Asian
Shipowners'
Association

Crew Change Protocols at Asian Ports / Countries due to COVID-19

Latest update – 11 November 2020

AUSTRALIA

Australian Maritime COVID-19 Border Closures Information Table provided by MIAL on 2 November

MIAL Australian Maritime COVID-19 Border Closures Table for 2 November 2020

This table is based on the best information and understanding at the time of publication and is subjected to frequent updates.

Biosecurity Requirements in Australia
Incoming seafarers MUST declare what they are bringing in and if they bring food products it is highly likely these will be confiscated from them. To not declare goods could result in their visa being cancelled and immediate deportation. Please ensure your crew and your crewing companies understand the compliance with Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.

CHINA

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services

- Only Chinese Nationality Crew Change is available (subject to calling port/terminal local policy/procedure).
- Foreigner crew change > Various restrictions/ limitations in effect for **foreign** crew change as many conditions need to align and permits granted which make it **extremely difficult**.
- After October there will be limited availability for foreign crew change at Shanghai or Qingdao ports for drydocking/new building delivery vessels especially for foreigner off signer disembark.
- CTM delivery and Spare Parts custom clearance/delivery is allowed.

Information provided by CSA

Now it is confirmed that the ten major ports in China where non-Chinese crew change is permitted by the administrative authorities are Dalian, Tianjin, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Haikou.

However, strict restrictions are also imposed, including:

1. the leaving crew should hold confirmed departure ticket that can enable them to leave China directly in the same city, non-stop, using no public transportation vehicle during the local transit;
2. after the ship has left the previous port for 14 days or more;
3. within the latest 14 days in isolation on board, all the crew members on board show no symptoms of Covid-19;
4. after calling a Chinese port, all the crew members should be tested, with the result being negative.

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CHINESE TAIPEI

Information provided by NACS

- The Taiwanese crews are allowed for crew change.
- Foreign crews who serve on Taiwanese vessels are also allowed for crew change.
- All crews arriving Taiwan by flight for crew change should issue entry visa, submit PCR negative test results, and need to have 14-days period of compulsory Quarantine and Medical Surveillance.
- All crews arriving Taiwan by vessels for crew change should issue entry visa, submit PCR negative test results, and depart by flight in 3-days.

The above measures are subjected to change according to risk level by Maritime and Port Bureau, MOTC and Taiwan Centers for Disease Control and will update in due course.

HONG KONG

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services and HKSOA

Full Government Press Release:
– March 18th: **Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation**
– March 31st: **Update Summary Table from Department of Health**

UPDATED SUMMARY TABLE OF QUARANTINE ARRANGEMENT FOR VISITING VESSELS TO HONG KONG

INDIA

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services

- Only Indian Crew Sign On/Off is possible at all Indian ports.
- Relief and repatriation of Sign OFF Foreign Nationals are possible.
- SOP from DG Shipping for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Indian ports > **Click Here**.

INDONESIA

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services

SIGN ON CREW

FOREIGN CREW

- Have valid visa type B211A (We can apply telex visa approval from Indonesia, approx. 2-5 days).
- Must provide valid PCR test result and health certificate no more than 7 days otherwise Quarantine is required (personal cost).

INDONESIAN CREW

- On-signer must undergo PCR / Swab test before being allowed to join vessel and sign a statement letter for willing to be quarantined if found to be positive Covid-19.

SIGN OFF CREW

FOREIGN CREW :

- Foreign Off Signer must hold e-ticket at least 1 (working) day before disembark as required to arrange exit permit formalities (EPO). Otherwise, immigration will not process the formalities.
- Off-signers must undergo PCR / Swab test once disembark from vessel to show Covid-19 free.
- Foreign Off Signers can stay at Hotel while waiting for PCR result.
- Off-signers must have statement letter for completion of their employment contract.

INDONESIAN CREW

- Off Signer must undergo PCR / Swab test once disembark from vessel.

