolate for 14 days after their return if they have been in mainland China or Iran, or exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

16 March - New border measures are in place as of Monday, 16 March. According to the [latest border advisory \(13\)](#), the following border measures are in place:

- › Category 1A: Mainland China and Iran: current measures continue
- › Category 1B: Travellers arriving from the rest of the world, except the Pacific. The Pacific is defined as all Pacific Islands Forum members (except French Polynesia), Associate Member Tokelau, and Observer Wallis and Futuna. All these travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival in New Zealand.
- › Category 2: The Pacific. All these travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate if they show symptoms within 14 days of arrival.
- › Self-isolation expectations do not apply to air (including positioning crew) and marine crew who have taken appropriate infection control and PPE measures as required.
- › The new Category 1B and Category 2 designations will take effect from 23:59 Sunday 15 March 2020, for a duration of 16 days, and will be reviewed by Monday 30 March 2020.
- › A temporary ban on the entry of cruise ships to New Zealand's territorial waters on public health grounds, will take effect from 23:59 on 14 March 2020.
- › The border measures do not apply to cargo ships or marine crew, to keep sea freight routes open for imports and exports, including essential supplies.

Please check the [NZ Ministry of Health information page](#) and [NZ Border information](#) for latest updates.

Nigeria

Presently, WHO continues to advise against the application of travel or trade restrictions to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks. Hence there appears to be no restrictions on ships and crew whose previous port call was from COVID -19 high risk countries or on specific nationalities arriving in Nigeria. However, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health (Port Health Services) has the following procedures in place:

1. Intensify surveillance at points of entry (Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and FCT) particularly for returning travellers with travel history to countries with ongoing transmission*.
2. Heighten screening measures at points of entry. In addition to automated temperature screening at points of entry, travellers are given a contact form to fill and asked questions upon arrival about symptoms of illness and travel history.
3. Travellers without symptoms on departure but become unwell in transit are advised to self-report to the Port Health Services on arrival
4. Travellers from countries with ongoing local transmission*, but who show no symptoms on arrival should self-isolate at home for 14 days after arrival
5. If travellers from countries with ongoing local transmission* feel ill with fever, cough or difficulty breathing within 14 days of arrival in Nigeria, please:
 - › Observe self-isolation immediately by staying indoors and avoiding contact with people
 - › Call the NCDC 24/7 toll-free line IMMEDIATELY on 080097000010

*Travelers to China and other affected countries with ongoing transmission as at February 28, 2020: China, Republic of Korea, Italy, Iran, Japan

Source: [Nigeria Centre for Disease and Control](#)

Norway

With regard to the change of crew on Norwegian ships, the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has now agreed to issue a general acceptance of crew members to continue service on board

Norwegian ships until a suitable arrangement can be made. Please see NMA's letter [here](#).

The Norwegian borders are closed effectively from 16 March according to [local newspapers](#) (Text in Norwegian). According to the [Norwegian Maritime Authority](#) are crew change operations possible though quarantine measures may be applied if off signing crew members have had close contact with persons not assigned to the ship.

Pakistan

The Pakistani Ministry of Maritime affairs issued a declaration prohibiting shore leave and disembarkation of crew from foreign flagged ships. Please find a copy of the original release [here](#). The Directorate of Central Health Establishments has also issued a [advisory guidelines](#) to all Pakistani ports.

In addition to this, [Karachi Seaport](#) is requiring the following certificates 24 hours prior to arrival:

- › Maritime Declaration of Health
- › Last 10 ports of call
- › Ship Sanitation Certificate
- › Health declarations for crew and Captain
- › Vaccination lists

Panama

Extensions of SEAs, seafarers certificates (including endorsement certificates and issue of dispensation letter

In respect of the above, the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) pursuant to their Notice MMN [03/2020](#), provides details on the procedures of how the above can be obtained. Note that extension will be for a period of 3 months granted if approved from the date of expiration of certificates.

PMA's implementation measures onboard their ships pursuant to MMN [02/2020](#), some of which are as follows - :

- › Seafarers calling at China ports are advised to wear masks and take precautionary measures to avoid getting infected with a new coronavirus and prevent its potential spreading.
- › When entering China ports, seafarers are expected to remain onboard their ships and disembark their vessels only when it is absolutely necessary.
- › Strictly enforce the ISPS requirements on ensuring that unauthorized personnel do not board the ship throughout the ships port calls.
- › Shipping agencies in Panama, must inform the Ministry of Health (MINSa) and Harbor Master (captaincy of ports) if any crew member or passenger is reported with any of the symptoms of the coronavirus and must coordinate with local health authorities

Ships intending to transit the Panama Canal, should report suspected cases through the Panama Maritime Single Window within 30 days prior to arrival to enable PMA authorities to take the appropriate preventive measures. Please find the original release [Advisory to Shipping A-04-2020](#)

PMA's [Press Release dated 16 March 2020](#) listing out their latest measures, some of which are as follows:

- › Effective 14 March 2020, temporary suspension of boarding and landing of passengers and crew members to and from cruise ships, small cruise ships, ships with great draft, international shipping of passengers in yachts, mega yachts, and commercial yachts in ports, berths or wharfs, anchorage areas and marinas located within the national territory, and which arrive from international shipping originated from risk areas coming from China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, France and from other countries as announced.
- › Information required to be submitted at least 48 hours prior to arrival on boarding dates and places for each crew member, list of the 10 ports previously visited, Maritime Health Statement, sick list if maritime ancillary services need to be rendered to international ships subject to approval by maritime health authorities.
- › Only personnel essential for operation of the ship is allowed to board but have to be in compliance with all health measures
- › All STS (ship to ship), as well as fuel and water supply operations procedures to be carried out upon procedures approved by PMA and Ministry of Health.

Additional information:

25 March update from [Waypoint Port Services](#):

- › Crew changes cancelled with immediate effect
- › Cruise ships forbidden to berth, embark or disembark passengers
- › Airspace closed for international pax flights effective 22 March for 30 days. Only cargo, humanitarian and domestic flights allowed.
- › Strengthened measures for ships attendance and control in ports in effect.
- › Any foreigner arriving shall remain in quarantine for 14 days.

**17 March update:

- › The Panama Canal continues to operate normally even though air travel to and from Europe and Asia remains suspended. This has caused problems for ship personnel who land ashore for medical reasons and once fit to fly are unable to be repatriated until flight restrictions are lifted.
- › Only Panamanian citizens and/or residents are allowed to enter the country.
- › The Maritime Courts have suspended all terms and operations limited to matters of urgency including ship arrests.
- › Only local personnel, suppliers, surveyors etc are allowed to board vessels at the anchorages and terminals. It is not known at present when/if this will change. **

26 March - [Panama Canal adopts measures to guarantee sustained operations amid COVID-19](#)

27 March - PMA issued [MMN 07/2020](#) informing shipowners/operators and interested parties on postponement - extension of statutory certification and services and the procedures as to how such requests should be made.

