FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 61 26.08.2020

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

South Africa

The South African Government has passed an amendment to the regulations in order to allow for foreign crew changes to go ahead in South Africa. The Government Gazette was published on the 20th August 2020 and include the following requirements:

- 1. Foreign crew changes may take place only at the Port of Durban and Cape Town, either in port or OPL
- 2. Applications for the crew changes must be sent to the Dept of Transport at least 96 hours prior to the proposed crew change
- 3. The crew are required to comply with the travel requirements and health protocols at ports of entry
- 4. The signing on/off crew are required to directly transit from the airport to the vessel, or vise versa
- 5. In exceptional circumstances, the crew may be permitted to layover. The layover is to be in a quarantine facility recommended by the Dept of Health at the cost of the employer
- 6. Signing off crew of a passenger vessel may disembark at Durban or Cape Town and will be required to transit directly to the airport

It is to be noted that any such permission is for <u>crew only</u> and the crew member must be holding a seaman's book. <u>This does not apply to superintendents / family members etc.</u>

Please also be aware that South Africa remains in lockdown Level 2, with the borders remaining closed. Commercial passenger flights are still not permitted, however, there are a number of airlines undertaking repatriation flights. The other alternative would be charter flights.



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 21 August 2020

Marine Notice No. 40 of 2020

COVID-19 Level 2: Seafarer Crew Changes

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The following Marine Notices are hereby cancelled: Marine Notice No. 32 of 2020: COVID-19 Level 3 Crew Changes (Amendment) & Marine Notice No. 29 of 2020: SAMSA Services Available at National Risk Level 3

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform all stakeholders of the latest developments in terms of the Department of Transport and the requirements surrounding the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic and seafarer crew changes.

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa is part of the ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). On 5 March 2020, Minister of Health Zwelini Mkhize confirmed the spread of the virus to South Africa, with the first known patient being a male citizen who tested positive upon his return from Italy.

By mid-March, isolation measures gathered pace, and on the 15th of March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster, prohibiting gatherings of more than 100 people. On the 17th of March, Ramaphosa, supported by Deputy President David Mabuza, convened the inaugural meeting of the National Command Council on COVID-19, or as it was subsequently called, the National Coronavirus Command Council, "to lead the nation's plan to contain the spread and mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus". On the 23rd of March, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation and announced a 21-day national lockdown effective from midnight 26 March through to 16 April and subsequently extended to May 2020.

Easing of the national lockdown restrictions, based on a risk-adjusted strategy, started on the 1st of May 2020, becoming level 4. From the 18th of August, the national restrictions were lowered to level 2.

2. REFERENCE

Government Gazette 43629 – Disaster Management Act (57/2002(: Measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 at Sea Ports. In these directions, the "Directions" means the Directions, published under Government Notice No. 496, in Government Gazette No. 43275 of 04 May 2020.

MN 40 of 2020 Page 1 of 3

3. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES

6. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES AND PROHIBITION OF CRUISE SHIPS CALLING AT SEA PORTS

- (1) Foreign crew changes may only take place at the port of Cape Town and at the port of Durban, under the following conditions:
 - (a) A request for crew changes must be completed by a shipping company or its representative on a form which corresponds substantially with Form A and submitted, at least 96 hours (four days) prior to the crew change, to the Department of Transport;
 - (b) the form referred to in paragraph (a) must be accompanied by a detailed crew list, which also specifies the signing -on crew and signing -off crew.
 - (c) the crew must comply with all the travel requirements and health protocols at ports of entry;
 - (d) crew changes may take place at port and off port limits,
 - (e) signing -on crew may directly transit from the airport to board the vessel: Provided that, if a layover is necessary, the crew must be quarantined as per the Port Health Protocol at the employer's costs and the name of the quarantine facility must be specified in the form referred to in paragraph (a); and
 - (f) signing -on and signing -off crew may only in exceptional circumstances be permitted to layover.
- (2) Cruise ships are prohibited from calling at any of the South African ports, except for the disembarkation of returning -
 - (a) South African crew; or
 - (b) South African citizens or holders of permanent residence permits.
- (3) South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits are advised to refrain from making use of international maritime transport or cruise ships. ".

Direction 7 of the Directions is hereby amended by the substitution for subdirection (1) of the following subdirection:

- (1) (a) Subject to subdirection (2), all passenger vessels are prohibited from-
 - (i) disembarking any passengers at any South African port;
 - (ii) calling at any of the ports, except for the disembarkation of returning South African crew, South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits.
- (b) Signing -off crew of a passenger vessel may -
 - (i) disembark from a passenger vessel at the port of Cape Town and at the port of Durban; and
 - (ii) directly transit to the airport.