JAPAN

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services and JSA

As of 1st September 2020, it would be mandatory required for crews (who travel from target areas) to have a PCR test result (taken 72 hours prior their plane boarding), when they arrive JP airports. Among one crew batch, even in case one crew being detected with positive result, as long as the others have negative result (upon their arrival JP airport), then other crews can still join vessel.
> **Download Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 (Japan)**

- All vessels arriving Japan ports will be required to submit a health questionnaire. This report should be accomplished by the vessel captain and submitted to the relevant quarantine officer before arriving at any Japanese port.
- Notice from Immigration Services Agency of Japan, foreigners who cannot enter Japan has been expanded. It will be as follows (effective from 00:00 19th Mar):
    - China – Hubei, Zhejiang
    - Korea – Daegu Metropolitan City, Gyeongsang City North Gyeongsang Province, Andong City, Yeongcheon City, Cheongdo County, Chilgok County, Uiseong County, Seongju County, Gunw County.
    - Iran – Qom, Tehran, Gilan Provinces, Mazandaran Province, Isfahan Province, Alborz Province, Markazi Province, Qazvin Province, Semnan Province, Golestan Province, Lorestan Province.
    - Italy – Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Piedmont Republic of San Marino – All region
    - Switzerland – Ticino, Basel-Stadt
    - Spain – Navarre, Basque, Madrid, La Rioja Iceland – All regions
- People arriving in Japan from below countries from midnight on March 21, 2020, returning residents in Japan will be required to use private cars, not to use public transportation to go home in addition to China and republic of Korea:
    - (They need to take our taxi for moving to anywhere.) Iceland, Ireland, Andorra, Italy, Iran, UK, Egypt, Estonia, Austria, Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece, Croatia, San Marino, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Vatican, Hungary, Finland, France, Bulgaria, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Malta, Monaco, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Romania.

MALAYSIA

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services

Effective 20th March 2020, there is a not to land Order on all crew members on the ships calling Malaysian seaports. In cases of serious illnesses requiring hospital admission, the Agent can request the Port Health and / or Immigration for relevant approval to disembark. The approval is being given on a case by case basis by the Government Officials. For requesting this approval, the Agent will need to make a formal request with below documents at a minimum,

- Letter of requisition duly stamped and signed by master to immigration for emergency purpose for crew medical.
- IMO Crew list
- Voyage memo (last 10 port calls)
- Crew Passport / Seaman book (originals and copy)
- A Hospital Admission Letter will also be collected from the Hospital and submitted to Officials subsequently by the Agent.
- Foreign seafarers are NOT ALLOWED to sign-off or go ashore in any Malaysia ports and water.
- All seafarers are NOT ALLOWED to sign-on, in any Malaysia ports and water.
- Only Malaysian seafarers, who have not developed COVID-19 symptoms, from Malaysia flagged vessels are ALLOWED to sign-off and disembark at the DESIGNATED PORT (International Port of Kuala Linggi, Melaka). Online sign-off must be done at the nearest Port Office.
- Seafarers must carry out thorough pre-screening test by the Port Health Inspector at ship/port area, and subject to any instructions provided by the Port Health Officer.

Foreign Seafarers:

- Who are currently serving on board of Malaysia flagged vessels, and not having any explicit COVID-19 symptoms, not a COVID-19 suspect, have not gone ashore at China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days, are ALLOWED to continue their normal service on board Malaysia flagged vessel
- PROHIBITED to change vessel in any Malaysia ports and water:
- Those who already possessed COVID-19 explicit symptoms, a COVID-19 Suspect, or have been going ashore at China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days. MUST UNDERGO proper health screening and isolation on board as mentioned in ANNEX 1, MSN 05/2020.

Seafarers of Malaysian nationality:

- Who are serving on board Malaysia flagged vessels but not having any COVID-19 symptoms, not a COVID-19 suspect, have not gone ashore at China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan within 14 days can continue their services on-board.
- Who are having explicit COVID-19 symptoms, or determined as COVID-19 suspects, or have been going ashore at China, Italy, South Korea, Iran, or Japan within 14 days, MUST UNDERGO further health screening and isolation ONLY at the Designated PORT (International Port of Kuala Linggi, Melaka) and their contract at SEA shall be terminated.

