

FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 86 19.04.2021

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: 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>
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>

	<p>3. DSAA is continuing to interact with members one on one basis and meetings with a large crowd is done virtually.</p> <p>4. DSAA have taken the lead in requesting DPW to help members to waive off the port charges including storage charges of empty containers.</p> <p>5. DSAA is also assisting members with Customs inspection after office hours especially for consignments pertaining to medical equipment, essentials etc.</p> <p>The UAE Maritime Activities Return to Work Safely Protocol dated 02/08/2020 (copy attached) remains in force at this time.</p>
Finland	See the advice on crew changes (and other travel arrangements), previously circulated under update no. 78.
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> <ol 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;

	<p>f) supply at the time of embarkation, passengers who do not have the means of personal protection with same.</p> <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> <ol 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; c) the nationality and origin of the passengers on board in compliance with the provisions referred to in the preceding subparagraph. <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>
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	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.
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>The country remains under a strict lockdown from 05:00LT on 25.01.2021 until 06:00LT on 08.02.2021. Movement is limited to certain sectors against prior approval.</p> <p>Beirut-Rafik Hariri International Airport (BRHIA) is operating as of July 1st, 2020 at limited capacity not exceeding 20% of last year's figures.</p> <p>All passengers are required to hold a negative PCR test issued within 96 hours of the scheduled inbound flight.</p> <p>Effective 27 Jan 2021, for crew change through Lebanon the following guidelines should be observed:</p> <p>ARRIVING (SIGN ON CREW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passengers must hold a PCR test with negative result from one of the certified laboratories by local authorities at point of departure and present test result upon check in. • The negative PCR test result validity must not exceed 96 hours between the test result and the date of arrival to Lebanon. • Passengers who do not carry a negative PCR test result are not allowed to board. • Passengers must complete the COVID-19 pass through the link https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/988ba32e1b634902ba3b14c3e4f1614d issued by the Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon. • 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/curfew. • Passengers are mandatory required to download and activate the "covidletrack" application and present it to airport authorities upon arrival at BRHIA. • Passengers are mandatory required to have a hotel reservation for 2 days pending the PCR test result taken at BRHIA is issued. • Joining crew are allowed to board the ship crew once the PCR test result of BRHIA is issued and found negative. Extended hotel stay will be required for those who get positive PCR result. • The local ship agent is bound to secure the entire crew change and settle all the necessary bills to the authorities on behalf of his principal carriers / ships until the entire crew change is concluded. <p>DEPARTING (SIGN OFF CREW).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departing crew are allowed to disembark the ship after a PCR test is arranged onboard and the test result found negative. • PCR service is arranged through the agent, samples are taken onboard. • The local ship agent is bound to secure the entire crew change and settle all the necessary bills to the authorities on behalf of his principal carriers / ships until the entire crew change is concluded. <p>INSURANCE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid insurance is required for the entire duration of the planned transiting period in Lebanon. • The obligatory insurance is intended to cover all costs of treatment for COVID-19 on Lebanese territory for its carrier. The insurance policy can be issued in Lebanon. <p>SHIP'S FREE PRATIQUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of the last 10 port of calls & a Health clearance of the last port. • Statement from the ship's Master to the agent/authorities declaring vessel is free or not having COVID-19 infected personnel on board. • In case of no infection on board, crew change is allowed. A public health inspector boards the ship alongside for checking crew temperature. • In case of infection on board, crew change will not be allowed. Clearance of the ship could be delayed. A public health inspector boards the ship at the anchorage area.
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</p>

	he boards vessel for hose disconnecting and unmooring. All docs are exchanged via E-mail.
Portugal	<p>Given the improving situation in Portugal, the Government has continued the lightening the lock-down measures, under renewed State of Emergency in compliance with Decree no. 4/2021, which everyone expects to be the last. As per the latest Ministry Council Resolutions nos. 3838-A/2021 and 3894-A/2021 therefore, please be informed of the present restrictions to enter/leaving Portugal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border control between Portugal and Spain remain in force. Road and railway circulation between Portugal and Spain are suspended, with exception of international trade of goods, cross-border workers and emergency vehicles. • Foreign nationals are entitled to repatriation • Flights within EU and within Schengen Space are authorised, being recommended only essential voyages, same applicable to flights with origin/destination to/from (subject to analysis of transit airports between origin and destination) for following countries: Australia, China, South Korea, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Macau • All flights with other origins/destinations exclusively allowed if strictly necessary and reasoned. Professional activities are included on such authorization. • All passengers arriving from any EU country a/o Schengen Space country 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, recommendation for strictly necessary voyages and only are allowed to board the plain after presenting the negative result of PCR test performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane and will be under prophylactic confinement for 14 days in a place indicated by health authorities. Presently, list of these countries are: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Croatia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia and Sweden <p>Same restrictions will be applied to passengers with origin or transit from Brazil and/or South Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airlines will be forced to present to Portuguese Officers list of passengers arriving to Portugal and their flight connections from origin till Portugal. • All passengers arriving from any EU country a/o Schengen Space country (as mentioned below) recommendation for strictly necessary voyages and only are allowed to board the plane after presenting the negative result of PCR test performed within 72 hrs prior boarding plane. Presently, list of these countries are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland • Passengers with strictly necessary voyages with period of stay in Portuguese territory below 48 hrs, proved by an issued return ticket, are exempt of the prophylactic confinement, • Foreign citizens arriving to Portugal without showing the PCR test performed, should have their entry in Portugal denied. • Foreign citizens, exceptionally arriving to Portugal in violation of duty and not presenting a negative PCR test, compulsory will be subject to the PCR test on arrival, at their own expenses, within airport premises awaiting inside such premises while awaiting to receive their negative result to SARS-CoV-2 and will be fined (noun; punitive action).

	<p>As per Ministry Council Resolution no. 3803-B/2021, the Portuguese Government decided to maintain the ban on cruise vessels sector, with same condition previously informed and repeated hereunder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not allowed the disembarkation and licenses to go ashore for passengers and crew members of cruise ships in all Portuguese ports, with exceptions for Portuguese Citizens or Citizens with residence permit in Portugal. • Cruise vessels may call and berth at Portuguese Ports for lay-up, repairs, bunkering and supplies, as long as without passengers and only with minimum crew members required for the operation. • Disembarkation may be allowed on exception cases, subject to Health Authority authorization, namely for humanitarian a/o health reasons or for immediate repatriation. <p>These present Governmental orders will be in force from 00h01 of 19th April, until 23h59 of 30th April 2021, being subject to an extension, having into consideration the evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak in Portugal.</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"> a. 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. b. If no certificate on arrival, then the test must be done (PCR method) with help of agent within 3 days after arrival. c. 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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: Agent must notify all authorities of potential risk of COVID-19 infected seaman in the national single window. 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. All next decisions for crew and vessel movements are responsibility of medical officials at the NIJZ (National Institute of Public Health). 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.
Sweden	<p>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.</p>