

# FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



## AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 30 18.05.2020

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

<b>Belgium</b>	<p>In view of the current situation of very limited embarkation and signing off, the Immigration Office / Border Inspection has announced that the issuing of visas to seafarers has restarted as per normal procedures (pre-corona) from Monday morning 7:00 am, 18 May 2020. The issue of a border visa is however subject to a confirmed flight being available. For crew members who require a passport, or who hold a valid visa, this restriction also still applies.</p> <p>Please note that a guarantee letter still has to be submitted at the Border Inspection Post for ALL those signing-off via Belgium.</p> <p>Shore leave remains prohibited at this time.</p>
<b>Kenya</b>	<p>The following information has been provided by the port of Mombasa Authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mandatory Pre-arrival Reporting on board must be undertaken at least 48 hours before the vessel arrival in Kenya's territorial waters. Masters of ships must therefore submit a duly completed and compulsory Maritime Declaration of Health form to the Port Health officer.</li><li>2. Masters shall regularly update the Port Health Office on the health status of the crew on board.</li><li>3. All arriving vessels with crew/passengers with recent travel history to countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must undergo special monitoring and Port Health must issue restricted pratique.</li><li>4. Every ship entering Kenya from a country with confirmed cases of COVID-19 is subjected to rigorous inspection in the designated location as directed by the Harbour Master in consultations with Port Health Office.</li><li>5. If at any time during a vessel's stay at port, any health risk is reported, a Port Health Officer shall conduct assessments on a case by case basis to manage the risk and eliminate contamination other crew port personnel and others</li><li>6. Crew/passengers with any of these symptoms (fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, sore throat, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain, cough or shortness of breathing) the Master Must report to the Port Health Office.</li><li>7. Crew/passengers of vessels from confirmed COVID-19 countries will Not be granted shore passes. Only Kenyans and foreigners with valid</li></ol>

	<p>residence permits will be allowed to disembark after presentation of Health Declaration forms and by the health Authorities.</p> <p>8. All visitors (dockworkers, agents, surveyors, port state inspectors) to a ship from countries confirmed with COVID-19 cases must be informed about the precautionary measures while on board. It shall be prohibited for anyone to board a vessel before the completion of the health inspection of the crew or passengers. All visitors to use protective disposable mask and latex gloves while on board and should dispose them on board before disembarking in a special disposal bin.</p> <p>9. Masters of all ships due to arrive in a Kenyan port are required to declare their last 10 ports of call or voyage memo for the last three months, whichever is higher, and confirm that there is no crew showing symptoms of COVID-19 on board.</p> <p>10. Ships agents, if possible, should use alternative means of contacting the vessels instead of boarding the vessels, so as to minimize potential contamination risk.</p> <p>11. Ship crew change is temporarily suspended until further notice. The exception is given to Kenyan crew and persons with valid resident permits.</p> <p>12. The Masters of vessels shall be required to provide sanitizers at the ship's gangway for persons entering and upon exit.</p> <p>13. Garbage from vessels arriving from confirmed COVID-19 countries will not be allowed to be discharged at any Kenyan Port.</p> <p>In conclusion, we would like to reconfirm that no efforts shall be spared to ensure the Port remains a safe working environment. The Authority shall also continue supporting the National and County Government efforts in the war against corona virus.</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>Further to the report received from Portugal on 11<sup>th</sup> May (see updates 26 and 29), we have now been told that the measures detailed therein have now been extended by the government to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. In summary therefore,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all ports are open and working, no prohibitions have been placed on commercial cargo vessels,</li> <li>• shore leave remains suspended,</li> <li>• crew changes are permitted on a case by case basis</li> <li>• passenger vessels are not allowed to offload passengers or crew unless Portuguese citizens or due to a medical emergency</li> <li>• passenger vessels may enter port for layup, or refuel/provision</li> <li>• anyone arriving in Portugal by land, air or sea must quarantine for 14 days.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>As promised in the report in update 29 following the lifting of restrictions in Slovenia, the following additional information has been provided:</p> <p>Crew changes can take place (always assuming flights are available in/out!)</p>

	<p>but only under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The crew member has EU nationality or a Valid Schengen visa</li> <li>• The Owners/Carrier can find a suitable flight and transportation to/from Koper.</li> <li>• The on-signing crew member goes directly to the vessel and stays on board until departure (not allowed to leave the vessel).</li> <li>• The off-signing crewmember travels directly from vessel to the airport or leaves Slovenia by the most direct route</li> <li>• Ljubljana Airport (LJU) is open for passenger traffic, but currently still no flights are announced yet. Immigration is still not issuing any Schengen visas if no flights are available on the same day. In June it is anticipated some flights will operate and once they are confirmed, Immigration will start issuing Schengen Visas.</li> <li>• Shore leave is only allowed for EU citizen who are restricted to the city of Koper only.</li> <li>• For non EU crew shore leaves are still prohibited.</li> <li>• There are currently no restrictions applied to vessels arriving / departing from Koper.</li> <li>• All incoming vessels must declare all crew changes done in last 2 months and provide a correctly filled Medical Declaration of Health prior to arrival.</li> </ul> <p>Further information on the restrictions in Koper, as well as information on port charge and light dues reductions, is available from the Slovenian Ship Agents and Shipbrokers Association using the undernoted link:  <a href="https://luka-kp.si/eng/news#.Xsl3YjU1p18.email">https://luka-kp.si/eng/news#.Xsl3YjU1p18.email</a></p>
<p><b>South Africa</b></p>	<p>Whilst the number of cases of COVID-19 in South Africa continues to increase, it is expected that the assessed level of infection will reduce from the present level 4 to level 3 by the end of May, although some regions may remain at level 4 for a further period.</p> <p>All ports remain functional and are slowly returning to full capacity.</p>