Full documentation from the Ports: **Johor Port** – **Northport**

PHILIPPINES

Information provided by FSA

- As early as April, 2020, the Philippine government has opened the Port of Manila for crew change purposes.
- Merchant ships passing at the West Philippine Seas / South China Sea are diverted to Manila to conduct crew change. About 99% of crew change involves Filipino seafarers.
- For the months of June & July, 2020, there are days when about 40 or more ships are calling at the Port of Manila for crew change per day. Number of crew change per ship ranges from 10 or more, for on-signers and equal number of off-signers per ship. At present, ships diverting to the Port of Manila averages to 10~20 ships per day for crew change purposes.
- On-signers are required to undergo RT-PCR Covid test. Crew with negative results will be allowed to board their ships. Those with positive results are confined in isolation facilities for rehabilitation and treatment.
- Off-signers are also required to undergo RT-PCR test upon their arrival, either at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (in Manila) or at the Port of Manila. Covid-19 testing is being conducted by the authorities (Philippine Coast Guard & National Red Cross). While waiting for their RT-PCR test, Manning agents must arrange isolation place for the returning seafarers (usually hotel facilities). Off signers with negative results will be allowed to go home to their respective place of domicile with instructions that they should practice self-quarantine for at least 14 days at home. Off-signers with positive results are confined in government designated isolation/quarantine facilities for rehabilitation and treatment, if necessary. Percentage wise, returning seafarers from merchant ships tested positive for Covid-19 virus infection is less than 1% of the total returning crew. Almost all of them are suffering mild infection and are able to recover after about a week of isolation.
- In early September, 2020, the Philippine authorities allowed crew change to be conducted in two additional ports (Port Capinpin in Bataan - this is at the entrance of Manila Bay and at the Port of Subic).
- From the time that the authorities implemented Covid-19 quarantine regime, arrival at the airports has been controlled / limited to a few hundred passengers a day. This has posed a challenged for booking of Filipino seafarers being repatriated by air. When the government increased the number of arrivals from foreign ports, some international flights are being diverted to:
    - Clark International Airport (about 60 kilometres north of Manila) where returning seafarers are required to undergo arrival protocols of Covid-19 test
    - Cebu City in the Visayas, where returning seafarers are also required to undergo RT-PCR testing protocols.
- The Philippine authorities through the Department of Transportation and Department of Foreign Affairs issued the “Green Lane” for on-signers and off-signers of foreign seafarers who may join/disembark when their ships call at Manila.

SINGAPORE

Source: **Ministry of Health** / **Immigration & Checkpoint Authority** / **MPA Singapore and SSA**

Crew Change

SINGAPORE CREW CHANGE GUIDEBOOK VERSION 5 ***(Sep 24th) supersedes Version 4***

Maritime Port Authority of Singapore

1) **BEST PRACTICES FOR SINGAPORE-REGISTERED SHIPS TO MINIMISE RISK OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) ON BOARD**.

2) **REVISIONS TO CREW CHANGE FOR CARGO SHIPS UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PORT OF SINGAPORE, TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) IN SINGAPORE (SUPPLEMENTARY TO PMC NO.s 26 AND 27 OF 2020)**.

3) **ADVISORY FOR SHORE PERSONNEL AND SHIP CREW VISITING OR WORKING ONBOARD VESSELS ALONGSIDE WHARVES, IN SHIPYARDS AND AT ANCHORAGES**.

4) **ADVISORY ON MARINE SERVICE PROVIDERS ATTENDING TO VESSELS AT ANCHORAGES AND TERMINALS IN THE PORT OF SINGAPORE**

5) FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO CREW CHANGE FOR CARGO SHIPS IN THE PORT OF SINGAPORE ***updated 9 Nov 2020***

Air Travel

- Returning Singapore residents (i.e. Singapore citizens, permanent residents) will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) upon entry into Singapore.
- Travellers with travel history within the last 14 days to Hubei province of Mainland China will be issued Quarantine Order (QO).
- From 27 March 2020, 0900 hours, all travellers must submit a health declaration via the SG Arrival Card **e-Service** before proceeding with immigration clearance[1]

For visitors seeking entry into Singapore

- All short-term visitors will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore.
- Visitors who need to visit Singapore due to extenuating reasons may submit the completed **Form 14** (Part V is optional). to **ICA_nCoV_request@ica.gov.sg**, together with the following documents:

For long-term pass holders seeking entry into Singapore

- From 29 March 2020, 2359 hours, all foreigners holding ICA-issued long-term passes (i.e. Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP) or Student's Pass (STP), or In-Principle Approval (IPA) letters for LTVP/STP, who plan to enter Singapore from any country must obtain permission from the relevant agency before they commence their journey.

