

FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 91 23.06.2021

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

Algeria	<p>All Algerian Ports are open to commercial operations both for import and export and applying recommended sanitary measures.</p> <p>Despite of the traffic restrictions borne by the COVID-19 protective measures most terminals have returned to normal working schedules.</p> <p>Free pratique and start operations always subject to sanitary service green light granted further their inspection which could be carried out either on road or at berth at the discretion of local authorities who requires a list of documents to be sent 48 hrs. prior arrival or upon departure for short sea transit. This list includes IMO crew list, recent crew change list, crew temperature list, last 10 ports of call and medical declaration of health.</p> <p>Compulsory disinfection of ships at owners/operators' expense is required at most Algerian ports.</p> <p>The boarding of the ship by the various control services (Border Police, Customs, Shipping Agents, Coast Guard, etc.) is reduced to the strict minimum.</p> <p>Getting off to shore is not allowed for crewmembers, except in cases of force majeure, (sickness, serious issues etc.); moreover, crew changes are not allowed to be carried out in Algeria.</p> <p>Personnel who handle and are in contact with ships (Dockers, pilots, shipping agents, Customs, etc.) are all protected by standard equipment.</p>
Argentina	<p>"Preventive and compulsory social isolation" is still in force at a national level, including the closure of the country's borders, maintaining some procedures for the attention of exceptions and particular cases, under a practically monthly dynamic of updating the sanitary measures.</p> <p>Due to the strong increase in cases in the country and the entry of different variants of COVID 19, the authorities have recently increased restrictions on internal circulation and some activities, especially at night. Flight bans have been added to certain destinations such as UK, Italy, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, limiting others. On the other hand, it was established that in all cases, health controls are carried out upon admission based on a very strict specific protocol.</p> <p>Authorities have not yet authorized the disembarkation or replacement of foreign crews, except for the attention of particular humanitarian situations managed and justified on a case-by-case basis, which has been made even more difficult by the significant increase in cases that currently exist.</p> <p>For the embarkation of Pilots and grants of Free Pratique, the specific protocols and information requirements continue without modifying with no less than 72 hours prior to the arrival of the ship at the first place of embarkation of Pilots and authorization of entry, requiring the information provided to international level by the International Health</p>

	<p>Regulations (IHR) plus certain complementary data especially related to the last 14 days of navigation, crew changes in that period and port entries.</p> <p>In the case of ships that arrive at the Pilot's embarkation points with 14 days or more of navigation since their last entry to port, some additional information such as temperature data of each member of the crew continues to be added to the usual previous information, statement of cleaning / disinfection procedures and equipment used and any other supplementary information. The health authorities verify this information and, where appropriate, give their consent for the Pilots to board and enter the port. Upon arrival they carry out controls on board and if no inconveniences are observed, they will proceed to grant the "Free Pratique", enabling the operations of the ship.</p> <p>If the ship has entered ports in the last 14 days prior to arrival, further additional information on crew replacement is still required, a protocol implemented by the port and the ship's company to carry out such replacement, an affidavit of the crew members to verify the traceability of the days prior to embarkation, health certificate for embarkation, copy of the embarkation and disembarkation records of crew and ground personnel involved in the operation of the ship and all other complementary data that in the process of Analysis of prior information may be required by the health authorities according to each case.</p> <p>The protocols established for ships that must comply with quarantine or isolation also remain unchanged; specific information required if symptoms or positive cases of COVID-19 are registered on board (depending on the different situations that may arise), protocols for the case of care for affected crew members, etc. All this is reported by the partner Maritime Agencies to the shipowners and captains of the ships in detail and as applicable in each case.</p> <p>The updated regulations on the activity described (in Spanish only) are available through the following link:</p> <p>https://www.argentina.gob.ar/puertos-vias-navegables-y-marina-mercante/protocolo-prevencion-covid-19-en-el-transporte-fluvial</p>
