

NOTE

14-03-2020

Shipping and COVID-19 – updated 14 March 2020

The Danish Maritime Authority is closely monitoring the situation in Denmark as well as internationally focusing on issues of relevance for shipping and seafarers.

First and foremost, all shipping companies, ships and seafarers should follow the advice and guidance from the Danish Health Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. All questions regarding infection, risk, disease, treatment, considerations in connection with travel or port calls are referred to the above-mentioned authorities and to instructions from authorities of the port states to which the ships call.

In addition, the Danish Maritime Authority is available to shipping companies and seafarers with assistance and guidance in regard to any specific situation that may arise. The Danish Maritime Authority will strive to provide the necessary solutions, in order to handle a given challenge without delaying the ships or affecting the operations unnecessarily.

A specific mail address has been created: dmataaskforce@dma.dk. Within opening hours inquiries can also be made via the Danish Maritime Authority's main telephone number (+45 72 19 60 00).

In order to handle acute cases, the Danish Maritime Authority has also established specific contact points:

Questions regarding specific situations involving a ship can be directed to the Director of Ship Survey, Certification and Manning, Per Sønderstrup, on phone +45 72 19 61 69 or email: cfs@dma.dk.

Questions regarding specific situations involving seafarers can be directed to the Director of Seafarers, Certification and Social Affairs, Rasmus Høy Thomsen, on +45 72 19 61 70 or email: bevis@dma.dk.

Guidance

The specific challenges which a ship or seafarer may face as a result of the COVID-19 situation will vary. The Danish Maritime Authority will strive to find solutions that prevent unnecessary delays or impact on operations.

Listed below, are some of the challenges a ship may face and how the Danish Maritime Authority will be able to assist in finding a solution.

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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY,
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS

1. The ship is in a situation where deadlines cannot be met in relation to, for example:

- conducting annual inspections,
- renewal of certificates,
- repair of equipment or urgent maintenance,
- or where the staffing situation is affected to a degree where the rules in force cannot be fully complied with.

In such situations, the Danish Maritime Authority will be prepared to issue the necessary permits and letters of acceptance for the purpose of postponements and the like, in view of the force majeure situation, but naturally taking into account that safety is prioritized.

2. On a passenger ship after departure, there is suspicion of infection among passengers, which causes the captain to consider the necessary precautions to isolate passengers in the ship, in vehicles on the car deck or similar

It is within the prerogative of the captain's authority to take any precautions that may be necessary to ensure safety and health on board, including, for example, to isolate passengers during the remainder of the crossing. The Epidemic Commission (represented by the police in the port of call) must in all cases be informed of the suspicion or ascertainment on board.

3. Special preventive measures on the ships

The company is obliged to ensure a healthy and safe working environment on board the ship. The Danish Maritime Authority recommends consulting the Danish Health Authority's website, <https://www.sst.dk/da/Viden/Smitsomme-sygdomme/Smitsomme-sygdomme-A-AA/Coronavirus/Spoergsmaal-og-svar/Questions-and-answers>, and ensure that the ships are aware of the Danish Health Authority's advice and guidance.

4. Local authorities announce that the ship cannot call port or that the ship is quarantined

Such an injunction will be made in accordance with the applicable rules in the country to which the ship calls port. As far as possible, the Danish Maritime Authority will provide support and guidance, e.g. through contact with the Danish embassy or consulate in the country concerned.

Furthermore, in case of quarantine, which prevents a call to the port agreed in the contract, the seafarer's contract will, as a rule, con-

tinue to apply, regardless of whether it expires during the quarantine. The subsequent employment relationship will need to be further agreed between the parties involved.

5. Corona cases on board

If a seafarer on board falls ill, he or she is entitled to the necessary care. In this context, it is up to the captain in consultation with Radio Medical to assess the best treatment, including whether it should be done ashore. If necessary, the local authorities in the country should be contacted. Precautions for other crewmembers on board, prevention of infection etc. must be decided in consultation with Radio Medical.

In such situations, the Danish Maritime Authority can assist with contact to relevant authorities at home and abroad.

6. A seafarer's certificate expires and cannot be renewed because of the COVID-19 situation

The Danish Maritime Authority is prepared to extend the validity of Danish certificates to the extent necessary. When it comes to foreign certificates (for foreign seafarers), the Danish Maritime Authority will assist with contact to the relevant foreign authority in order to obtain the necessary extensions.

If problems arise, or if you have other questions regarding medical certificates, courses in fire-fighting, certificates of competency etc., you can call or email the Danish Maritime Authority, who will try to find a solution.

7. Entry restrictions into Denmark – ship crews and other personnel in relation to the ship's operation and maintenance (repairers and the like)

The Danish Police have informed the Danish Maritime Authority that all entry into Denmark with a valid purpose is permitted. This includes work-related entry. It is the understanding of the Danish Maritime Authority that this also applies to persons with work related to maintaining the ship's operation and maintenance. In case of doubt, please contact the police for guidance.

8. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark's travel advice and recommendations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark is continuously updating its advice and recommendations on travel to and from different countries. For some areas, all travel is distinctly advised against.

For other areas, unnecessary travel is advised against. With regard to seafarers' and other maritime personnel's departure from Denmark to these areas, it must always depend on a specific assessment by the persons involved whether such a journey can be characterized as necessary or unnecessary.