

### PASSENGER SHIPS – ALERT LEVEL 1

ALL SAMSA PERSONNEL, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, TERMINAL OPERATORS, SHIP OWNERS, CRUISE SHIP OWNERS, TOURISM, MASTERS, SEAFARERS, HOSPITALITY SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	27 October 2021	<b>EXPIRY DATE</b>	26 October 2026 or unless withdrawn	<b>REFERENCE</b>	SM6/5/2/1/MN
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#### Marine Notice's affected

<i>Cancelled or superseded:</i>	47 of 2020	<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	MN 24 of 2020, MN 26 of 2020, MN 6 of 21, MN 19-21
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#### SUMMARY

This marine notice serves to inform the tourism industry that passenger ships may plan and recommence tourism activities along the South African coast. It also provides SAMSA's interpretation of the regulations *No 1077 Disaster Management Act (57/2002): Amendment to the Sea Ports Directions*, Gazette No. 45376.

The Marine Notice defines all requirements for vessels, including the requirements of a Company and Ship Risk Management Plan to conduct safe operations in line with Department of Transport Seaports Directions.

#### DEFINITIONS

**"coastal voyage"** for the purposes of this marine notice means any voyage between any of the commercial ports of South Africa, provided that the first and last port of call is either Cape Town, Port Elizabeth or Durban.

**"international voyage"** means a voyage from a port in one country to a port in another country

**"seafarer"** means any person who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a ship. (*crew has a corresponding meaning*)

**"passenger"** means any person carried in a ship, except—

- (a) a person employed or engaged in any capacity on board the ship on the business of the ship;
- (b) a person on board the ship either in pursuance of the obligation laid upon the master to carry shipwrecked, distressed or other persons or by reason of any circumstances that neither the master nor the owner nor the charterer (if any) could have prevented; and
- (c) a child under one year of age;

**"passenger ship"** means a ship which carries more than twelve passengers;

#### PART I: PORTS AND TERMINALS

All port facilities or terminals must enforce Maritime Security Level 2 when facilitating passenger ships and enforce Maritime Security Level 1 when handling cargo operations.

All types of vessels must be permitted to proceed to berth once cleared by Department of Transport. The National Department of Health is required to ensure NHLS is available at all functional/open Ports of Entry during operations to conduct antigen testing ashore;

No conveyance must wait at borders for COVID-19 tests to be conducted (A plane, ship & car are allowed to proceed to the Republic and allow travellers to utilize national services provided at borders for appropriate COVID-19 tests/screenings)

#### PART II: ALL VESSEL TYPES, INCLUDING PASSENGER SHIPS

- (a) All Commercial Ports remain open;
- (b) Foreign crew changes are permitted at all nine commercial ports;
- (c) Shore leave is allowed for all crew in line with South African immigration and port health protocols;
- (d) Any embarkation and disembarkation activities must comply with curfew restrictions.
  - (i) Curfew period for Level 1: 2359(lt) to 0400(lt) daily

- (ii) Any shore leave must end at 2300(lt) each day while in port, to allow for travel time to the vessel.
- (iii) Planning should be such that the last crewmembers are onboard the vessel no later than 2359(lt)
- (e) All crew arriving at a port to join a vessel, must provide a valid certificate of negative COVID-19 test recognised by the WHO, and must be obtain not more than 72 hours before arriving in South Africa. Failure to do so would mean that the crew must undergo an antigen test on arrival, at vessel owner/operators own cost. No costs will be borne by the state.
- (f) Should the test result be positive, the crewmember will have to isolate himself or herself for a period of 10 days.
- (g) Every seafarer has a right to health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection. The costs for any medical tests and/or isolation must be borne by the ship owner or ship manager.
- (h) Signing off crew are not required to produce a valid certificate of a negative COVID-19 test if the vessel has not had any crew changes or has not visited a foreign port within 10 days before arrival in South Africa.
- (i) If the vessel has had any crew changes or visited a foreign port within 10 days before arrival at a South African Port, the crew must undergo antigen testing on arrival. If the test is positive, then (f) and (g) applies to the crewmember.
- (j) Ship Owner / Ship Operator is responsible and accountable for all transportation costs and arrangements when crew are required to isolate at an approved isolation or quarantine facility.

### PART III: PASSENGER SHIPS

- (a) International embarkation and disembarkation for passenger ships are restricted to the following main ports:
  - (i) Cape Town
  - (ii) Durban
  - (iii) Port Elizabeth
- (b) The first and last ports of call for passenger ships embarking on an international voyage must be at any of the three main ports.
- (c) Coastal voyages are restricted to the following secondary ports:
  - (i) Cape Town
  - (ii) Durban
  - (iii) Port Elizabeth
  - (iv) Richards Bay
  - (v) Port of Ngqura
  - (vi) Mossel Bay
  - (vii) Saldanha Bay
  - (viii) East London
- (d) Any embarkation and disembarkation activities for passengers must comply with curfew restrictions.
  - a. Curfew period for Level 1: 2359(lt) to 0400(lt) daily
  - b. Any shore excursions must end at 2300(lt) each day while in port, to allow for travel time to the vessel.
  - c. Planning should be such that the last passengers are onboard the vessel no later than 2359(lt)
- (e) All passengers arriving at a port to join a vessel, must provide a valid certificate of negative COVID-19 test recognised by the WHO, and must be obtain not more than 72 hours before arriving in South Africa. Failure to do so would mean that the passenger must undergo an antigen test on arrival, at his/her own cost, unless agreed the cruise ship operator agreed to cover the costs. No costs will be borne by the state.
- (f) Should the test result be positive, the passenger will have to isolate himself or herself for a period of 10 days.
- (g) The ship agent and cruise ship company shall make all necessary transport arrangements for any passenger to and from any approved isolation or quarantine facility ashore.
- (h) Passengers are advised to carefully study the terms and conditions on his or her passenger ticket.
- (i) Passengers are advised to procure travel insurance to cover any unexpected medical costs.

