

FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 27 12.05.2020

Further updates on COVID-19 precautions have been received from members as summarized below. As always, please contact the relevant association for more guidance.

Cyprus	The Cyprus Ministry of Transport has issued detailed revised guidelines for the gradual lifting of restrictions on operations in ports. Furthermore, whilst shore leave remains prohibited, crew changes are now permitted under certain circumstances. Details of the changes to operational procedures and the protocols for crew changes are provided in the attachments to this report.
European Union	Jesper Sebbelin in Copenhagen reports that the European Commission has provided a summary of measures put in place to support the transport industry during the pandemic. The document can be found here: www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/08/covid-19-council-agrees-its-positions-on-transport-relief-measures

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CYPRUS PORTS AUTHORITY
LAW OF 1973 TO 2016

Directives under Article 14

The Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, exercising the powers granted to him under Article 14 (1) of the Cyprus Port Authority Laws of 1973 to 2016, issues the following revised Guidelines for the gradual relaxation of the Restrictive Measures to Response to the Pandemic of the COVID 19 virus in ports, and port facilities in Cyprus:

Following the Directives of the Minister of Transport, Communications and Projects dated 9.4.2020 to the Cyprus Port Authority and in the context of the gradual relaxation of the measures taken to address the emergency situation in Cyprus due to the pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID 19), the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works issues the following new Directives concerning the revised restrictive measures to be applied to all ports and port facilities by both the Port Authority and the Port Authority.

1. Disembarkation of Passengers/Crews: Any disembarkation of passengers and persons who are members of crews of any type of vessel is prohibited, including cruise ships and recreational craft, for the purpose of conducting visits, stays or overnights on the territory of the Republic, except for the replacement/change of crews as referred to in 2 below.

2. Replacement/Change of Crews: The transfer and/or departure from the Republic of persons who are members of crews of commercial vessels, cruise ships in decommissioning status, yachts and crew members on platforms conducting exploratory drillings within Exclusive Economic Zones of States with which the Republic of Cyprus has established diplomatic relations, either on board vessels calling in ports of the Republic, or arriving, with flights exceptionally authorised by the Minister of Transport. A relevant protocol has been prepared for the procedure to be followed for the change of crews, which is attached.

3. With respect to the crews of commercial vessels (tugboats, etc.) which have a permanent basis in Cyprus and should they operate on international voyages outside territorial waters or voyages within territorial waters and come into contact with other ship crews or foreign ports, they must strictly comply with the instructions of the Medical and Public Health Services, i.e. self-limitation of the occupants for 14 days, on their return to Cypriot ports. Such vessels sailing in or outside territorial waters, where the same crew members work as employers in the company and provided that, when serving other ships, they do not come into contact with the crews of other ships and do not visit foreign ports, then there will be no obligation to self-restraint.

4. Vessel decommissioning: The long-term stay of ships in anchorages of the Republic for decommissioning purposes, in readiness conditions (warm lay-up) on the basis of the availability of slot for anchoring for decommissioning purposes and on the basis of the characteristics of the ships is permitted. It is understood that passengers may not be disembarked or disembarked for reasons other than for crew replacement/change purposes as referred to in 2 above.

5. Military Vessels: They may be docked after Notam Verbatim, but their crews may not be disembarked except for replacement/change as mentioned in 2 above.

6. Movements of Private Vessels for maintenance and repair purposes: Private vessels may move between authorised berths within the territory of the Republic for maintenance and repair purposes.

7. UNIFIL: It is permitted to move members of the UNIFIL Command force based in the ground installations of the port of Limassol. As regards the crews of UNIFIL vessels, it is only allowed to disembark for direct transport to an appropriate hotel inland for self-restraint and for their replacement/change as referred to in 2 above.

8. Medical Emergency Incidents: In the event of emergencies (emergency medical situations) for a sick passenger or a sick crew member, either at anchorage or in port, agents exceptionally and due to the emergency medical situation will be entitled to make the necessary arrangements for the transport and care of the patient, provided that they are consulted in advance with the Medical Services and Public Health Services and inform the Cyprus Port Authority.