To keep updated, please check on PMA's [Notices to Shipping](#), [Advisories to Shipping](#) and [Panama Canal Press Releases](#)

** Source: North P&I Club

Papua New Guinea

There is a suspension of shore leave by crew by all international ships calling into all Papua New Guinea [PNG] port facilities.

There is a suspension of crew changes in all PNG port facilities.

No crew is allowed on the quayside of PNG port facilities.

No personnel from the portside are allowed on board any international ship apart from those performing statutory functions and relevant stevedores.

All statutory functions undertaken by receiving PNG port personnel should be done strictly with the PNG National Department of Health guidelines and appropriate PPE.

All ships are to be cleared in the nominated ports and port facilities as gazette by NDOH before any expedition to any other port of remote site.

Exemption to any of the above must be made to the Department of Transport for rare consideration.

Deliberate failure to comply with this Direction and Notice is a breach of the Regulation and can warrant a penalty fee of K100,000.00.

Any party having difficulty complying with these directions should immediately contact the First Assistant Secretary – Maritime Security Division on email: isps@transport.gov.pg or Ph. 3236187.

Source: North P&I Club

Peru

9 March - The Peruvian Transport Ministry is enforcing new directives aiming to prevent new cases. Every ship (cargo or passenger) calling Peruvian ports will be subject to an inspection at anchorage prior to berthing.

The inspection will be carried out by personnel from the National Port Authority in liaison with The Maritime International Health Direction and the Ministry of Health.

15th March : Effective midnight Sunday, 15th March 2020, a National State of Emergency will enter into force in all Peru. The intention is that all Peruvian population stay at home for the next 15 days. With exception of those people essential to certain activities needed by the population, such as; health, food and banking services. In particular frontiers will be closed and this includes inbound passenger; planes and ships that will not be allowed to disembark; crew or passengers in the country.

Marine and river Cargo transport and stevedoring operations are excepted in the National State of Emergency and ensuing social isolation. Thus, these operations of import, export and cabotage will continue. The complimentary measures taken to put in force the above; National State of Emergency and the limitations this will cause will be informed.

**Source: North P&I Club*

Philippines

On 18 March, the following update from North P&I Club:

- › The port of Villanueva has adopted stringent policies which affects surveyor attendance. The port will not allow access to persons other than local stevedores

- › Foreign Vessels are banned from docking at any port in the Province of Siquijor until further notice.
- › Surigao Del Norte: Travel ban to all incoming and outgoing domestic vessels. All incoming foreign vessels (regardless of nationality and the country of origin) will be banned to enter the province.

On 17 March, pursuant to the Memorandum issued on the "Community Quarantine over the Entire Luzon" from 17 March to 13 April 2020, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) issued PPA circular [10/2020](#), providing amongst others, the following measures for Luzon ports:

- › Ports shall continue to be open to cargo ships provided there will be strictly no embarkation/disembarkation of crew and subject to the requirements of the Bureau of Quarantine/Department of Health.
- › All passenger ships shall not be allowed entry in ports

On 11 March, the PPA announced [intensified measures](#) and amongst others, as follows:

- › The policy on no disembarkation and expected vessel change-crew involving Filipinos, remain in force and if needed, all berthing privileges of vessels coming from highly-infected countries shall be cancelled
- › On top of the usual thermal scanning of passengers and port personnel in all ports, the PPA has mandated all its Port Management Offices to make available to passengers, port users and other stakeholders necessary disinfecting supply such as anti-bacterial solutions and sanitizers.
- › Fumigation and disinfection of all Passenger Terminal Buildings (PTBs) and PPA offices nationwide are also ongoing in order to reduce the risk of a sustained transmission via the seaports
- › Proper disinfection and monitoring of cargoes in short-haul voyages are likewise in place
- › A highly accurate passenger information system for easy contact-tracing and an isolated holding and testing area for COVID-19 symptomatic port users are in place in all ports.
- › To-date, PPA ports remain in full commercial operations and no person showing the symptoms of the COVID-19 has been detected. International cargo vessels are also being strictly screened at anchorage prior to docking. Vessels with Free Pratique are allowed to dock, otherwise, they are held in preventive anchorage for 14 days before being allowed to berth.

The following applies to ships with port calls to China within the previous 14 days:

- › Disembarkation of crew and passengers are not allowed
- › Waste disposal is not allowed

Please see the original release [here](#).

For the latest update from the Philippines, please confer with the [Philippine Ports Authority](#).

Portugal

13 March - Portuguese Government issued a statement informing that all passenger ships will not be authorized to disembark any guests/crew members/staff. Licenses to go ashore also will not be granted.

Exception is made to Portuguese citizens living in Portugal wishing to disembark at our ports.

Cruise ships still may call Portuguese ports and to carry on provisions, fresh water and other supplies, as well as to perform bunkering operations.

This containment measure will soon be in force and will be re-evaluated on 9 April.

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Qatar

24 March - Requirements for the various ports

Mesaieed Port

- › Vessels are permitted to call to Mesaieed port, except for those calling directly from Iranian ports, which are subject to 14 days' waiting period before being allowed entry.
- › All vessels must submit Corona Virus declaration, [Maritime Declaration of Health](#), Master's Declaration, Last 10 Port of call and crew list & temperature reading of all onboard 72 hours before arrival/berthing and resubmit 48, 24, 12, 6 and 3 hours prior to arrival.
- › If any crew is suspected of COVID 19 infection, the port shall contact the medical authorities for assistance and testing. After clearance, vessels are being permitted to berth.
- › Entry into the country has been suspended for all nationalities except for Qataris. No shore leave is permitted, including berth and jetty, unless in case of emergency and subject to approval from Port Management. No crew changes are authorised until further notice.

See [Masaieed Port circular](#)

Ras Laffan Port

- › [Circular from Ras Laffan](#) - MDH, Corona Virus declaration, forms required from all vessel calling Ras Laffan, [Maritime Health Declaration](#) is normally need to be submitted to regulation department 72 Hrs prior to arrival, in addition Master need to update & resubmit MDH 24 Hours prior berthing.
- › If vessel arriving directly from China or called in China, the quarantine period commences on departure China, Ras Laffan port regulation will review the departure date from China and berth if vessel completed 15 days of quarantine period before calling Qatar.
- › If any crew onboard suspected with Corona Virus, Ministry of Health will attend the vessel for inspection, pilot will board once Ministry of Health approved to board.
- › Off signers from foreign vessels should attend screening inside port.
- › Crew arriving from Halul island or area operating directly by QP should complete Corona virus screening inside Ras Laffan port.
- › On Signers will screen at Hamad International airport only

Hamad Port

- › All vessels to submit [Declaration form](#) with Pre - Arrival Information 72/48/24 Hours prior arrivals. No other requirement officially announced so far.

* *Source: North P&I Club*

Romania

10 March - All ships arriving from risk areas will be subjected to thorough checks inclusive of physical examination of crew, checking of ship's medical logs as well as crew lists to verify travel history.