Brazil	<p>Some states have declared a 14-day lockdown since most cities has now reached full hospital intensive care capacity. The beginning of this period can vary as decided by each State but, in general, it should happen during the 2nd half of March.</p> <p>At present, and despite of adverse situation, the Brazilian ports are still maintaining their regular loading and unloading cargo operations, as well as the crew change arrangements considering the precautions recommended by IMO. The situation may change at any time and a more aggressive level of restrictive measures could be adopted, thereby affecting a foreign trade chain and specifically a movement of cargo and crew change in Brazilian ports. We will provide updates as the situation changes.</p>
Denmark	<p>Denmark changed its travel restrictions and announcements to divide countries into Code Red, Code Orange, and Code Yellow. The Danish Foreign Ministry publishes its travel guidance on a weekly basis, which also determines which color code each country is placed in. The rules governing travelling in private and business can be studied in the Danish authorities' official website at: https://en.coronasmitte.dk/rules-and-regulations/entry-into-denmark/foreigners-resident-abroad. For orange there are a difference between EU and non-EU countries which should be observed in the link.</p> <p>Denmark has also published special rules which apply for foreigners who are vaccinated, also accessible via the above link.</p>

Dubai	<p>The previous advices regarding crew changes in Dubai remain unaltered as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crew change in Dubai ports and anchorages is allowed subject to compliance with the Dubai Health Authority COVID-19 guidelines and scheduled flights in UAE. 2. All agents are required to coordinate with “The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs”, Dubai Ports & Airports, and make sure the quick process of crew transfer from ships to airports and from airport to ships. All agents and employers are requested to adhere with COVID-19 tests and guidelines issued by Dubai Health Authority to maintain the health of crew and employees. <p>Other points are :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. DSAA is continuing to interact with members one on one basis and meetings with a large crowd is done virtually. 4. DSAA have taken the lead in requesting DPW to help members to waive off the port charges including storage charges of empty containers. 5. DSAA is also assisting members with Customs inspection after office hours especially for consignments pertaining to medical equipment, essentials etc. <p>The UAE Maritime Activities Return to Work Safely Protocol dated 02/08/2020 (copy attached) remains in force at this time.</p>
Egypt	<p>The Ministry of Health & Population now requires that PCR test result certificates must include the QR code in addition to the stamp of the laboratory to verify authenticity and place of issue of the PCR test result certificate.</p> <p>Please be guided accordingly.</p>
Finland	<p>See the advice on crew changes (and other travel arrangements), previously circulated under update no. 78.</p>
Israel	<p>The reduction in cases of COVID-19 in Israel, and the lifting of some restrictions, has allowed crew changes to resume, subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>Arrivals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Crew members must be in isolation 14 days prior embarkation on their flight to Israel and undergo a Corona test 48 hours before. Results should be sent to IMOT (via the agent) prior embarkation. 2) All applications must be submitted Sunday to Thursday. 3) Applications should include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) An excel sheet with crew members' details. b) A PDF file with a request to enter Israel, health declaration, passport photograph of each member, and company's declaration on the 14 days isolation. c) date of arrival, number of members. ship's name, port's name, flight details. d) The trip from the airport to the ship is a direct one, without any stop. <p>Departures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The application should be sent to the regional health authority 5 days before leaving Israel. 2) The application should include details of crew members, from which ship, which port, health declaration, passport photos, flight details. 3) The approval to leave the ship and depart to the airport is issued by the regional health chamber only. 4) The trip from the ship to the airport is a direct one, without any stop.