For more information please visit : ***https://www.ica.gov.sg/covid-19***

SOUTH KOREA

Information provided by Waypoint Port Services

Restrictions of crew change due to COVID-19
Foreign COVID-19 patients in South Korea have to bear their costs of hospitalization and treatment at least in part or the total amount of costs based on the principle of diplomatic reciprocity from 0001LT 24th/Aug.
If a person who violates COVID19 prevention measures is confirmed to be COVID19, he/she shall pay the full amount of hospital treatment expenses (KCDC conference) from 0001LT 17th/Aug.

On Signers:
Please be advised that **all seafarers regardless of nationality** departing from their country (except Korean Passport Holders) travelling to and transiting in South Korea will be required to submit the certificate issued from accredited hospitals designated by Korean embassy within 48 hours before departure indicating that they have been tested negative for COVID-19 on a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Philippines, Ukraine, Russia
- All seafarers regardless of nationality (It will be in effect from 24th/July.)

Recently, there have been many cases in which COVID-19 has been confirmed among seafarers who entered Korea.
From July 24, 2020 (Friday), Seafarers who plan to enter Korea through airplane or vessel for the purpose of joining a vessel which is anchored or to be anchored in Korea must secure a visa prior to entry.
❖ Exempted countries: USA, Guyana, Malta, Ireland, UK, Nicaragua, Dominican Federation, Mexico, Barbados, Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Guam, New Caledonia, Palau, Monaco, Vatican, San Marino, Andorra, Albania, Slovenia
Processing period: It takes 14 working days to get a Korean visa at the embassy because the regulation has been strengthened caused by COVID-19.
1) In case of on signers, they must stay at the isolation facility for 14 days mandatory assigned randomly by government office due to COVID-19 after they have arrived at Incheon airport as per government guidance.
2) All crew will be transferred from Airport to Government facility under Government control, do not handle by the agent.
3) COVID19 test will be carried out within 1 or 2 days after arrival at the facility – Cost under Korean Government.
4) They or Agent must pay KRW 120,000 (approx. USD 101.69) for isolation facility per day per person when they arrived at the isolation facility.as 100% prepayment.
– Isolation facility charge KRW 120,000 (approx. USD 101.69) shall be paid as 100% prepayment.
– Isolation facility will be assigned randomly by government office (we can never know in advance)
– Meal/food will be provided
– Smoking is prohibited
– Internet WIFI is available
– Proceed with a diagnostic test for COVID-19 and it takes about 1 or 2 days to receive the result.
5) After isolation, on signing crews can only come on board vessel after off signing crews have received “negative result” of COVID-19 during ship’s staying at the port.
6) According to latest quarantine regulation, on signers (seaman’s book holder) can leave from the isolation facility (excluding some facilities) earlier than 14 days subject to following requirements are met.

Requirements
a) On signers can leave only from the isolation facility on the same day when vessel arrived at the port after completing COVID test and receiving “negative result for”COVID-19but it depends on the isolation facility respectively whether they allowed to leave earlier or not.
b) In this case, on signers must transfer/move only via the agent car from the facility to the vessel at the port directly without any stop-over on the same day within 12 hours before ship’s departure from the port.
*If on signers will visit some other place not the port/vessel, there will be a penalty to agent by the authorities.
c) In this case, there will be a penalty to cancel for 10% of 14 days isolation charge per person.
d) Following required documents must be submitted to isolation facility& the authorities in advance.

Required docs
1) Ship’s departure schedule& application form provided by the isolation facility
2) Ship’s departure crew list signed & stamped by Master
3) Copy of passport & semen’s book for on signers
4) Evidence of EDI transmission for ship’s inward & outward

5) Port clearance
6) Letter of guarantee made by shipping agency

- The required docs are different from respective isolation facilities and we will ask if we need to receive additional docs at that time.
- There is the possibility to be rejected to leave on signers from the isolation facility earlier than 14 days as below reasons.
    1. It depends on the isolation facility respectively as the isolation facility has been assigned by government office randomly and some facilities do not allow to leave earlier than 14 days.
    2. In case on signer has received "positive result" for the test of COVID-19.
    3. If there would be new confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the isolation facility during on signer's staying at the facility, on signer must stay at the isolation facility for 14 days without leaving earlier.
    4. Even if above required documents have been submitted to government office, it can be rejected as insufficient/inappropriate data or judgement by government office.
    5. If owner/your good company will take responsibility for above mentioned uncertainty, we will do our best to arrange for leaving from the isolation facility as early as possible.