If no suspect cases, the ship will proceed to berth with crew members being forbidden to go ashore till expiry of the 14 days incubation period.

Operations can progress with limited contact, PPE, a distance of minimum 2 meters and or no longer than 15 minutes.

After the incubation period, all restrictive measures will be abolished.

If suspect cases, quarantine will be established during which ship will await at roads and the only permitted operations be supply of food/water/medications.

Suspect cases be referred to Constantza Contagious Disease Hospital as per procedures where analysis to either confirm or disprove the case be carried out.

If positively confirmed infection with COVID-19, the sick will receive treatment and the ship will remain in quarantine as per procedures.

If analysis show negative result, the quarantine will be lifted after the expiry of the incubation 14 days.

Disinfection will be carried out by authorised specialized companies.

**Source: North P&I Club*

Russia

Effective from 18 March until 00.00 1 May Russian borders will be closed to foreign travellers. According to an [official release](#) from the Russian Government, maritime crews are excepted from these provisions.

*According to information received by local members no other restrictions on federal or state level. Restrictions may be applied at local port level.

****Novorossiysk:**

The list of epidemiological risk countries has been updated. If a ship has crew members or passengers from epidemiological risk countries who boarded within the last 14 days before arrival to Novorossiysk, or if the ship has visited one of the listed epidemiological risk countries within the last 14 days, disinfection of the ship will be required upon arrival.

The current list of epidemiological risk countries is as follows:

A.1. Disinfection is required and compulsory: China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Spain, The Republic of Korea

B.2. Highly likely disinfection will be required: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

C.3. Disinfection can be required: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Butane, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech, Dominican Republic, DR Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, UAE, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vatican, Venezuela, Vietnam.

Only Group A countries are currently subject to the compulsory disinfection. Groups B and C as a preliminary assumption only. The final decision on the need for disinfection will be taken by the Sanitary Authority for each particular ship, depending on the actual epidemiological situation at the time of the decision.

After the disinfection on board all crew and passengers are subject to the medical check. Doctor must check crew temperature and general condition of the crew. If everything is good and no risks or sick persons found on board the Sanitary Doctor will confirm possibility to make Inward Clearance and obtain a full free pratique. After inward clearance formalities the vessel is allowed to perform cargo operations.

Kavkaz and Taman

- › All ships are subject to risk assessment by Health authorities on an individual basis.
- › Focus is made on the 14-day incubation period and health condition of the crew.
- › Shore leave may be limited for all foreign citizens (crew and passengers) at any port and any time.
- › Screening on vessels arriving from any country is being conducted by Health authorities.
- › Certificates of disinfection from the other countries are no longer accepted. As of 11 March 2020, no special restrictions or measures have been announced yet.

Taman Immigration authorities have temporarily restricted shore leaves for the following persons:

- › Citizens of the People Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Italy and Iran arriving as crew members.
- › Crew members – foreign citizens, who visited ports of Italy, People Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and Iran during the last 14 days before arrival at Taman seaport.
- › In daytime the ships are visited by the sanitary services for identification of the crewmembers or passengers displaying symptoms compatible with the disease by temperature screening and examination. There is no screening during the night shifts.
- › A list of the previous ten ports of call must be provided by Agents to Immigration authorities.
- › Although there is no official requirement for a 14-day quarantine at anchorage, at the beginning of March, a ship coming from one of coronavirus-affected countries was not allowed to proceed for berthing until the expected incubation period of 14 days had expired.

Tuapse:

All ships arriving at Tuapse port are subject to a temperature screening of the crew members before commencement of the inward clearance formalities. There are no any other special measures in force.

Kaliningrad:

Crew members who arrived to Kaliningrad on the ships that departed from High Risk countries / ports less than 14 days before their arrival to Kaliningrad are demanded to stay on board at all times while the vessel is berthed; NOT to attend shops, pharmacies and/or any public places; NOT to use public transport; to avoid contacts with others; to comply with hygiene and sanitary protection requirements (body temperature screening twice a day and keeping temperature records).

Authorized representatives of Shipowners and their agents are held responsible for enforcement of the above requirements.

Murmansk and Kandalaksha

Starting from 00.00 on 16.03.2020 and until further notice all crew members returning to Russia from other countries, especially from Norway, are to undergo a compulsory medical examination through the established procedure, social withdrawal / self-imposed isolation is not considered sufficient.

Starting from 00.00 on 17.03.2020 and until further notice, disembarkation and shore leave is prohibited to crew members having arrived on the ships from foreign ports to the ports of Murmansk and Kandalaksha in cases where these ships had left foreign ports less than 14 calendar days before they arrived to Murmansk / Kandalaksha. Harbour Masters of the ports are to take adequate measures to ensure implementation of the said requirements.

On 16.03.2020 we became aware that one ship that arrived to the port Murmansk the same day failed to complete inward clearance and was reportedly put under 14-days quarantine. In fact, on 16.03.2020 there was some confusion within the port authorities in respect of applicable protective measures. The Ruling dd. 16.03.2020 contains no explicit order for a compulsory 14-days quarantine for the ships arriving to Murmansk; limitations are only be applicable to disembarkation / the shore leave of crew members. Clarifications were given to Murmansk port authorities and the vessel was finally given free practice, with the crew members shore leave limitation only.**

* Source: [Neva-Delta S.A.](#), ** North P&I Club

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Ports Authority issued [Circular 37\(2020\)](#) which provides mandatory instruction to ships arriving to Saudi Arabia:

No voyages between KSA and the following countries except for trade and evacuation: UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Italy and Korea

Suspend travel of citizens and residents to and from UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Italy and Korea

No entry for travellers who have been in UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Italy and Korea within previous 14 days

Suspend crew changes if vessel has called at UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Italy and Korea within previous 14 days.

A [circular](#) issued by the Ministry of Health provides a list of countries from which travel to Saudi Arabia is restricted. Anyone travelling directly from the listed countries will be quarantined for 14 days on arrival. In addition strict checks are now being implemented at the airports to determine the point of origin of any journey.

23 March - The Saudi Government has today imposed a curfew in place for 3 weeks, the curfew is from 7pm to 6am. This may hamper surveyors from being able to attend ships for inspections during these times.

The ports will continue to operate as normal.

**Source: North P&I Club*

Senegal

All ships scheduled to call Dakar Port will now have to send by email to the port authority (capitainerie@portdakar.sn) and the Health department (Sea border health control) (Csfmsn@gmail.com), latest 72 hours prior to her arrival the following documents:

- › The list of the 10 previous port of call
- › The maritime health declaration
- › The crew list clearly stressing the date and port where each crew member boarded the ship

Any ship coming from countries (areas) impacted by the COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) will be attended at anchorage by the Health department in charge Sea border sanitary control (Service de Contrôle Sanitaire aux Frontières Maritimes) who will grant the free pratique and the authority to proceed before the ship is allowed to enter to Dakar port.