Italy	<p>DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CABINET - 14 January 2021</p> <p>Art. 9</p> <p>Obligations of carriers and shipowners</p> <p>1. Carriers and shipowners are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) acquire and verify before boarding the declaration referred to in art. 7; b) check the body temperature of each passengers; c) prohibit boarding for those who are or have been feverish, as well as who have not completed the declaration referred to in (a); d) adopt all measures which, in accordance with the "Shared Regulatory Protocol to contain the spread of COVID-19 in transport and logistics sector" signed on 20 March 2020, as referred to in Annex 14, "Organizational arrangements to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the field of public transport" referred to in Annex 15, and ensure at all times of the journey an interpersonal distance of at least one meter between the passengers transported; e) make sure that the crew and passengers use personal protective equipment and to indicate situations in which they may be temporarily and exceptionally removed; f) supply at the time of embarkation, passengers who do not have the means of personal protection with same. <p>2. In exceptional cases and, in any case, only in the presence of requirements for the protection of Italian citizens abroad and the fulfilment of international and European obligations, including those arising from the implementation of Council Directive (EU) 2015/637 of 20 April 2015, "On coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection of Union citizens not represented in third countries" and repealing Decision 95/553/EC, by decree of the Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport, adopted on a proposal from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and in agreement with the Ministry for Health, specific and temporary derogations from the provisions of this Article may be provided.</p> <p>Art.10</p> <p>Provisions on cruise ships and foreign flag ships</p> <p>1. Cruise services by Italian flag passenger ships may be carried out only in compliance with the specific guidelines set out in Annex 17 to this Decree, validated by the Technical and Scientific Committee referred to in art. 2 of Order No 630 of 3 February 2020 of the Head of the Department of Civil Protection.</p> <p>2. Cruise services may be used by those who are not subject to or obliged to comply with health surveillance and/or fiduciary isolation measures and who have not been during the fourteen days prior to embarkation in the States or territories listed in Lists D and E of Annex 20. In case of residence or transit in states or territories listed in List C, the Article 8, paragraph 6 will be applied.</p> <p>3. For the purpose of authorizing the cruise to take place, before the departure of the vessel, the Master shall submit to the Maritime Authority a specific declaration where following points will be stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the preparation of all the measures necessary to comply with the guidelines referred to in paragraph 1; b) the subsequent ports of call and the port at the end of the cruise, with the relevant arrival/departure dates;
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	<p>c) the nationality and origin of the passengers on board in compliance with the provisions referred to in the preceding subparagraph.</p> <p>4. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, second period, foreign flag vessels employed in cruise services shall be allowed to enter Italian ports providing that the last ports of call are located in states or territories listed in Lists A, B and C of Annex 20 and all passengers on board have not stayed or transited in the fourteen days prior to entry into the Italian port in states or territories listed in Lists D and E of Annex 20, as well as after declaration of compliance on board the vessel, to the guidelines referred to in paragraph 1.</p> <p>The Master of the vessel shall submit to the Maritime Authority, at least twenty-four hours before the vessel's arrival, a specific declaration containing the particulars referred to in paragraph 3.</p> <p>5. Calls shall be permitted only in the States and territories listed in Lists A, B and C of Annex 20 and free excursions shall be prohibited, for which cruise services may not adopt specific measures to prevent infection.</p> <p>The provisions of the DPCM in question apply as from 16th January and will remain in force until 5th March 2021.</p> <p>It is evidenced that Article 10 of the DPCM in question no longer provides for the suspension of cruise services or, for foreign vessels, entry into ports for the purposes of inactive stay which, therefore, can be considered possible in compliance with the specific guidelines and directives issued by the DPCM itself.</p>
Japan	<p>The State of Emergency introduced on 26th February has now been lifted. Information on current health and travel restrictions can be found using the following links:</p> <p>Border Enforcement Measures: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html and http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/hisho06_00099.html</p> <p>Measures for controlling travel to and from Japan and visa application procedures: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e_000925.html and: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000921.html</p>
Jordan	See attached updated protocols for crew changes.