Passenger ships are permitted to call at a designated South African Port for the following purposes:

- (a) International cruising;
- (b) Coastal cruising and tourism activities
- (c) Crew Changes
- (d) Replenishing fuel, stores and provisions;
- (e) Repairs and maintenance;
- (f) Medical evacuations;
- (g) Emergencies;
- (h) Other services approved by the Department of Transport

Companies must assess all identified risks to their ships, crew, passengers and other persons in relation to COVID-19 and establish appropriate safeguards through a Company and Ship Management Plan;

#### **PART IV: COMPANY AND SHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The company and ship management plan is a vessel specific plan on how the passenger ship operators or manager, master and crew conduct day to day operations, detailing all precautionary measures in place.

The plan must be readily available to the authorities and must contain the following minimum requirements, taking into consideration all COVID-19 safety measures:

- (a) Risk Assessments
- (b) Response to outbreaks
- (c) Embarkation and disembarkation of passengers
- (d) Responsible social distancing.
- (e) Elevated standards of sanitation and cleanliness.
- (f) Enhanced medical services with highly qualified staff
- (g) Emergency Mandatory Drills, including dealing with Covid-19 during these drills and actual emergencies.
- (h) Crew Training to ensure all crew are familiar with all protocols, including refresher training.
- (i) Public spaces and recreational areas.
- (j) Shore excursions
- (k) Entertainment and activities
- (l) Maintain Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems (HVAC) as per recommended manufacturers requirements, with regular filter changes.

The following operating protocols should be adhered to by all owners and operators of passengers and cruise ships to ensure safe and secure operations:-

- (a) Embarkation and disembarkation at terminals must be staggered to ensure social distancing;
- (b) All embarking passengers must be subjected to antigen testing and screening prior to embarkation;
- (c) No visitors will be allowed to board any passenger ship whilst alongside;
- (d) All passenger ships must have a percentage of designated isolation and/or quarantine cabins as per the onboard contingency plans in reasonable proportion with overall capacity, size and number of crew and passengers carried onboard;
  - (i) *The number of dedicated isolation and quarantine cabins available onboard can be based on between 10% - 20% of the number of passengers and crew carried onboard.*
- (e) Cabins used for the purpose of quarantine should, where possible, allow for direct air exchanges to the atmosphere and isolated from the general ventilation systems of the ship;
- (f) Regular announcements should be made over the ships P.A. system to remind passengers that they should contact the medical doctor at the infirmary onboard should they develop any signs of COVID-19 or suspect that they are getting sick.
- (g) Infirmarys should be available 24/7 and fully equipped to be able to deal with any COVID-19 infections onboard and radio medical advice should be available at all times.
- (h) Contact tracing must be initiated when a possible or probable case of COVID-19 is identified onboard, whilst waiting for laboratory confirmation. Close contacts must be isolated until the medical doctor onboard have cleared the close contact and it has been confirmed that there is no risk of COVID-19.
- (i) Selected Itineraries: To be modified as needed and carefully managed, based on risk. All excursions should be staggered to ensure itineraries ensure social distancing and appropriate safety measures.
- (j) Cleaning methods should include the use of increased cleaning frequency and a focus on high-traffic, electrostatic sprayers, hospital-grade disinfectants, frequently touched areas.
- (k) Cabins should be cleaned daily, with additional deep sanitation at the end of each cruise.
- (l) 100% fresh, external air supplied to all cabins and public spaces, with no recirculation.
- (m) Hand sanitiser dispensers available around the ship.
- (n) Entertainment and dining activities must be done considering Social Distancing and Safety protocols.

## PART V: VACCINATION

South Africa allows all persons over the age of 12 to be vaccinated, including seafarers. SAMSA recommends that all passengers are fully vaccinated prior to joining any passenger ship for a cruise.

## PART VI: SAMSA APPROVAL

SAMSA MRCC, Port Health and the National Port Authority should be informed immediately should a COVID-19 outbreak occur onboard a passenger ship where 50% or more of the persons onboard are infected.

The cruise should be suspended if an outbreak occurs. The passenger ship should deviate to the nearest South African main port, as prescribed in PART II (a). The vessel will only be released to continue on her voyage once SAMSA has determined that it is safe to continue on her voyage, as per direction 4(7)(6) in the Disaster Management Act (57/2002): Amendment to the Sea Ports Directions, Gazette No. 45376.

## PART VII: CONTACT INFORMATION

- (a) Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (24/7/365): Email: [mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za](mailto:mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za) Tel: +27 (0) 21 938 3300  
(b) Seafarer Welfare: [welfare@samsa.org.za](mailto:welfare@samsa.org.za)

## REFERENCES

- (i) The following documents should be consulted as they are of particular relevance:
- (ii) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.27 (26 August 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Protocols to mitigate the risks of cases on board ships
- (iii) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.16 (6 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) – COVID-19 related guidelines for ensuring a safe shipboard interface between ship and shore-based personnel;
- (iv) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.15 (6 May 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID 19) - Personal protective equipment;
- (v) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14/Rev.1 (5 October 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic;
- (vi) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.4/Rev.2 (9 October 2020) contains ICS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers;
- (vii) IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.3 (2 March 2020) - Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships;

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