Modified berthing procedures took effect 1 March:

72 hours before their arrival in Dakar, all ships must email the following documents:

- › List of the last ten (10) ports of call;
- › Maritime Health Declaration;
- › Crew list specifying joining date and port of each crew member.

To both:

1. the Harbour Master at capitainerie@portdakar.sn, and
2. the Maritime Border Health Inspection Services (Service de Contrôle Sanitaire aux Frontières Maritimes) at csfmsn@gmail.com.

[Original Port of Dakar circular](#) and [English translation](#)

*Source: North P&I Club

Sierra Leone

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date and other documents requested by the agent.
- › Vessels will be cleared at alongside (unless vessel loading at anchorage) and checked by port health for temperature control on arrival as well as requested for implementing hand sanitizing measures while alongside. Also PPE will be requested to be used. Hereafter boarding authorities will proceed to board the vessel when port health have given green light to proceed and yellow flag lowered.
- › No quarantine period announced for vessels coming from affected countries.
- › Vessels with suspected crew on board will not be able to lower the yellow flag and will be requested to proceed to anchorage for a period of 14 days. Hereafter vessel will be requested to carry out another check before proceeding with usual inward clearance unless suspected cases found on board.
- › All passengers flights has been suspended from 22.30.20 for a 90 days period or at least until further notice.

Source: *OBT Shipping*

Singapore

Since January 24, Singapore has been screening seafarers arriving at checkpoints. Please see the original release [here](#).

MPA [16/2020](#) supersedes [14/2020](#) regarding requirements for submission to the Port Health Office. The requirements apply effective 23 March 2359 hrs and in essence, the following documents are required to be submitted to the Port Health Unit/Central Regional office 12 hours before arrival at Singapore port effective 23 March:

- › Maritime Health Declaration Form;
- › Crew list/passenger list;
- › Current copy of ship sanitation certificates;
- › Last 10 ports of call list;and
- › List of all passengers & crew members with temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius.

MPA [17/2020](#) supersedes [15/2020](#) and the restrictions are as follows:

Border Restrictions

- › All short-term visitors will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. This means that crew and passengers on short-term visits will NOT be allowed to disembark in Singapore for the time being.
- › Crew change in Singapore is also disallowed for the time being.
- › With effect from 13 March 2020, Singapore has ceased port calls for all cruise ships.
- › The Port of Singapore remains open for cargo operations and marine services, including shipyard repairs.a. This means that ships are still permitted to enter Singapore port limits to carry out their intended operations such as cargo operations i.e. terminal loading, discharging, bunkering and storing of provisions/stores. Vetting inspectors and shore technicians from Singapore are also permitted to attend vessels at Singapore anchorage for inspection, servicing or repair of equipment on board but this is subjected to their own (inspector / shore technician) personal and companies discretion in view of the current global health situation.

Please see also MPA [18/2020](#) regarding advisory for shore personnel and ship crew visiting or working onboard ships alongside wharves, in shipyards and at anchorages.

GAC also kindly provided the following information relating to restrictions for crew changes for vessels outside of Singapore harbour limits more commonly known as OPL.

- › No sign-off or medical evacuation is permitted while vessel is at OPL be it while on transit or anchor. If owners or vessel intend to sign off crew / personnel, vessel must be prepared to :
 - › enter Singapore port limits and be subjected to the current port control measures.
 - › submit the Maritime Health Declaration (attached here latest MHD).
- › Personnel intending to visit or sign-on vessel at OPL is still permitted for passport holders that is able to clear the Singapore airport or land immigration entry checkpoints.
- › Delivery of ship spares, provisions, stores to vessel and off-landing of items/equipment from vessel at OPL is still permitted at this point of time.

27 March - Pursuant to MPA [19/2020](#), crew change is suspended for the time being. However, cargo ships can submit request to MPA for crew change consideration under special circumstances ; such as where a crew member needs to disembark or embark due to serving his maximum time on board and no further extension granted by the flag State on the employment contract; or on compassionate grounds like death of family member or the crew member is no longer fit to continue his duties onboard,

On 26 February, MPA issued a [shipping circular 03/2020](#) providing instructions on how dispensations can be obtained for various shipping obligations (e.g extension of seafarers' service agreements or mandatory surveys).

Slovenia

All calls are subject to a screening based on a [medical questionnaire](#). Depending on the outcome, ships might be directed to the anchorage for further medical examination, which might further place the ship in quarantine.

* Sources: [Navigo d.o.o.](#) and [Centralog](#)

South Africa

Transnet, the custodian for ports, rail and pipeline infrastructure in South Africa implements strict health measures and extra procedures for all ships entering South African ports, including all foreign ships entering the ports must receive free pratique by the Port Health department and details of the last 10 ports of call to be recorded. [Transnet's Notice dated 16 March 2020](#) on the additional measures imposed, some are as follows:

- › Masters of all vessels are required to display the "Q" Flag if all onboard are healthy and Free Pratique has not been granted by Port Health - means the master declares that all crew & personnel onboard are healthy and he/she requests Free Pratique. The "Q" flag to remain until Free Pratique has been granted
- › All waste removal from Off Port Limit vessels and vessels at anchorages are to cease immediately until advised otherwise.
- › Galley waste will no longer be accepted at any ports and are to be incinerated on board the vessel.
- › Vessels from the following ports in China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, France, Germany, USA, Switzerland, UK, Norway or other high and medium risk area - No waste including galley waste will be disposed off in any South African port.
- › Shore leave for crew to be limited for essential services only with a limit on the number of crew leaving together. Visitors to vessels restricted to essential personnel only.
- › Limited interaction between bunker operator and vessels permitted. Crew to ensure gloves are provided and used when handling mooring lines & all preventative precautions are upheld - no crew changes permitted for bunker barges or vessel taking fuel from foreign countries.
- › Vessel passenger and crew transfers will not be permitted in any of the South African Ports.

General: South Africa's [government gazette dated 18 March 2020](#) regarding COVID-19 and port operations.

From 18th March, the following measures will be effective via Marine Notice [15/2020](#):

- › "foreign nationals from high-risk countries will be banned from entering the country. Travel visas will not be issued and all previously issued visas will be revoked. High-risk countries include China, Germany, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Spain, UK, USA.
- › Travellers from medium-risk countries such as Portugal, Hong Kong and Singapore will be required to undergo high intensity screening, including self-quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days.
- › All cruiser liner ships into and out of any seaport within South Africa will be terminated.
- › Sign-on of crew from high-risk and medium-risk countries for commercial ships will not be permitted.
- › Applications for Off Port Limits services to be rendered to ships will be thoroughly assessed before permission is granted
- › Applications for Off Port Limits for crew changes will not be permitted
- › No ship arriving from an international port must be brought into any seaport in South Africa unless such has been communicated with the Port Health Authority
- › All ships that have undertaken an international voyage must apply for free pratique to Port Health 24 to 48 hours prior to arrival and Port Health to be kept updated of any changes on crew's health status whilst outside port or in the berth. "

See also Marine Notice [13/2020](#) on vessels and seafarers and Marine Notice [14/2020](#) for emergency contact details.