Lebanon	<p>Lebanon has opened up nearly all sectors based on country wide improvement in fighting against the COVID19 epidemic.</p> <p>All ports are commercially active, operations running smoothly and applying relevant sanitary guidelines.</p> <p>Beirut-Rafik Hariri International Airport (BRHIA) is operating at 30% capacity and is expected to have gradual increase this summer onward.</p> <p>All passengers are required to hold a negative PCR test issued within 72 hours of the scheduled inbound flight.</p> <p>Crew change through Lebanon follow the following guidelines should be observed:</p> <p>SIGN OFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR samples are collected onboard, at anchorage or alongside. • Negative PCR holders are allowed to disembark/repatriate through airport. <p>SIGN ON</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold a PCR test with negative result from one of the certified laboratories by local authorities at point of departure, present test result upon check in. • Negative PCR test result validity must not exceed 96 hours between test result and date of arrival to Lebanon. • No negative PCR no boarding. • All passengers must complete the COVID-19 pass through the link https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/988ba32e1b634902ba3b14c3e4f1614d issued by the Ministry of Public Health. • Passengers shall undergo PCR test upon arrival at Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BRHIA). • Passengers are mandatory required to complete airport tracking registration form through the following https://covid.pcm.gov.lb/impactmobile/curfe
Libya	<p>The following COVID-19 procedures are currently in place at Libyan ports:</p> <p>Zawia, Bouri, Mellitah, Farwah:</p> <p>Remote Pilotage is in force since the emergence of COVID-19, no port personnel or authorities board vessel, every procedure is performed remotely (Docs exchanged by E-mail) (Berthing ops by VHF). B/Ls are signed by the agent via LOA (Letter of Authorization) issued by the ship master for agents to sign B/L on his behalf. However, if master insists on pilot boarding the vessel, a health representative will board the vessel to check on the crew's COVID-19 symptoms when everything is clear, pilot will board vessel while wearing the COVID-19 protective gear.</p> <p>Misurata, Tripoli, Al-Khoms:</p> <p>Only Health Representative and Pilot Board the Vessel, First the doctor gets on board to check on crew's temperatures and COVID-19 symptoms if crew is all well then he gives the free pratique which means that pilot will board the vessel to perform berthing ops. Pilot disembarks vessel after hose connecting and commencing of discharge, pilot embarks vessel after discharging is completed to perform hose disconnecting and unberthing. Doc exchanging is performed remotely (by E-mail)</p> <p>Ras Lanuf, Essider, Zuietina, Marsa El Brega, Marsa El Hariga:</p> <p>Usual procedure, pilot, customs, agent boards the vessel and they remain on boards until vessel completes loading, hose disconnecting and unberthing. Then all the above mentioned disembark the vessel. All doc procedures are performed normally.</p> <p>Benghazi, Tobruk:</p> <p>Health Representative boards Vessel to check on crew's covid-19 symptoms when the crew is all well, doctor give the green light for Pilot to board vessel and performs berthing ops. After vessel is berthed pilot disembarks the ship until discharging is completed, then he boards vessel for hose disconnecting and unmooring. All docs are exchanged via E-mail.</p>
Portugal	<p>Please be guided that the Portuguese Government decision has decided to maintain the State Calamity. On this basis and as per Ministry Council Resolution no. 5848-B/2021, please be informed of the present restrictions in force to enter/leaving Portugal</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights within EU and within Schengen Space and GB are authorized, being allowed all voyages. Passengers should only be allowed to board the plane after presenting the negative result of PCR test* performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane. • Non-essential voyages are now allowed from and to USA, being allowed all voyages. Passengers should only be allowed to board the plane after presenting the negative result of PCR test* performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane. • All flights with other origins/destinations exclusively allowed if strictly necessary and reasoned and if not suspended by Portuguese Government. Professional activities are included on such authorization. • Passengers with strictly necessary voyages with period of stay in Portuguese territory below 48 hrs, proofed by returning ticket issued, are exempt of the prophylactic confinement, • Authorized flights to Portugal with passengers coming from, or originated from, countries with outbreak rate over 500 cases per 100 000 citizens over the last 14 days (as per information given by European Centre for Disease Control, allowed only for strictly essential voyages and must board the plane after presenting the negative result of PCR test* performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane. Passengers will be placed under prophylactic confinement for 14 days in a place indicated by health authorities. Presently, list of these countries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Brazil, India, South Africa and Nepal • All passengers arriving from countries, in which epidemiological situation is complying with EU Recommendation no. 2020/912 of European Council and respective updates (listed below) are allowed voyages to Portugal and must board the plane after presenting the negative result of PCR test* performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane. Presently, list of these countries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Australia, China, South Korea, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong and Macau. • Foreign citizens arriving to Portugal without showing the PCR test(1) performed, should have their entry in Portugal denied. <p>* Or Quick Antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection (approved by UE Health committee) with negative result and performed within 24 hrs prior boarding plane.