

# FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



## AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 43 24.06.2020

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>Denmark</b>	As reported in Bulletin 42 issued on Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> , the Danish Shipbrokers' and Port Operators Association has been in dialogue with the Danish police and immigration authorities with a view to allowing the issue of emergency visas. They have now succeeded in reaching agreement and the relevant details are provided in the attached press release issued by the association today.
<b>France</b>	All ports continue to operate normally across all areas, although cruises currently remain suspended. Crew changes are allowed, although issues remain with incoming crew from non-Schengen countries obtaining visas due to the closure of EU Member State consulates in crew source countries. Off-singing crew may depart if a flight is available.
<b>Lebanon</b>	<p>AIRPORT: Beirut-Rafik Hariri International Airport will reopen for commercial flights on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. However, due to the persistent threat to public health, the airport activity will be restricted to a maximum of 10% compared to last year's capacity until further notice.</p> <p>PCR tests will be conducted for all arrivals at Beirut and results will be disclosed 24 hours later. Additionally, for all non-Lebanese citizens interested in traveling to Lebanon must possess an insurance policy valid for the entire duration of their planned stay in the country. The obligatory insurance policy is intended to cover all costs of treatment for COVID-19 on Lebanese territory for its carrier. It is possible to acquire a policy from the insurance companies operating in Lebanon. These requirements are also applicable to crew changes.</p>

### **Denmark allows emergency visa for stranded seafarers**

Danish Authorities have now allowed issuing emergency visas to seafarers who are “stranded” as a result of COVID-19.

The National Police has responded to a request from our organization Danish Shipbrokers and Port Operators.

Mr Jesper Sebbelin, Chief Advisor at Danish Shipbrokers and Port Operators is thrilled at the news: “This is a very important signal from the Danish authorities. It is of course of enormous importance for the stranded seafarers, who can now hopefully easier travel home. But it is also very positive for the shipping companies, and for the Danish maritime cluster in total.”

In the opinion of the National Police, an emergency visa request should be granted, taking into account the very special situation which many seafarers involuntarily find themselves in connection with COVID-19. This applies both to expiring visas, but also to seafarers who, upon signing up, have not been able to foresee the need for a visa to sign off. A large proportion of the departing third-country seafarers will be able to avail themselves of the transfer scheme, but with the still limited travel routes directly out of the Schengen Area, a transit visa will provide more flexible travel options.

Emergency visas can thus be drawn up in the local Danish police districts for seafarers in transit where the transfer scheme cannot be used or where the issuing of emergency visas provides a faster and alternative travel route.

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