***25 March:** The President announced on 23 March that South Africa will go into a state of lock down from midnight on **Thursday, March 26 until April 16**. Harbours and Ports of Entry will remain open as it is considered essential services however it will likely be a challenge getting to the port for ships agents, stevedores, surveyors etc – this being the case the work in Ports will likely slow down. The mandatory lockdown will however, impact on third-party suppliers such as the testing laboratories etc. All ports are open however, they are all operating at level 2 security in terms of ISPS.*

**Source: North P&I Club*

Spain

*17 March - The Spanish Government has implemented the "State of Alarm" in Spain for fifteen (15) days – extendable depending on the evolution of the situation. Thus, the Spanish Government has established measures that can limit the circulation or presence of persons or vehicles at certain times and in certain places, amongst others.

Port and logistic activities related to cargo vessels will continue.

However, personal interaction with personnel from local companies (agents, stevedores, suppliers, etc.) can have certain restrictions; all in views to prevent the spread of the COVID – 19 and guarantee the health of local personnel and crew on board*

**Source: North P&I Club*

Sri Lanka

***18th March update** - Authorities have imposed restrictions that no persons would be permitted to enter/disembark in Sri Lanka from any vessel or aircraft as of 0400hrs on the 19 March 2020 to midnight of 25 March 2020. Furthermore ship's crew of vessels calling into ports will not be permitted with any shore leave. All international airports in Sri Lanka have also been shut for a period of 14 days from 18th March 2020. In case of any on board medical emergencies, we feel that this may be dealt with a case by case basis and will be subject to review and discretion of authorities. The government has also declared public holidays this week in order to curtail the spread of the virus.

16 March: "Authorities have imposed a ban on embarking/disembarking crew, passengers and armed guards as from 1200 hrs LT (GMT + 5.5) today 16 March, and Crew shore leave too would not be permitted. These restrictions have been imposed for 14 days and the situation would be reviewed thereafter. *

There is no restriction on ships that have called China, but if the period is less than 14 days – then crew may be subjected to additional medical checks by the Port Health."

Shore pass depends on evaluation of travel history. Please find the original release [here](#)

**Source: North P&I Club*

Sudan

Masters must deliver a 'fever' report to the Port authorities prior to arrival at Sudanese water. Please find the original release [here](#) (in Arabic)

Information received from one of our members on 5 February 2020 regarding Port Sudan:

"As per new regulations from port health department, any ship arriving from any Chinese port or infected ports worldwide, must be inspected by port health team upon arrival @ outer anchorage via port tug, for "health green light" to berth.

In which below is required before arrival to be submitted into port health dept:

1. A letter from the Master confirming all crew members are healthy and no one is affected with NOVEL CHORONA VIRUS
2. Daily temperature / health report of each crew member's temperature for the last 20 days.
3. Crew List
4. Vaccination list
5. 10 last port of calls must be submitted to port health team before ship's arrival indicating any Chinese ports. (if found any Chinese port or infected ports within 20 days, ship is subject to health inspection upon arrival @ anchorage area)."

Suriname

As per update of the Ministry of Public Health obtained from one of our members, the following has been announced:

- › Travellers (non-residents) who have been in the People's Republic of China for the past 14 days will not be admitted to Suriname from now on. This arrangement applies to crew members and passengers as well.
- › Residents who are returning from high-risk areas (China) will be placed in quarantine for 14 days after arrival.

For the latest news from the World Health Organisation in Suriname please see [here](#)

Thailand

18 March update from North P&I Club - Any ships from China, H K, Macao, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, France, Italy and Iran will be monitored by health control Master of all ships must report temperature of crew on board every day, 7 days before arrival in Thai waters. Authorities will attend on board to perform quarantine screening. All crew must have thermal scans and fever condition checked If any crew have fever or a suspected symptom, s/he will be placed under 14 days of quarantine and further check by hospital If individual is found to be infected with Covid 19 on board, that vessel is prohibited to enter the port until health authorities ensure that vessel is free from infection

According to [Spica International, Thai office](#), the Port Authority of Thailand requires the Master to complete and submit information 24 hours prior to the ship's arrival;

- › Information of conveyance
- › Maritime information of health via radio telegram
- › Maritime declaration of health
- › Last port of call / port clearance

In case, the last port of call is China and departure was within 14 days, Quarantine Office shall also require the Master to complete their questionnaire prior to berthing of the vessel.

If crew has experienced any illness, fever or respiratory problems, quarantine officer may attend on board for investigation.

Please see [Spica](#) for updates.

Togo

- › All trade vessels calling local ports will be requested to submit list of previous 10 port calls as well as crew list specifying each sign on date and maritime health declaration.
- › All trade vessels will go through temperature check and screening by port health before inward pilot embark the vessel.
- › Persons will only be quarantined in cabins or nominated hospital if master reports any illness on board which give reason for checking of suspected cases. Period 15 days.
- › All persons coming from affected countries will not be allowed to Togo.
- › Airlines connections to Europe has been suspended and government recommend to postpone all travel to Togo until further notice.
- › All persons entering the airport will be screened

Source: [OBT Shipping](#)

Trinidad and Tobago

According to [circulars](#) issued by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health are travel restrictions applied to travellers from the following countries:

- › Chine
- › Iran
- › Italy
- › Republic of Korea (South Korea)
- › Singapore

All persons who are not citizens in Trinidad and Tobago and "*have visited [the above mentioned countries] within a fourteen (14) day time period of their arrival in Trinidad and Tobago will not be allowed entry at any of Trinidad and Tobago's ports of entry*".

While the above list covers the countries with the most significant number of cases as per 6 March, additional countries may be applied unnoticed by the Secretariat if there are further negative developments in the COVID-19 outbreak.

Source: [Twin Island Shipping](#)

Tunisia

13 March - Rades Merchant Navy has issued a Circular on preventive measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

The circular advises that:

- › All ships bound for Rades port will be submitted to health service checks on the roads before berthing in the port;
- › Crew members are forbidden to leave the vessel and circulate in the port unless there is an emergency;
- › Shipowners must specify a disinfected area on the vessel where the crew, the authorities, the local agents, and the stevedores may exchange documents.
- › No-one should go onboard if there is no necessity.
- › All people working in Rades port should be provided with the preventive equipment necessary to guarantee their safety and protect their health.

* Source: North P&I Club

Turkey

According to local members, outbound flights from Turkey to the following countries have been suspended:

- › Austria
- › Belgium
- › China
- › Denmark
- › France
- › Germany
- › Iran
- › Iraq
- › Italy
- › Netherlands
- › Norway
- › Saudi Arabia
- › South Korea
- › Spain
- › Sweden

For Iran and Iraq border crossings have been closed as well.