4. EMAIL

TO: MSCC@dot.gov.za CC: Nepfubadam@dot.gov.za

All applications to be sent to: MSCC@dot.gov.za; Nepfubadam@dot.gov.za

All enquiries to be sent to: <u>Nepfubadam@dot.gov.za</u>:

21 August 2020

SM 6/5/2/1

Issued by and obtainable from:

The South African Maritime Safety Authority 146 Lunnon Road

Hillcrest, Pretoria 0083

PO Box 13186 Hatfield 0028

Tel: +27 12 366 2600 Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site: www.samsa.org.za

FORM A				
REQUEST FOR FOREIGN CREW CHANGES				
[Direction 6(1)] To be completed by a shipping company or its representative				
Name of shipping company/representative				
Email				
Mobile Number				
Name of Vessel				
Type of Vessel				
Name of seaport destined for crew change				
Details of inbound flight				
Details of outbound flight				
Date of crew change (must be within 96 hours)				
Name of quarantine facilities (only in exceptional circumstances)				
Attachments included (Y/N)	YES □	NO □		
Detailed crew list (Signing-on and Signing-off)				
Signature:				
Full name and surname:				
Capacity:				

The completed form and crew list must be submitted to MSCC@dot.gov.za and copied to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada to the following email address: Nepfubadam@dot.gov.za

All enquiries pertaining to crew changes must be directed to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada at the following e-mail address: Nepfubadam@dot.gov.za

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AIDS HELPLINE: 0800-0123-22 Prevention is the cure

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

NO. 895

20 AUGUST 2020

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002

AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(7), READ WITH 41(1)(b), OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 27(2) OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002): MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AT SEA PORTS

I, Fikile Mbalula, Minister of Transport, hereby, in terms of regulation 4(7)(b), read with regulation 41(1)(b), of the Regulations made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), after consultation with the Cabinet members responsible for cooperative governance and traditional affairs, trade, industry and competition, health, justice and correctional services, finance and public enterprises, issue the directions as set out in the Schedule hereto, to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 at sea ports.

MR F.A. MBALULA, MP

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

DATE: 19 08 20 20

SCHEDULE

1. Definition

In these directions, the "Directions" means the Directions, published under Government Notice No. 496, in Government Gazette No. 43275 of 04 May 2020.

2. Substitution of direction 6 of Directions

Direction 6 of the Directions is hereby substituted for the following direction:

"6. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES AND PROHIBITION OF CRUISE SHIPS CALLING AT SEA PORTS

- (1) Foreign crew changes may only take place at the port of Cape Town and at the port of Durban, under the following conditions:
 - (a) A request for crew changes must be completed by a shipping company or its representative on a form which corresponds substantially with Form A and submitted, at least 96 hours (four days) prior to the crew change, to the Department of Transport;
 - (b) the form referred to in paragraph (a) must be accompanied by a detailed crew list, which also specifies the signing-on crew and signing-off crew.
 - the crew must comply with all the travel requirements and health protocols at ports of entry;
 - (d) crew changes may take place at port and off port limits;
 - (e) signing-on crew may directly transit from the airport to board the vessel: Provided that, if a layover is necessary, the crew must be quarantined as per the Port Health Protocol at the employer's costs and the name of the quarantine facility must be specified in the form referred to in paragraph (a); and
 - (f) signing-on and signing-off crew may only in exceptional circumstances be permitted to layover.

- (2) Cruise ships are prohibited from calling at any of the South African ports, except for the disembarkation of returning—
 - (a) South African crew; or

1

- (b) South African citizens or holders of permanent residence permits.
- (3) South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits are advised to refrain from making use of international maritime transport or cruise ships.".

3. Amendment of direction 7 of Directions

Direction 7 of the Directions is hereby amended by the substitution for subdirection (1) of the following subdirection:

- "(1) (a) Subject to subdirection (2), all passenger vessels are prohibited from—
 - (i) disembarking any passengers at any South African port;
 - (ii) calling at any of the ports, except for the disembarkation of returning South African crew, South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits.
 - (b) Signing-off crew of a passenger vessel may—
 - (i) disembark from a passenger vessel at the port of Cape Town and at the port of Durban; and
 - (ii) directly transit to the airport.".

4. Addition of form A to Directions

The following form is hereby added to the Directions after direction 13:

"FORM A

REQUEST FOR FOREIGN CREW CHANGES

[Direction 6(1)]

(To be completed by a shipping company or its representative)

6 No. 43629

Name of	shipping company/representative:		
Email add	dress:		
Mobile N	umber:		
Name of	vessel:		
and			
Type of v	ressel:		
Name of	sea port destined for crew change:		
Details of	f inbound flight:		
Details of	f outbound flight:		
Date of c	rew change must be within 96 hours:		
Name of circumst	quarantine facility (only in exceptional ances):		
	ents included (Y/N): crew list (Signing-on and Signing-off)		
		Accord.	2000
Signed at _	on this	day of	2020.
Signature:			
	Full name and surname		
	Capacity		

- The completed form and crew lists must be submitted to MSCC@dot.gov.za and copied to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada at the following e-mail address:

 Newfumbadam@dot.gov.za

 Newfumbadam.gov.za

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- All enquiries pertaining to crew changes must be directed to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada at the following e-mail address:

Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za."

5. Commencement

This amendment comes into effect on the date of publication thereof in the Government Gazette.

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