<In case of crew/on signer joined in the Special countries appointed by Korean government>

Special countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan.

If the ship come to Korea with crews who joined at above special country within 14 days, that crews need PCR test certification issued by appointed from Korea Government within 48hours before ship's departure from the special country.

Q : Does this apply to crew travelling from the 'special country' or crew that joined in special country?
A : It will be applied to crew that joined in the special country and in this case, crews need PCR test certification which is issued by appointed from Korea Government in Special country.

Q : Does this apply to crew who will be on board when the vessel calls at Korea and are not disembarking / going ashore?
A : In case crews have PCR test certification issued in Special country, they can disembark from the vessel after completion of special quarantine inspection & receiving the result of COVID-19.

- If crews do not have PCR test certification issued in the Special country, total quarantine inspection will be carried for all ship's arrival crews with COVID-19 test upon ship's arrival at the port of South Korea and it has been prohibited to disembark all crews from the vessel.
- In case there would be any confirmed cases of COVID-19 with the positive result, vessel must sail out from the port of South Korea and there will be any penalties by the related authorities.
- In this case, the crews/a confirmed case of coronavirus must bear the all expenses involved in treatment of COVID-19.
- In case crew will not submit PCR test certification or crew will submit forged or falsified PCR test certification or PCR test is below the standard, there will be a penalty for the crew as follows. >> one year in prison or ten million won in fines (Effective from 08th/Sep 2020)

< Exceptions provision regarding submission of PCR negative certificate for Vessel >

* Announced by quarantine office on 20th/Oct and it will be in effect from 20th/Oct

Quarantine office announced that had crew change or shore leave of crew from 6 enhanced quarantine measure countries and Russia.

- Mandatory of submission PCR negative certificate : it will in effect from 2020/08/03 (date of ship's departure from above countries)
- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Philippines, Ukraine, Russia

1. Vessel exempted from submission of PCR negative certificate
2. In following cases, it would be difficult to determine whether voyage plan to South Korea is planned.
3. Departure date of vessel more than 28 days and went to two or more ports before arriving in South Korea.
4. Calculated twice the monitoring period of Corona 19 (14 days) by referring to the WHO standard.

EX)

ENHANCED QUARANTINE MEASURE COUNTRIES (09.03 DEPARTURE) ->

COUNTRY A -> COUNTRY B -> SOUTH KOREA (10/03 ARRIVED)
COUNTRY A -> ENHANCED QUARANTINE MEASURE COUNTRIES (09.03 DEPARTURE) ->
COUNTRY B -> COUNTRY C -> SOUTH KOREA (10/03 ARRIVED)

- Country A, B or C is countries other than 6 enhanced quarantine measure countries and Russia.
  - There was no voyage plan but vessel arrived in South Korea due to bad weather.
  - There was no voyage plan but it was inevitable, in this case the director of quarantine will decide.
- For below cases, received PCR negative certificate 48 hours before

– Departure but departure was delayed and document was delayed and document became standard.

- DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED DUE TO BAD WEATHER OR NATURAL DISASTER.
- DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED DUE TO VESSEL'S TECHNICAL PROBLEM.
- OTHER INEVITABLE CASES WILL BE DETERMINED BY DIRECTOR OF QUARANTINE.
- Changes in diagnosis inspection standard

PRESENT	**REVISED**
Vessels arriving in South Korea without valid PCR negative Certificate will be obliged to take PCR test for **ALL CREW MEMBERS**.	Vessels arriving in South Korea without valid PCR negative Certificate will be obliged to take PCR test for **CERTAIN CREW MEMBER.**

for case 1) above, since vessel is excluded from submission of pcr negative certificate the case is excluded for mandatory submission of pcr negative certificate.