In addition to the above, our members have informed that the below restrictions have been imposed by the Turkish General Directorate of Coastal Health Office:

- › All international crew member disembarkation has been prohibited, if the ship called one of the listed "contaminated countries" ports in last 14 days. Starting from 15th day of call, all crew change operations is permitted by providing below document.
- › Turkish nationality crew or international crew that has a Turkish working permit called during last 14 days to 1 of the above mentioned "contaminated countries" ports, all crew changes can be granted by providing the following documents:
 1. Last 10 ports of call
 2. Maritime Health Declaration
 3. Crew List
 4. The latest body temperature report of crew members (should be sent latest 24hrs before ships arrival and must contain temperature recordings for last 3 days)

- › If the Health Office is certain that there are no sick crew members on board and all health requirements have been met, the crew may be allowed to disembark and final body temperature readings are checked at shore.
- › Any technician visit to ship is permitted once ship provides above set of documentation for Coastal Health Office control and if no risk is recognised, permission to technicians is granted subject to the use of facial masks

Please find the digital Maritime Declaration of Health at the [Ministry of Health](#)

* Sources: *Eksay Shipping and Trading Inc., BAC Shipping, MMS Ltd, GAC (Turkey) and Sark Ekspres Shipping Agency Co. Inc.*

Ukraine

Extensions of seafarers certificates and SEAs

23 March - Ukraine announced via [letter to the IMO](#) that seafarers' documents issued by them expiring in March, April and May 2020, shall be deemed to be extended for no more than 3 months from the date of expiry of their term of validity. For extension of SEAs, the shipowner is obliged to inform the Maritime Administration and the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine at the following email: psc.ua@marad.gov.ua, m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua with the following information: name of shipowner, name and IMO number of the ship, seafarer's full name, position on board the ship, details of the qualification documents or scanned copies of it, a copy of the extended employment contract.

18 March - National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine closed the state border of Ukraine for foreign citizens, effective March 16, 2020 at 00:00 and continues for two weeks with an option of prolongation. Air connection to Ukraine to be closed from 17th of March.

In the meantime, the cargo customs stations, including ones located in Ukrainian ports, will operate in the ordinary regime, which territory is considered as the customs control zone with a limited access. Whilst the port clearance control all seafarers shall undergo an obligatory medical examination. Crew members will not be allowed to visit the cities.

Signing off of seafarers from and further repatriation of crew with foreign passports from the vessels at Ukrainian ports will be prohibited by local Immigration Authorities.

13 March -Sanitary authorities inspect all ships calling at Ukrainian ports, including Pivdennyi (ex-Yuzhny) port due to risks of COVID-19, i.e. not only ships from China, Hong-Kong, Far East region or Italy.

Temperature screening/measurements from crew members to be taken. Master should submit crew list and all crew members should complete the special health list in order to confirm his state of health. Sanitary inspection onboard takes about 1,5-2 hours and if no sick persons onboard and no risk of COVID-19 the free practice is granted. Otherwise ship proceeds on anchorage and wait further sanitary decision.

All visitors (stevedores, agents, surveyors) should be informed in due course about precautionary measures during work onboard and it is prohibited to board the ship before the completion of sanitary inspection of crew, passengers onboard.

All visitors should use a protective disposable mask, latex protective gloves, while onboard which should be remained onboard and ship's administration should store them at special waste box for hazardous waste.

All visitors should use a disinfection liquids for washing the hands. In case of any suspect sick person will be found visitors, agents, crew, Masters should immediately notify Sanitary inspection about this fact for appropriate measures.

Removal of ship wastes should be discussed with the ship's agent and will be possible after preliminary disinfection treatment only.

* Source: *North P&I Club*

United Arab Emirates

Federal

With the issue of [circular 2/2020](#) the federal Transportation Agency are imposing the following restrictions>

- › Suspend Ferry services with Islamic Republic of IRAN until further notice from FTA.
- › Ship masters should send health declaration
- › 72 hours before arrival to UAE to the port authorities irrespective of their last port of call, with undertaking from the master that no crew member is suffering from any symptoms suggestive of Corona Virus illness.
- › Symptoms may appear after vessel arrival during the vessel stay at anchorage or at the berth, therefore port authorities should remind Master of the vessel to report any suspected cases after her arrival.
- › Suspected cases should be reported immediately by the port to the FTA and the Health authorities.

Update to the above: 11 March

- › All UAE ports must ensure that any ship that has visited a Chinese port in previous 30 days must provide a Master's statement that crew are free from symptoms. This must be provided at least 3 days prior to arrival.
- › Ferry services to and from Iran suspended until further notice
- › Masters to submit health declaration 72 hours before arrival.
- › Report to the FTA and health authorities any suspected cases that may occur during vessel's stay.

Abu Dhabi

According to [circular 2/2020](#) Ports and terminals under the administration of Abu Dhabi Port Authority will be subject to the following restrictions:

- › Crew changes (Signing On/Off) are strictly prohibited for all calling vessels arriving from outside the Emirate of Abu Dhabi waters limits
- › No any crew member is allowed to disembark the vessel during its call at Abu Dhabi Ports. This include access to the berth/jetty. No shore leave is permitted including access to the seaman club.
- › No shore leave is permitted, including berth and jetty unless in case of emergency and subject to the Port Harbour Master's approval

Update to the above : Abu Dhabi Ports announced on 10 March that the following will take effect for three months:

- › Crew changes are prohibited for vessels arriving from outside Abu Dhabi.
- › No shore leave is permitted, including berth and jetty unless in case of emergency and subject to approval from harbour master.

Dubai

For vessels calling Dubai all suspected cases - which includes sickness with relevant travel history or close contact with confirmed cases - must be reported to Dubai health authorities. Please find the original release [here](#)

Fujairah

With [NTM 274](#) Fujairah follows the federal circulars and restriction regimes. Crew disembarkation is regulated by [NTA 35/2020](#) according to which all disembarkation is suspended.

United Kingdom

The UK authorities have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate but have not imposed any restrictions on sea transport. Please click on the following links to assess the situation in UK :

- › [UK Government](#) to view UK's situation, latest advice and information.
- › [UK Guidance](#) for Shipping and sea ports on COVID-19
- › [UK Guidance](#) for staff in the transport sector

20 and 18 March March - [Port of London-River Thames](#) and [Peel Ports](#) issued "**Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedures**" applying to all ships; namely UK Government's virus alert of mentioned countries, countries where crew member was from a country subject to the virus alert within 14 days prior to arrival or subject to information received by the local Port Health Authority after receipt of the mandatory Maritime Declaration of Health of suspected cases. Please see the respective notice issued by the ports. See also "[Pilotage operations during COVID-19](#)" issued by the UK Maritime Pilots' Association.

*Milford Haven – Dragon LNG have the following procedures in place with immediate effect:

- › Ships agents to only board ships if they need to have a face to face conversation with Master or for Cash to Master deliveries.