9. No one is allowed to embark on any vessel for any reason apart from conducting activities which relate to cargo operations. It is permissible for Stevedores, Lashers-Unlashers and Surveyors to embark on vessels for conducting cargo operations with the prerequisite that the Master shall undertake to isolate/restrain the crew and send a written confirmation to the relative Port Establishment, that the crew is in self-restraint order within the cabins and no contact shall incur with the abovementioned personnel during their stay on board the vessel. It is implied that, whichever is able to conduct their activities electronically (signing of certificates) they are prohibited from embarking on board. Same applies for Surveyors which are involved with the administrative part of operations which strictly means that only those who conduct operations relating to sampling checks and measurements i.e. bunkering- the rest are prohibited to embark. The procedure must be conducted electronically. It is implied that the Stevedores, Lashers-Unlashers and Surveyors must strictly adhere to the rules of self-protection/hygiene (masks, gloves, keeping necessary distance of 1-2 meters from each other, washing hands etc) during embarkation and disembarkation from the vessel, as the below directives given by the Medical Services to the Navigators.

10. If there is a need for an inspection of a berthed vessel on the quay by crew members, only one member of the crew may be disembarked for a short period of time, provided that the ship's Agent informs the Cyprus Port Authority or the Contractors/Licensees/Port Operators, in order to remove the persons working at that time in the specific part of the yard, at the presence of the Port Police for supervising the aforementioned procedure.

11. Provisions/Supplies: The crew must remain in self-restraint condition in their cabins during the ship's feeding process. The captain of the ship is responsible for confirming, both to the Ship Agent and the Cyprus Port Authority or the Contractors/Licensees/Port Operators, that there will be no physical contact/interface of crew with ground personnel. It is understood that the feeders/suppliers will place the supplies on the quay, at a point near the ship to be indicated, and after they have evacuated the area, the crew will be allowed to approach and load the supplies to the ship. With regard to Ship Feeding at Anchorage, it is permitted provided that there will be no physical contact/crew interface with the Feeders/Suppliers.

12. Instructions for boarding and disembarking vessels:

Before the Navigators board the pilot boat:

- A. Hand washing before use of equipment (masks, gloves).
- B. Installation/application of equipment (masks/gloves) before boarding the pilot boat.
- C. Using masks with respirator-filter (type FFP2).
- D. Use of disposable gloves.

E. Always have an antiseptic solution with at least 60 % alcohol content so that the gloves can be disinfected in the manoeuvre.

Boarding on board:

F. A distance of at least 1 meter from any person shall be kept.

G. The ship's bridge shall accommodate the minimum necessary number of people.

Disembarkation of Navigators:

H. Gloves, masks are properly removed and dispensed at the end of the manoeuvre as quickly as possible, in a bin on the quay that shall be placed for this purpose and definitely before entering the offices or interacting with any other persons.

I. Hand washing and antiseptic use.

13. Those who, with no other option, must board a ship for operations such as Port State Vessel Inspectors or Ship inspectors or Technicians necessary for conducting inspections or other qualified persons for supervision of unloading machines (e.g. bulk cargo, oil products) and inspection of equipment and safety incidents will have to comply, where applicable, with the instructions relating to boarding procedures.

14. With respect to individuals staying on board, regardless of time, such as the 'Mooring Master' for transshipment operations of petroleum products from ship to ship – 'STS Operations', and specialised persons for unloading petroleum products at power stations, the following should be adhered to:

A. Certification by the ship carrying the cargo that has been preceded by disinfection of the person/person(s). Where possible such persons should be accommodated in single or double cabins.

B. Clarification whether a personal toilet is available for such staff. In the case of a positive response, the personnel will remain isolated in their cabins without contact with the ship's crew and will use the personal toilets exclusively and strictly adhere to the personal protective/health measures. In the event of a negative response, the ship must designate a separate toilet for the persons for which it will also have to certify its prior disinfection.

C. The person(s) should carefully remove the personal protective/health equipment after completion of supervision and before entering the cabin. When leaving the cabin and if they are to come into contact with the ship's crew, personal protective/hygiene equipment should be available for change in the cabin. The final removal of personal protective/health equipment will take place as recorded in the guidance for navigators (i.e. once they reach land).

D. Special importance should be given to avoiding the unnecessary stay of any personnel of the ship near the Mooring Master/Specialised Persons.

E. As far as the issue of nutrition is concerned, it is recommended that they carry the necessary supplies for his/her stay on board with him/her. In case anything additional is needed, he/she will leave it out of the cabin and strictly keep the hands clean.

15. Crew shall be prohibited to disembark and perform work on the quay for the purpose of maintaining the ship, e.g. painting, washing a vessel, etc.

