

COVID-19 - COUNTER MEASURES AT CYPRUS PORTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES APPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS BASED ON THE EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR THE COUNTRY

Despite the country's emergency situation due to the epidemic of Coronavirus 19, ports being critical/essential infrastructure should continue to be in operation due to their significant importance in the country's economy, health system and social viability.

In order to ensure the smooth and continuous operation of the ports, and particularly to avoid any shortages of food and medical supplies, below measures are applied in all ports, port installations and Marinas in Cyprus:

1. Any disembarkation of passengers and crew members from cruise ships as from 15.3.2020 is prohibited until further notice.
2. Any change or disembarkation of ship's crew, whether in port or out of a port (i.e. anchorage areas) of any type of ship, is prohibited.
3. For pleasure boats berthed in small ports and marinas, all above measures in relation to cruise and cargo ships are applied. Thus no disembarkation of passengers or crew or crew changes is allowed.
4. Regarding the crew of commercial vessels (tug boats etc.) which have their permanent base in Cyprus ports, whether they operate outside territorial waters or contact with other ports abroad, shall strictly comply with the instructions given from the Medical and Health Services (i.e. self-limitation for 14 days).
5. Navy/Military vessels: Entry into a port and carrying out port operations i.e. provisions, bunkers, etc, is allowed following a 'Notam Verbatim' issued from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Disembarkation of crew is not allowed.
6. UNIFIL Vessels and Personnel: In terms of movement, there is no restriction for UNIFIL administration members who are based on shore facilities at the port. However crew members of UNIFIL vessels are only allowed to disembark from the vessel and transferred directly to a designated hotel for self-isolation.
7. In case of medical emergency, regarding a passenger or a crew member on board a vessel, either at anchorage area or in the port, shipping agents representing the vessel carrying the sick passenger/crew member, are allowed to proceed with the appropriate arrangements following coordination and consultation with the Medical and Health Services, which will then arrange the transfer and provision of medical treatment to the sick passenger/crew member.

8. No one is allowed to embark on any vessel for any reason, besides for activities related to cargo operations. This shall mean that there will be no interaction/contact with the crew members of a vessel. Entities allowed to embark the vessels are Stevedores, Lashers/Un-lashers and Surveyors. Surveyors' embarkation is only allowed for activities related to sampling of vessels' tanks for petroleum products and not for any kind of administrative tasks. The rest of the entities that are usually performing operations on board the vessels, are advised to perform their operations electronically/remotely. Personal hygiene and protective measures should be taken at all times.
9. In case of a need for an inspection of a berthed vessel from the quay side, then only one crew member of the vessel is allowed to disembark and only for a short period of time, with the obligation of the Ship Agent to notify first the Port and Marine Police for control and supervision of the operation and the Port Facility Operator in order to remove all land side personnel.
10. Anyone entering the ports must fully comply with the instructions given by the Medical and Health Services.
11. All port operators are now implementing contingency plans, including back up plans to cover the eventuality of the worst-case-scenarios and the minimum of their organisational structure needs, with the aim to avoid closure of the ports.

Such plans include working with minimum personnel, working in shifts, training personnel to cover others, using back up personnel, eliminating port access to third parties, introducing extra precautions for the personnel hygiene, constant availability of resources, restrictions on personnel travel mobility and movement, etc.
