



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 9 September 2020

Marine Notice No. 43 of 2020

COVID-19 Level 2: Seafarer Crew Changes

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

Marine Notice No 40 of 2020 is cancelled

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform all stakeholders of the latest developments in terms of the Department of Transport and the requirements surrounding the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic and seafarer crew changes.

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa is part of the ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). On 5 March 2020, Minister of Health Zwelini Mkhize confirmed the spread of the virus to South Africa, with the first known patient being a male citizen who tested positive upon his return from Italy.

By mid-March, isolation measures gathered pace, and on the 15th of March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster, prohibiting gatherings of more than 100 people. On the 17th of March, Ramaphosa, supported by Deputy President David Mabuza, convened the inaugural meeting of the National Command Council on COVID-19, or as it was subsequently called, the National Coronavirus Command Council, "to lead the nation's plan to contain the spread and mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus". On the 23rd of March, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation and announced a 21-day national lockdown effective from midnight 26 March through to 16 April and subsequently extended to May 2020.

Easing of the national lockdown restrictions, based on a risk-adjusted strategy, started on the 1st of May 2020, becoming level 4. From the 18th of August, the national restrictions were lowered to level 2.

2. REFERENCE

Government Gazette 43629 – Disaster Management Act (57/2002): Measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 at Sea Ports. In these directions, the "**Directions**" means the Directions, published under Government Notice No. 496, in Government Gazette No. 43275 of 04 May 2020.

3. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES

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

(1) Foreign crew changes may only take place at **the port of Cape Town** and at the port of **Durban**, under the following conditions:

- (a) A request for crew changes must be completed by a shipping company or its representative on a form which corresponds substantially with **Form A** and submitted, **at least 96 hours** (four days) prior to the crew change, to the Department of Transport;
- (b) the form referred to in paragraph (a) must be accompanied by a **detailed crew list**, which also specifies the signing -on crew and signing -off crew.
- (c) the crew must comply with all the travel requirements and health protocols at ports of entry;
- (d) crew changes **may take place at port and off port limits**;
- (e) signing -on crew **may directly transit from the airport to board the vessel**: Provided that, if a layover is necessary, the crew must be quarantined as per the Port Health Protocol at the employer's costs and the name of the quarantine facility must be specified in the form referred to in paragraph (a); and
- (f) signing -on and signing -off crew **may only in exceptional circumstances be permitted to layover**.

(2) **Cruise ships are prohibited** from calling at any of the South African ports, **except** for the disembarkation of returning -

- (a) South African crew; or
- (b) South African citizens or holders of permanent residence permits.

(3) South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits are advised to refrain from making use of international maritime transport or cruise ships. "

Direction 7 of the Directions is hereby amended by the substitution for subdirection (1) of the following subdirection:

- (1) (a) Subject to subdirection (2), all passenger vessels are prohibited from-
 - (i) disembarking any passengers at any South African port;
 - (ii) calling at any of the ports, except for the disembarkation of returning South African crew, South African citizens and holders of permanent residence permits.
- (b) Signing -off crew of a passenger vessel may -
 - (i) disembark from a passenger vessel at the port of Cape Town and at the port of Durban; and
 - (ii) directly transit to the airport.

4. EMAIL

TO: MSCC@dot.gov.za

CC: Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za

All applications to be sent to: MSCC@dot.gov.za; Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za

All enquiries to be sent to: Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za:

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Issued by and obtainable from:
The South African Maritime Safety Authority
146 Lunnon Road
Hillcrest, Pretoria 0083

PO Box 13186
Hatfield 0028

Tel: +27 12 366 2600

Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site: www.samsa.org.za

FORM A	
REQUEST FOR FOREIGN CREW CHANGES	
[Direction 6(1)] <i>To be completed by a shipping company or its representative</i>	
Name of shipping company/representative	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Name of Vessel	
Type of Vessel	
Name of seaport destined for crew change	
Details of inbound flight	
Details of outbound flight	
Date of crew change (must be within 96 hours)	
Name of quarantine facilities (only in exceptional circumstances)	
Attachments included (Y/N)	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed crew list (Signing-on and Signing-off)	

Signature: _____

Full name and surname: _____

Capacity: _____

The completed form and crew list must be submitted to MSCC@dot.gov.za and copied to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada to the following email address: Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za

All enquiries pertaining to crew changes must be directed to Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada at the following e-mail address: Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za