</p> <p>Cruises</p> <p>The Portuguese Government decided to continue with measurements restrictions for cruise vessels sector, enounced on Resolution no. 5418-C/2021, under presently Ministry Council Resolution no. 5848-A/2021 stating following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow embarkation, debarkation and licenses to go ashore for passengers and crew members of cruise ships in all Portuguese ports, with exceptions for passengers with origin and destination, from and to, countries which only allows strictly necessary/essential voyages. • The authorization for embarkation, debarkation and licenses to go ashore - referred above - will be exclusively allowed with presentation of PCR test* for SARS-CoV-2 infection with negative result and performed within 72 hrs prior leaving, embarking or disembarking the cruise ship or Quick Antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection (approved by UE Health committee) with negative result and performed within 24 hrs prior leaving, embarking or disembarking the cruise ship.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR test obligation is not applicable to Children under 2 years of age. <p>*Or Quick Antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection (approved by UE Health committee) with negative result and performed within 24 hrs prior leaving, embarking or disembarking the cruise ship.</p>
Russia	<p>The restrictions on crew change in the Russian Federation have been reviewed and amended by the health authority so that crew changes are possible for seafarers who are non-residents of RF.</p> <p>The current rules for on-signers and off-signers are as follows:</p> <p>On-signer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> medical certificate with negative result of COVID-19 to be presented on arrival/ border check-in. The certificate should read that the test was done by PCR method and not earlier than 3 days before arrival. If no certificate on arrival, then the test must be done (PCR method) with help of agent within 3 days after arrival. Unavailability of med. certificate at the country of departure might result in rejection for boarding. It is a decision of the airline company and to be clarified while booking the tickets. <p>Off-signer:</p> <p>Test by PCR method has to be done and its negative results to be presented to Health Control to get approval for going to airport for boarding.</p> <p>Shore leave remains prohibited</p>
South Africa	<p>See the attached copy of the current regulations under the Disaster Management Act 2002. Please note some pages have been removed to reduce the file size.</p>
Slovenia	<p>The Slovenian government once again declared a national epidemic on 18.10.2020. General population movement was restricted. Crew arriving in port of Koper must stay on board all the time. There are few exceptions authorities will permit exiting the port.</p> <p>Crew change is possible with some restrictions mentioned below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The crew member must be EU national or have a Valid Schengen visa - The Owners/Carrier must find a suitable flight or other method of transport which enables direct transfer from/to vessel to airport, bus or train station. Hotels and other accommodation cannot be used. The crew member must have all necessary paperwork or contract on which is stated his or her employment status for the vessel owner/operator. - Ljubljana airport is open with a great reduction of air traffic and connections. - There are no restrictions for vessels to enter and exit port of Koper. - 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. - If any infection noticed on board prior to vessel arrival person in charge must notify agent and below procedures must be taken: <p>Agent must notify all authorities of potential risk of COVID-19 infected seaman in the national single window.</p>

	<p>Authorities will order the ship to stop on anchorage before granting port entry. Medical team is ordered to board the ship to take swabs for testing.</p> <p>All next decisions for crew and vessel movements are responsibility of medical officials at the NIJZ (National Institute of Public Health).</p> <p>If this is an isolated case of one crew member who is not at risk of spreading the virus, the responsible medical practitioner will order that the crew member should be isolated during the vessel's stay in Slovenia. If the crew member is in critical condition, they will be transported to University Medical center in Ljubljana at the infectious disease clinic.</p>
Spain	Cruise operations will commence from Spanish ports on 7 th June in accordance with new measures issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health, a copy of which are being circulated separately.
Sweden	All Swedish ports remain operational and shipping agents are working 24/7, applying recommended sanitary measures. Visits to ships from shore-based personnel are limited to those absolutely necessary to avoid bringing COVID-19 on board. Seafarers domiciled outside Sweden are exempt from the need to provide a negative COVID test when entering the country.