The following personnel will not be allowed to transit the terminal or board the ship:

- › Company staff from shipping company
- › Surveyors, Class, P&I etc.
- › Service engineers attending non-critical ships equipment
- › Sire Inspectors and Auditors
- › No crew changes will be allowed at Dragon LNG. Personnel will be allowed to sign off the ship but no personnel will be allowed to join.
- › Service engineers who need to attend for repair of critical ship systems will require a risk assessment to be carried out in conjunction with marine manager at Dragon LNG and the shipping company.
- › Shore leave will be allowed.
- › Ship welfare visits will not be allowed unless in an emergency and the Marine Manager will decide whether the Port Welfare Chaplin may visit onboard or will arrange a convenient location for a confidential meeting.
- › Government agencies visiting the ship will only be allowed in an emergency or after completing a Coronavirus questionnaire.*

**Source: North P&I Club*

Uruguay

12 Feb - Ships should report if they have on board crew members or passengers who are Chinese nationals or that have embarked in China, clearly specifying the date of embarkation.

It is reminded that the Health Declaration is an affidavit for which the Master of the ship is responsible. In case of misdeclaration, even if unintentional, the Master could face criminal charges for endangering the public health.

When the vessel has on board crew members or passengers who are Chinese nationals or that have embarked in China, then:

- › Before berthing, the Master will be requested to report whether there have been any crew members or passengers with fever during the last 48 hours. If affirmative, he will also be required to mention any other additional symptoms that may be present.

- › If the Surveillance Service concludes that there may be an infectious transmissible disease, the steps to be taken will be informed, and no access to the vessel will be granted until all requirements have been met.

While still observing the provision mentioned in Circular 02/20, circular 04/20 mentions the following precautions measures:

- › Suspension of flights from Europe, effective from 20 March
- › At least 14 days quarantine for people coming from countries defined as high risk, i.e.:
 - › China
 - › France
 - › Germany
 - › Iran
 - › Italy
 - › Japan
 - › Republic of Korea
 - › Singapore
 - › United States of America

Above list of high risk countries should not be considered as exhaustive.

See [circular 02/20](#) and circular 04/20.

** Source: North P&I Club*

USA

With the issue of [Presidential proclamations for 9993](#) (Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Non-immigrants of Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus and Other Appropriate Measures To Address This Risk), 9992 (Iran), 9993 (Schengen Area), [9994 \(UK and Ireland\)](#) - all immigrants and non-immigrants with a recent travel history coming from the below mentioned countries - prohibited from entering the USA:

- › Austria
- › Belgium
- › Czech Republic
- › Denmark
- › Estonia
- › Finland
- › France
- › Germany
- › Greece
- › Hungary
- › Iceland
- › Italy
- › Ireland
- › Latvia
- › Liechtenstein
- › Lithuania

- › Luxembourg
- › Malta
- › Netherlands
- › Norway
- › Poland
- › Portugal
- › Slovakia
- › Slovenia
- › Spain
- › Sweden
- › Switzerland
- › United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe, and the Republic of Ireland

Persons with a recent travel history to China are not allowed to enter the USA. Please see the original release [here](#)

USCG requires ship representatives to report on sick or deceased crew/ passengers within the last 15 days. Please find the original release [here](#).

USCG has provided an update 16 March ([MSIB 02-20 \(Change 3\)](#)) 9 March 2020, establishing amongst others, the following important measures:

- › Non-passenger commercial ships that have been to the countries noted above or embarked crewmembers from the countries noted above within the last 14 days, with no sick crewmembers, will be permitted to enter the U.S. and conduct normal operations, provided that crewmembers remain aboard the vessel except to conduct specific activities directly related to vessel cargo or provisioning operations. U.S. citizens or any other persons listed in Section 2 of Presidential Proclamation “[Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)”, for example crewmembers with a transit and/or crewmember visa, may be permitted to disembark the vessel to conduct vessel operations pier side or for the immediate and continuous transit through the U.S. to another country.
- › Non-passenger commercial vessels that have been to the countries noted above or embarked crewmembers from the countries noted above within the last 14 days, and do have sick crewmembers should expect delays and need to work with local health and port officials prior to entry.
- › On March 13, 2020, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) announced that member companies were voluntarily suspending cruise ship operations from U.S. ports of call for 30 days. The CDC issued a No Sail Order on March 14, 2020 to all cruise ships that had not voluntarily suspended operations. The Coast Guard will closely coordinate with CDC to facilitate a safe and expeditious return of passengers onboard cruise ships that are underway and bound for U.S. ports.
- › All persons that have been in or through a country listed above may be subject to CDC screening prior to disembarkation.

The US's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also updated their [interim Guidance](#) for ships on managing suspected coronavirus disease. See also [CDC - Maritime Resources](#).

Venezuela

* 17 March - The National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA) INEA issued Circular No. 04 (Special Notice-02 COVID-19), dated 13 March 2020 – a number of preventive measures, among them (see [Pandi](#) circular):

- › Once the arrival notice is made, the Captain of the ship will be asked for the list of the last three (03) destination ports.
- › A sanitary inspection upon arrival of a ship to port. This visit will be applied to all national and foreign flag ships, either in transit or engaged in cabotage.

- › In the event that any member of the crew showing symptoms of the COVID-19, the ship will be directed to a quarantine area. Sanitary authorities will carry out the respective medical evaluation of the entire crew.
- › Measures will be taken to restrict or control the crews of ships that arrive at Venezuelan ports from overseas so that they do not go ashore.
- › Instructions will be given to the Captain of the ship, so that during stay in Venezuelan waters the crews use protective masks.
- › The Captain of the ship should be suggested to follow all the preventive measures that have been made public to avoid contagion, such as the use of protective masks, antiseptic gel and frequent effective washing of hands.

The Circular No. 04 does not imply militarization nor delay in port activities.

Additionally, the INEA has suspended until further notice the “physical visit” to the ship by its personnel in order to verify the validity of the ship’s documentation, what it will be now done via e-mail in coordination with ship agents.

** Source: North P&I Club*

Vietnam

18 March from North P&I Club:

"Immigration office has announced below information which is applied from 15 March until further notice:

1. China, Hong Kong, Macau, Korean, Italian, Iran are not allowed to entry Vietnam.
2. Visa exemption of Japan, Korea, United Kingdom, French, Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland are not accepted.
3. Stop issuing visa for United Kingdom & Schengen countries.
4. Visa on arrival at airport of all nationalities are not accepted. Exit visa at port are not accepted either.
5. All nationalities will apply visa at Vietnam embassy of their countries. Condition for visa application will depends on requirement of Vietnam embassy at each country.
6. The rest of nationalities who can enter Vietnam by exemption visa or valid visa, if immigration officer finds out they have visited areas like UK, Schengen countries, China, Korea, they have two options:

OPTION 1 Continue Vietnam entry, then they are isolated for 14 days, after 14 days if they are negative of covid 19 they are allowed into entry Vietnam.

OPTION 2 Fly out of Vietnam.