DEFINITION OF VALID PERIOD OF PCR NEGATIVE CERTIFICATE

– if the period of certificate is over than 48hours based on departure time of vessel, will be regarded as substandard.

EX) DEPARTURE TIME 00:00HRS APPLIED

- 2020/10/05 01:00 DEPARTURE: CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER 2020/10/03 00:00HRS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- 2020/10/05 10:00 DEPARTURE: CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER 2020/10/03 00:00HRS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- 2020/10/05 23:00 DEPARTURE: CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER 2020/10/03 00:00HRS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

REMARK: in case he/she did not intend to refuse, obstruct, or evade the request for submission or presentation of documents requested by the quarantine director.

- Please remind that possibility of exceptions on ships subject to accusation.
- For long term voyage cases more than 42day (14days X 3) stopover country less than two, it is hard to determine the voyage plan to South Korea. (will handle this case as same as substandard document submission but will be excepted from accusation)
- (Several voyages) in case vessel departed from 6 enhanced quarantine measure countries and Russia and arrived in South Korea within 28days but had five or more voyages. (will handle this case as same as substandard document submission but will be excepted from accusation)

Ex)

- Enhanced quarantine measure countries (2020/09/20 departure)- >country A -> country B -> country C -> country D -> country E -> South Korea (2020/10/10 arrived).
- country A -> enhanced quarantine measure countries (2020/09/20 departure)- > B -> country C -> country D -> country E -> South Korea (2020/10/10 arrived). (If there are any other cases than above, quarantine director will judge and file an accusation.)

Off Signers:

****NOTICE**** > Off signing crews must carry out a diagnostic test for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and receive "negative result" for COVID-19 via quarantine office before disembarkation (It will be in effect from 06th/July).
*COVID-19 test charges will be covered by Korean government.
*14 days isolation after disembarkation mandatory (It will be in effect from 13th/July).

*The list of off signing crews must be submitted to Busan Regional Office of Oceans and Fisheries 48 hours prior to ship's arrival at the port.
1) First of all, off signing crew needs to receive a special quarantine inspection for COVID-19 with following requirements by quarantine officer upon ship's berthing:
a) Self-diagnosis application must be installed in their mobile phone in advance.
b) Off signing crew must fill out "TRAVEL RECORD DECLARATION" & "HEALTH DECLARATION FORM" to submit it to quarantine officer.
c) Record for all ship's arrival crew's temperature.
d) Off signing crew must have original passport and seamen's book.
2) After completion of a special quarantine inspection, quarantine officer will issue a quarantine certificate (RED COLOR) and we/agent can arrange crew shore passes by submitting a quarantine certificate (RED COLOR) to immigration office.(The shore passes can be used only for a diagnostic test at quarantine office).
3) After completion of sample collection from off signing crew, quarantine officer will issue a quarantine certificate (YELLOW COLOR) and we/agent needs to collect it from quarantine office.
4) off signing crew must receive a diagnostic test for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) by quarantine officer or off signing crew needs to go to the nearest hospital (a Screening Clinic) or designated place/quarantine office via an agent car.

Required docs
a) Flight ticket (the leaving date from facility).
b) Seaman's book & passport.
c) Letter of Guarantee for departure made by agent.
– Requirements In this case, off signer can only leave from the isolation facility within 12 hours before their departure flight schedule.
– If off signers will visit some other places not the port/vessel/airport, there will be a penalty to agent by the authorities.

Exemption of 14 days isolation for off signing crew:
If following conditions are met, we/agent can apply for exemption of 14 days isolation for off signing crew to authorities 48 hours before ship's arrival.
Finally, it will be decided by authority's judgement whether the mandatory 14 days isolation requirement will be exempted or not.

Requirements
• all crew stayed onboard without disembarking,
• there was no crew change, and
• there was no development of COVID-19 suspected symptoms or no confirmed case of COVID-19 onboard the ship.
• After ship's departure from last port, the regulation describes that the vessel needs to have a 14 days interval from last port without calling at other ports before the port of South Korea.