16. Those entering ports and port facilities should adhere strictly to the instructions of the Medical Services and Public Health Services in relation to the use of personal protective/health facilities.

It is understood that requests submitted to the Cyprus Port Authority for granting any exemption from the application of the above restrictive measures will be forwarded by the Cyprus Port Authority to the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works and to the Director General of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works for examination and decision after consultation with the Minister of Health.

Date: 6th May 2020

Protocol for the change of crew

Issued on 6th May, 2020

1. Crew change is permitted in the following categories of ships:

1.1. Members of commercial ship crews,

1.2. Crew members on platforms conducting exploratory drillings within Exclusive Economic Zones of States with which the Republic of Cyprus established diplomatic relations.

1.3. Crew members of cruise ships which are in decommissioning state

1.4. Members of yachts

2. For crew change, the following should be adhered:

2.1. These persons must be placed in the self-restraint regime 14 days before their arrival in the Republic. To confirm the above, they should complete the attached form.

2.2. they must be subjected to a molecular test for COVID-19 prior to their arrival or if this is not possible upon arrival and such test must be negative.

2.3. the company in which they work and/or the agent responsible for the change of crew, undertakes to transport the crew directly from the ship to the airport and to transport the crew arriving by air from the airport to the port of departure, under strict protective measures.

2.4. If there is no synchronisation between the arrival of the ship and the arrival of the flight, the company and/or the agent must make arrangements with the authorities for the crew to stay in designated accommodation under quarantine status until the flight or vessel arrives.

2.5. If the results of the molecular tests are pending, the company and/or the agent must make arrangements with the authorities for the crew to stay in designated enclosures, in isolation, until the results of the molecular tests have been obtained.

2.6. Where possible, the disembarkation crew shall remain on board until the date of the flight.

2.7. Persons already working as crew members on vessels berthed in Cyprus ports and such persons will disembark from the ship in order to depart from the Republic and there is no synchronisation between the departure of the ship and the departure of the flight, the company and/or the agent must make arrangements with the authorities for the crew to stay in designated accommodation, in isolation, until the flight arrives. 1 and 2 above shall not apply to these persons.

3. Procedure at the Airport

3.1. Crew changes will be made by specially chartered flights either by the agent or ship owner and/or those organised by the Republic for the repatriation of Cypriot citizens in case there is available space.

3.2. All safety instructions should be complied with within the airport area.

3.3. The use of a mask is mandatory and all measures should be taken for hand hygiene. Distances of 2 metres must be maintained by airport workers and other persons at the airport.

3.4. Transfer to the Airport should be made within a reasonable time, such as the airline's instructions before boarding at the airport.

4. Procedure at the Port

4.1. Crew members entering a port or port facility for boarding/disembarkation to/from a ship must follow strict protective measures.

4.2. The use of a mask is mandatory and all measures should be taken for hand hygiene. Distances of 2 metres from port workers and other persons within the port should be maintained.

4.3. Transport to the Port should be made within a short period of time in relation to the time of embarkation and after the ship is ready for boarding.

4.4. Disembarkation should take place only when the transport means is present to transport the crew to the airport or designated accommodation, as appropriate.

4.5. The new crew members shall be boarded after the previous crew has left, unless this is not applicable for safety reasons.

4.6. Any additional instructions set by the Port Operators and the Cyprus Port Authority as the Regulatory Authority are faithfully complied with.

5. Process of transfer.

5.1. Transportation to and from the destination, depending on the case (port, airport, hotel) is made under strict rules.

5.2. Transport is made directly and no intermediate stop is permitted. It shall be prohibited to disembark from the transport means, except in case of an emergency.

5.3. The mode of transport chosen shall be proportionate to the number of passengers and to those applicable in the Republic.

6. Other Directives

6.1. In the case which it is required under paragraph 2.2 molecular examination for COVID-19 on arrival of crew members within the Republic, the company and/or agent should arrange by agreement with a laboratory and make appropriate arrangements for the direct transport of the crew to a laboratory to carry out the molecular examination, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 5, prior to transport to accommodation.

6.2. Where required under paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 the use of designated accommodations, the company and/or the agent should be required by the company and/or the agent to arrange appropriate accommodation and make appropriate arrangements for the crew to remain in isolation for the time required as appropriate.

6.3. The cost of a ticket, a means of transport, the use of protective measures, molecular examination and accommodation by crew members shall be covered by the company and/or the agent.

Date: 7th May, 2020