

June 21th, 2021

## PORT NEWS

### IMMIGRATION RULES AT BRAZILIAN PORTS FOR SIGNING-ON AND OFF CREW

Please find the latest information with local immigration authority at Brazilian ports, for signing-on and off crew.

1. SID cards. The SID card implementation date for seafarers joining or signing-off from vessels to call at Brazilian ports, and which countries are signatory of the ILO Convention 185, was postponed by the Brazilian Immigration authorities for May 2022. This is on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A) For those countries that are not signatory of this Convention but with a visa exemption agreement to enter Brazil, it will be required the passport and seaman's book

B) For the countries that are not signatory of the Convention and there's no visa exemption agreement, the crewmembers will be required to obtain visas to enter the country or to sign-off, as well as for crew already on board vessels, otherwise, Immigration authorities will apply penalties to each crew.

2. Chinese crewmembers. Special requirements are applicable for Chinese crew, due to the standing maritime trade agreement between Brazil and China, and these are the guidelines:

A) each crewmember must hold valid seaman's book issued by the Chinese Maritime authorities, the vessel must fly a Chinese flag, and B) for signing-on and off as well as to transfer crew from one vessel to another at the same or different port, it is mandatory for the crew to hold valid visas. Without this requisite, it is not allowed for any crew to enter the country to transit from the airports to vessels, and vice-versa.

Attached, you will find the ILO185 Convention ratifying countries, as well as the list of countries with visa exemption agreement.

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### COMPULSORY COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS AND FOREIGN CREW

The Brazilian Government implemented Covid-19 requirements on 30 December 20 which were updated on 3 May 21 via Technical Note nr. 05/2021, for any and all crew members travelling to Brazil, to submit at the time of checking-in, a negative Covid-19 test result (RT-PCR), which must take place with a minimum of 72 hours prior to boarding the plane, and to be issued in english, spanish or portuguese language. Airline companies will not allow passengers to board without this document. This requirement is also applicable AT ALL PORTS for signing-on and signing-off crew, as well as for superintendents requiring to inspect vessels at any Brazilian port.

Specifically for signing-off crew, the RT-PCR tests must take place on board prior to the crew member disembarking, with a negative result. If and when the test result is positive, the whole crew has to be tested, and the vessel will enter a 14 days quarantine, which time can be reduced to 10 days, only after the entire crew is again tested and all test negative. The number of quarantine days is always determined by the health authority, but it will never be less than 10 days.

The Free Pratique will not be issued, if any crew is reported by the vessel with confirmed or suspected Covid-19, and she will not be authorized to berth or if already alongside, will not be authorized to conduct cargo operations. This procedure may change at each port, and can only be determined by the health authority at the time.

All vessels must have a Covid-19 Contingency Plan, to be submitted to the Port Health authority upon request, that must include embark and disembark procedures, vessel access control, cleanliness and disinfection procedures, the responsibility of each rank on board, isolation procedures, a crew communication channel with the shore health service when there are indications (suspected or confirmed) of Covid-19 on board.

For crew proceeding from South Africa, UK and Northern Ireland as well as India in the last 14 days, even when not signing-off, vessels will be restricted to enter port until the compulsory 14 days is accomplished and only then the Free Pratique will be issued. If however the vessel chooses to obtain its Free Pratique before the 14 days , it can do so upon presentation of the results for Covid-19 type RT-PCR tests, for the whole crew on board.

Lachmann

May 7h, 2021

PORT NEWS

#### COMPULSORY COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS AND FOREIGN CREW

On May 14th, a further legislation was published by the Civil House for the Brazilian Presidency, that restricts any crew, superintendents and or persons which origin or with connecting flights in India, UK, South Africa, Northern Ireland and India, to enter the country and irrespective of the nationality. For the signing-off crew which vessels prior to Brazil called at these same countries in the last 14 days, they will have to fulfill a 14 days quarantine at a hotel and prior to their repatriation.

Important to note, that crewmembers that signed-on at a port prior to vessels arrival in Brazil but which origin was any of these countries, and the sailing time is less than 14 days, the health authority will NOT issue the Free Pratique. To avoid vessel having to remain at roads waiting for the 14 days compliance, the alternative is for carriers to have the whole crew tested for Covid-19 upon vessels arrival.

In view of the frequent changes to the rules in force, the above information can be interpreted differently at each port by the local authorities. Therefore, when planning a crew change in Brazil, we recommend to contact our offices at the actual port, to find out the rules in force at the time, avoiding possible extra costs with joining crew having their entry rejected on their arrival at the international airports.