<Submission for negative result of PCR>

* Please be advised that effective from 03rd Aug, 2020 following nationality seafarers departing from below countries and Russia travelling to and transiting at the port of South Korea will be required to submit the certificate issued from accredited hospitals designated by Korean embassy within 48 hours before departure indicating that they have been tested negative for COVID-19 on a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz (Current policies)
- Philippines, Ukraine (It will be in effect from 20th/July.)
- Russia (It will be in effect from 03rd/Aug)

Before quarantine officer's boarding and commencing quarantine inspection upon ship's arrival or berthing at the port, the certificate for negative result of PCR for above seafarers must be submitted to quarantine office by shipping company or agent in advance.

If the seafarers do not meet the standard of PCR (exceed of 48 hours or issued by unaccredited hospital or organization) or they do not have any result of PCR, all crews on board have been prohibited to disembark from the vessel and after receiving "negative result", they can only do the work on board the vessel.

Information provided by KSA

Please note that vessels calling South Korea should prepare Quarantine documents as below.

If vessels departing from the designated countries* and crew change has been carried out in the designated countries after 3rd of August, the vessel should submit PCR negative test results of joining crew issued by Korean-accredited agency(within 48 hours before departure time), **if the crew (regardless of the nationality of crew) joined the vessel from the designated countries.**

*Designated countries: Russia, Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

For example, if some crew (regardless of their nationality) embarked from the designated countries after 3rd of August, they should have PCS negative results issued by Korean accredited agency.
It is not necessary that entire crew have negative test results, only the crew joined the ship from the designated countries from 3rd of August should be PCR negative results.

There will be penalty of up to USD9,000, in case of any violation of above regulations.

Exceptions) Above cases are regarded as the vessels were not aware of their schedule to call South Korea, therefore, exempted from below mentioned Quarantine regulation.

1. If the vessels have visited more than two countries before calling South Korea and 28 days have passed since the vessels departed from the designated countries.
   ex) Departure from the designated countries(3rd of Sep.) → Country A → Country B → South Korea (3rd of Oct.)

If country A and B are not designated countries, the vessel is exempted from below Quarantine regulation.

2. Calling Korea due to emergency reasons such as avoiding heavy weather.
3. Other inevitable reasons that quarantine office agrees.

Also, if PCR negative test result was issued within 48 hours from departure, however, the departure was delayed due to below reasons, the PCR test resulted is accepted.

1. Departure was delayed due to weather conditions or force majeure.
2. Departure was delayed due to the malfunction of vessel equipment.
3. Other inevitable reasons that quarantine office agrees.

※ PCR Test Expiration

If the issuance date and time of the PCR negative result exceed 48 hours from the date of departure, it is regarded as a document that does not meet the standard.
Please note that "**48 hours**" does not mean exact 48 hours. Please refer to examples of the calculation of "48 hours" as below.

- Departure : 0100 5th October – PCR negative result should be issued after 0000 3rd October.
- Departure : 1000 5th October – PCR negative result should be issued after 0000 3rd October.
- Departure : 2300 5th October – PCR negative result should be issued after 0000 3rd October.

THAILAND

Information provided by TSA

Crew Change in Thailand krub:

- Foreign and Thai nationals are allowed to conduct crew changes in Thailand, however the following conditions apply:
    - Thai crews after disembarking from vessels requires mandatory 14 day quarantine at state-manded facilities and COVID-19 testing
    - Foreign crews are required to fly home as soon as they sign off, direct from the vessel to the airport
- Some resumption of international flights, however only Thai crew members are allowed to fly back into Thailand from other countries
- Crew changes can be conducted at all Thai ports, with the exception of Rayong port

VIETNAM

Information provided by VSA

Crew change via ships:

- Only Vietnamese nationals are allowed for crew change. Immediately after getting ashore, crew members shall have 14-day period of compulsory health quarantine and medical surveillance (with the inclusion of taking medical tests) at a separated place nominated by the relevant provincial authority.
- In the emergency case that a crew member needs to go ashore for urgent medical care, this will be carried out according to the requirements of the quarantine and medical authorities

The above measures are subjected to change according to risk levels assessed from time to time by the concerned local administration following the directions from Vietnam Ministry of Health

Crew change via flights:

Not available at present. There are plans to re-open the sky for international passenger flights to/from chosen destinations in the near future which will be announced.

Disclaimer:

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