7. Upon arrival airport, if quarantine officer finds out someone has a symptom of covid 19 they will isolate everyone on this flight, all guests on flight will have two options:

OPTION 1 Continue Vietnam entry, then they are isolated for 14 days, after 14 days if they are negative of covid 19 they are allowed into entry Vietnam

OPTION 2 Fly out of Vietnam

8. For shipping line related to crew change attending vessel, send below info for checking with immigration quarantine office:

- › List of 10 last port call
- › nationality of crew technician superintendent, etc

9. If the vessel called China, Hong Kong, Macau, Korea, EU Ports, crew change cannot be arranged crews on board are not allowed to go on shore for all purposes.

10. For vessels that have not called the listed ports, crew change can be arranged with some conditions Quarantine officer at port will:

On signer: check temperature or health condition before allowing enter port.

Off signer: they may check temperature daily and or the date of repatriation."

Vinamarine, which is the authority assigned under the Ministry of Transport of Vietnam, has on 30 January, given some general advice as [this link](#) (unfortunately in Vietnamese) on this outbreak. From our internal sources, this appears to say that a mandate is given to individual Vietnamese ports to implement measures as appropriate to combat the outbreak at their ports.

As a follow-up to the above, Hai Phong Port , with effect from 4th February, has taken some steps whereby all ships travelling from Chinese ports to Hai Phong within the last 14 days have to be subject to quarantine. See link [here](#).

Also, according to [Spica International, Vietnam office](#), the Vietnamese maritime authorities have imposed a quarantine period of 14 days that apply to ships that have called a "Coronavirus epidemic area". This means that a ship which has called China before calling Vietnam is subject to the quarantine rules. The quarantine period as based on Spica's understanding, starts from the time the ship arrives at the port of destination in Vietnam.

Ships intending to call at Vietnamese ports are highly recommended to liaise very closely with their agents as the agents will have the most recent information about measures implemented and the enforcement of same at their respective ports.

Yemen

16 March : - The Yemeni Government decided to put the following precautionary procedures in place with effect from 00:00 hours on Tuesday 17th March 2020:

- › Suspension of flights at all Yemeni airports for a period of two weeks. Humanitarian and aid flights are excluded.
- › All Yemeni borders will be closed except for humanitarian and aid traffic.
- › Ships' crew will undergo medical examinations before ships are granted entry permission to Yemeni ports.

* Source: North P&I Club

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Based on WHO's recommendations, the IMO has issued [advice](#) on precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from COVID-19. An [addendum](#) has also been issued by IMO advising flag State authorities, port State authorities and relevant stakeholders to co-operate and ensure that the principles of avoiding unnecessary restrictions or delays to port entry of ships, persons or property are held as well as respecting the implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO instruments caused by this outbreak. The circular also includes a communication received from the International Labour Organisation reminding flag States' obligation during this outbreak, to protect seafarers' health and medical rights under the Maritime Labour Convention.

A further [addendum](#) has been issued. This time it is jointly by the Director-General of World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Secretary-General of IMO to assist government states in ensuring that health measures are implemented in ways that minimise unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade; in particular respecting the requirements of "free pratique" for ships under the International Health Regulations (ref: IHR 2005, article 28).

[Addendum no. 3](#) was issued on 2 March 2020 attaching WHO's guidance on operational considerations for managing this outbreak on board ships.

[Addendum no. 4](#) was issued on 5 March 2020 providing guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers.

[Addendum no. 5](#) was issued on 17 March 2020 giving guidance on the certification of seafarers, advising Administrations and Port State Authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach in relation to extension of the necessary certificates and endorsements required.

[IMO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information section](#)

World Health Organization (WHO) - interim guidance/operational considerations on board ships

WHO has issued [interim guidance](#) to assist with management of the coronavirus outbreak on board ships, which includes amongst others; an outbreak management plan and information on pre-boarding, pre-disembarkment and pre-board screening.

WHO maintains also a [travel and tourism page](#) giving guidance amongst others, on public health preparedness and response for the maritime sector and management of ill travellers at points of entry.

Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clauses

Members should note that BIMCO has two clauses (see below) that address contractual issues in relation to severe cases of virulent diseases, such as Ebola. The implications for shipowners and operators due to such outbreaks can be significant. Delays may occur and costs arise not only when the ship is in an area where the risk of infection is high, but also at a later date when the ship calls at ports far outside the region where restrictions may be imposed to reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

The Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clauses for Voyage and Time Charter Parties have been developed for use in response to any severe outbreak of a virulent disease. The decision to take a generic clause approach to the Ebola outbreak reflects BIMCO's view that there have been a number of virulent diseases, such as SARS, that have also had a significant impact on the industry in the past and that it is likely that other severe virulent diseases may well occur in the future. The generic solution offered by BIMCO avoids having to write specific clauses to address individual outbreaks each time they occur.

› [Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clause for Time Charter Parties](#)

› [Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clause for Voyage Charter Parties](#)

Click [here](#) for general information on this virus and the latest WHO situation report or reach out to [Maritime Information](#) for more information.

Management of Public Health Events on Board Ships - WHO Handbook

A wide variety of events ranging in severity may occur on ships, requiring different responses or even no response. The World Health Organization (WHO), in this document, addresses events which have the likelihood of adversely affecting health of the human population through its course of spreading internationally or simply posing a serious and direct danger to health. Following an all-hazard approach, this document aims to provide technical advice to competent authorities at the port level for management of public health events on board ships and is also useful for shipping companies, ship masters, officers and crew.

› [Handbook for Management of Public Health Events on Board Ships - a 2016 WHO publication](#)

Port State Control Inspection Regimes - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Please find below the various press releases issued by the following MOU regimes regarding guidance on the impact of COVID-19:

- › [Paris MoU Press Release](#)
- › [Tokyo MoU Press Release](#)
- › [Indian MoU Press Release](#)

European Union - Implementation Measures

The European Union (EU) in support of the shipping industry, trade and seafarers during this coronavirus outbreak, has the European Commission (EC) adopting on 16 March 2020, the "Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services". These guidelines request that Member States implement them in order for all EU internal borders to stay open to freight and supply chain of essential products like food and medical supplies is guaranteed for quick delivery without any delays. The introduction and implementation of green lanes to assist Member States with this would help to avoid delays which also includes any checks and health screening of transport workers. Member States should act immediately to temporarily suspend all types of road access restrictions in place in their territory (week-end bans, night bans, sectoral bans, etc.) for road freight transport and for the necessary free movement of transport workers. Hence exemptions apply to transport workers under the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU.

The related documents are as follows:

- › [EC Guidelines for Border Management to Protect Health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services \(C \(2020\)1753 final\)](#)
- › [Implementation of the Green Lanes and Communication from the EC](#)
- › [Temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU \(2020\)](#)
- › [Long-term docking of ships upon suspension of sailing](#)

Feedback or a question about this information?

Contact Ai Cheng Foo-Nielsen

(+45) 4436 6856

marinfo@bimco.org

CONTACT ONLINE

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