



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 17 March 2020

Marine Notice No. 15 of 2020

COVID-19: Update No1 - Government Announcement With Regard To Port Calls From Vessels: To Be Implemented 18 March 2020

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, VESSELS, SEAFARERS, SEAFARER PLACEMENT AGENCIES, SHIP MANAGERS, SHIP OWNERS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER SAMSA STAKEHOLDERS

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform vessels, Masters, Crew, Passengers, Ship Agents, Stevedores, Port Reception Facilities, Ship Managers, Ship Owners and all other stakeholders with additional information in order to manage any suspected outbreak of Covid-19.



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Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CONTROL OF HEALTH MEASURES FOR THE MARITIME INDUSTRY TO COMBAT THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC

The World Health Organisation has declared the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic.

South Africa has declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002); as amended by the Disaster Management Amendment Act, 2015 (Act No. 16 of 2015).

In light of this, on the 15 March 2020, the President of the Republic of South Africa issued a statement on measures to combat the COVID-19 epidemic.

- A. Following an extensive analysis of the progression of the disease worldwide and in South Africa, Cabinet has decided on extensive measures which include but are not limited to the following:
1. Limiting contact between persons who may be infected and South African citizens.
 2. Imposing a travel ban on foreign nationals from high-risk countries such as Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and China with effect from 18 March 2020.
 3. Travellers from medium-risk countries, such as Portugal, Hong Kong and Singapore, will be required to undergo high intensity screening, including self-quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days.
 4. It is essential that the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 is minimized, by limiting contact amongst groups of people.

5. Social distancing has also been encouraged, therefore gatherings of more than 100 people is prohibited.
- B. In light of the abovementioned measures; as a country we are bound to implement the directive of the President of the Republic of South Africa and the following will be implemented with effect from 18 March 2020:
 1. All sea cruises undertaken by cruise liner vessels into and out of any seaport within South Africa must be terminated until further notice.
 2. The sign-on of crew from high-risk and medium-risk countries for commercial vessels will not be permitted.
 3. The sign-off of crew from vessels arriving from high-risk and medium-risk countries into any seaport in South Africa within the incubation period of COVID-19 will not be permitted.
 4. Applications for Off Port Limits for services to be rendered on board vessels will be thoroughly assessed before permission is granted.
 5. Applications for Off Port Limits for crew changes will not be permitted.
 6. The above will not apply to MEDAVACS for medical emergencies, provided that all the necessary port and clinical protocols are adhered to.
 7. No vessel arriving from an international port must be brought into any seaport in South Africa, unless such has been communicated with Port Health.
 8. All vessels that have undertaken an international voyage, must apply for *free pratique* to Port Health 24 to 48 hours prior to arriving in port. Port Health must be kept updated on any changes to the health status of the vessel, whilst outside port or in the berth.
 9. Health Care Risk Waste (medical waste) that is generated on board the vessel must be contained in a sealed receptacle on board the vessel until disposal at an approved facility either within South Africa or out of the country.

This communication does not preclude any other restrictions placed by the National Department of Transport.

Kind regards



MS APR CELE

CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PORT HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: 2020/03/16

In addition to the following Marine Notices:

MARINE NOTICE 25 OF 2014: Medical Evacuations from Vessels (Medevac)

MARINE NOTICE 13 OF 2020: Coronavirus: Vessels and Seafarers

MARINE NOTICE 14 OF 2020: Coronavirus Information and Emergency Contact Detail

17 March 2020

SM6/5/2/1

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