



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 1 October 2020

Marine Notice No. 47 of 2020

COVID-19 - Level 1 Crew Changes

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

*To be read in conjunction with: Marine Notice 24 of 2020 **Medical Evacuations from Vessels (MEDEVAC)**,
Marine Notice 26 of 2020: **Coronavirus Information and Emergency Contact details**
Marine Notice No.43 of 2020 is hereby cancelled*

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform all seafarers that they are permitted to embark and disembark vessels under LEVEL 1, effective from 01 October 2020.

1. BACKGROUND

Shipping is vital to the world supply chain. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that all personnel involved are protected from infection, including those onboard ships and shore personnel who may need to temporarily go onboard ships or interact with seafarers.

Many seafarers on board ships (and personnel in the offshore industry) have been on enforced extended contracts during the COVID-19 pandemic, with restrictions on travel making it difficult for crew to leave ships and for new crew to join ships. These extended stays on board could have significant repercussions for crew wellbeing as well as for safe ship operations. The Regulations for Alert Level 3 as published on 28 May 2020 in Government Gazette No. 43364 in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) provides, amongst others, that□

All borders will remain closed during the period of the national state of disaster, except for ports of entry designated by the Cabinet member responsible for home affairs, for specific reasons inclusive of the return of a South African national or permanent resident to his or her place of employment, study or residence, outside the Republic.

With the introduction of Level 2 Covid Restrictions and Level 1 Covid Restrictions, seafarers were gradually permitted to embark and disembark at either Cape Town or Durban.

2. UPDATE: 01 OCTOBER 2020

New Regulations for Alert Level 1 was published on 01 October 2020 in Government Gazette No. 737753 in terms of the Disaster Management Act (57/2002): *Amendment to the Sea Ports Directions: Measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 at Sea Ports for Alert Level 1.*

3. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES AND PROHIBITION OF CRUISE SHIPS CALLING AT SEA PORTS

- (1) Foreign crew changes are permitted at all nine commercial ports.
- (2) (a) Signing -on crew must produce a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction ("PCR ") test certificate or a valid certificate of COVID -19 negative test results, obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of travel, from an accredited laboratory and in line with World Health Organization requirements at the first South African Port of Entry.
(b) In the event of a crew member's failure to produce a valid PCR test certificate, this will warrant quarantine, at the crew member's own cost.
- (3) (a) Signing -off crews are not required to produce a valid PCR test certificate if the vessel has not had crew changes or has not visited a foreign port within 10 days before arrival at a South African sea port.
(b) A crew member's failure to adhere to the requirement contemplated in paragraph (a), will warrant quarantine, at the crew member's own cost.
- (4) Foreign crew may layover at a designated quarantine facility for a period not exceeding seven days, at their own cost, but must proceed directly to Ports of Entry once this period has lapsed and must also comply with South African Immigration requirements and Port Health protocols.
- (5) Cruise ships are prohibited from calling at any of the South African sea ports, except for the disembarkation of returning-
 - (a) South African crew;
 - (b) South African citizens; or
 - (c) holders of South African permanent residence permits.

4. PASSENGER SHIPS VISITING SOUTH AFRICAN SEA PORT

- (1) All passenger ships for international leisure purposes are prohibited from disembarking any international passengers at any South African sea port.
- (2) Passenger ships are allowed to call at any South African sea port only for the following purposes:
 - (a) Disembarking returning South African citizens and holders of South African permanent residence permits;
 - (b) replenishing fuel, stores and provisions;
 - (c) medical evacuation; and
 - (d) search and rescue.

5. OTHER VESSELS

- 1) Registered research foreign vessels and marine safety tugs are allowed to dock at sea ports, subject to mandatory quarantine laws, as may be applicable.
- (2) All other cargo vessels must be allowed to dock at sea ports for purposes of cargo works, repairs, replenishing fuel and provisions.

a) SEAFARER WELFARE

Should any distressed seafarer require assistance for any welfare or humanitarian issue, please email:

welfare@samsa.org.za

1 October 2020

SM6/5/2/1

Issued by and obtainable from:

**The South African Maritime Safety Authority
146 Lunnon Road
Hillcrest, Pretoria 0083**

**P O Box 13186
Hatfield 0028
South Africa**

Tel.: +27 12 366 2600

Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site : www.samsa.org.za