

Information provided by the Greek authorities on 23/03/2020

General Reporting Requirements

Greece fully implements the international framework and guidelines set by the International Maritime Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Health Association as well as the general advice provided by the EU and the National Organization of Public Health. The basic document used is the Maritime Declaration of Health under FAL and the MSW Coordination with the Health authorities (both locally in ports and at central/governmental level) is taking place.

Restrictions of Ships Operations

Taking into consideration the epidemiological facts, the exponential increase of COVID 19 outbreaks in some countries and the need to prevent further expansion, the greek government decided:

(a) to temporarily restrict for one month (until 15 of April), the movement of passengers by ships to and from Greece to Italy, Turkey & Albania. The measure does not affect trade operations, as long as freight transport including through trucks and lorries will continue to operate without restrictions,

(b) for the same public health reasons, to temporarily suspend calls at Greek ports of: **(i)** professional tourist vessels (cruise vessels, professional yachts, daily tour cruise ships, recreational ships classified as a professional subject to laws applicable in another country) , until 15 of April), **(ii)** incoming private recreational vessels, until 19 of April and **(iii)** private and professional tourist vessels, operating/ being within Greek territory, until 21.04.2020.

(c) to temporarily restrict the transportation of passengers by ships (including RO-ROs, Ro-PAXs, ferries and sea taxi) operating from the mainland of Greece to the islands and between the islands of the country until 21.04.2020 (maritime cabotage). The measure does not affect transportation of: **(i)** the permanent residents of the islands moving from/to the islands to the mainland/ other islands, **(ii)** Armed and Security Forces personnel, as well as personnel involved in the operations of the European Border and Coast Guard Civil Protection personnel moving for reasons related to their service, **(iii)** public sector officials, **(iv)** medical and nursing staff of the public and private sectors; health professionals and practitioners as well as the staff of the National Organization of Public Health and **(v)** persons moving for officially certified emergency reasons.

(d) to temporary ban the entry into the country of third-country nationals, including by air, sea, rail and road, until 18.04.2020. The measure does not affect trade operations, EU citizens, diplomatic missions' representatives and third country nationals who are permanent residents at an EU country.

Seafarers Health Issues

Crew members having symptoms or suspecting they are infected must follow regular quarantine or isolation routines established by the international and national Public Health Authorities.

Inspection and Certification Issues

As regards the conduct of surveys, audits and inspections, in cases where surveyors, auditors and/or inspectors are not able to undertake due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the Hellenic Maritime Administration is considering to provide, in duly justified cases, extension to the validity of the expiring certificates due to force majeure. Of course, this will be done without undermining safety.

The Hellenic Maritime Administration has also been made aware of cases where stringent border control measures for reducing the spread of COVID-19, have resulted in operators having difficulty in arranging crew changes and repatriating seafarers on expiration of their SEAs. Repatriation of seafarers onboard foreign flagged vessels calling at greek ports is subject to the restrictions of entry into the country and under the control of health authorities. The current situation has a similar bearing on the validity period of STCW certificates.

The Hellenic Maritime Administration allows for the extension of SEAs provided that such extension is under the seafarer's consent and that all the relative arrangements by the shipowner/operator for repatriation will be undertaken as appropriate at the next available port as soon as conditions allow.

Seafarers' certificates issued under STCW '78 and have expired or are due to expire on 30/05/2020 and their five-year renewal requires successful refresh/update courses, may be considered for a period of six (06) months, without having to undergo the said course. For all STCW certificates the Administration will continue monitoring the situation in order to take any additional measures to ensure the smooth operation of shipping.

In such cases, including inspection and certification (of ships and seafarers), we believe that flag and port state control should take a practical approach, taking into account the inability of operators and crews to timely perform the required functions and the abovementioned need to preserve the smooth operation of maritime trade.

Safety of Navigation – Port State Control Issues

VTS operation has not been affected. The SSN NCA 24/7 is operating normally. PSC P(I) inspections are carried out based on judgement whether the conduct of the inspection would create a risk to the safety of the inspectors, the ship, its crew or the port and taking into consideration the relevant instructions from the Health Authorities; for cases of suspicion or reported Covid 19 incident, the possibilities under Art 8(2)(a) of Directive 2009/16 have been recalled to PSC inspectors.

Other Measures

Guidance on handling of COVID 19 incidents was forwarded to the 13 regional pilot stations, operating throughout the Greek territory, and informative meetings have been organized (and transmitted also in live streaming) with the participation of medical experts of the National Organization of Public Health and regional public

services, responsible for public health and hygiene. All pilot stations have undertaken necessary actions for the procurement of the necessary equipment (masks, gloves etc) for the protection of their personnel.

Circulars, decisions and health guidance provided by the international and national institutions are available online.