

To whom it may concern

This is to inform that

Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration is monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 with a focus on issues related to shipping and seafarers.

First and foremost, all shipping companies, ships and seafarers strictly must follow advice, instructions and guidance from the Lithuanian Government, health and port authorities including those related to infection, risk, disease, treatment, travel or port calls.

Lithuanian Government <http://lrv.lt/en/relevant-information/coronavirus-in-lithuania/relevant-information-1>

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania <http://sam.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/koronavirusas>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania <https://urm.lt/default/en/important-covid19>

Klaipėda State Seaport authority <https://www.portofklaipeda.lt/koronavirusas-covid-19>.

Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration is putting all efforts to provide all necessary assistance, guidance and solutions in any specific situation related to or affecting the shipping. There are listed below some major cases that Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration will be able to assist in finding a solution are listed below:

- If the ship is in a situation where deadlines cannot be met in relation to conducting annual inspections, renewal of certificates, repair of equipment or urgent maintenance, etc., after consideration of each specific case and due regard to the priority of safety it will be decided on the issuance of the necessary permits, letters of acceptance and / or extensions of ship's certificates naturally taking into account that safety is prioritized.
- In view of travel restrictions, seafarers may be forced to spend longer on board than usual as they are not being allowed to leave the vessel. Moreover, training institutions are closed and are not able to do the necessary training required for an extension of seafarer's certificates. Taking this into account, where the ship's crew situation is affected to a degree where the rules in force cannot be fully complied with, Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration after consideration of each specific case is prepared to take decision to extend the validity of Lithuanian certificates to the necessary extent.
- Due to the effects of COVID-19, the seafarers' medical certification issuing has been halted in Lithuania. As a result of this delay and the possible difficulties in acquiring relevant certifications from other countries Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and Lithuanian transport safety administration allow the usage of expired medical certificates on board of ships for no longer than 3 months following the expiration date. The competent authorities of Lithuania request the competent authorities of other States to permit the continued employment of Lithuanian seafarers on their flagged ships after the expiry of the medical certificate in accordance with the decisions taken by these States. To ensure that seafarers' doctors and other medical staff are protected against the COVID-19, a seafarer

shall, for medical certification purposes, appear at the certification centre no earlier than 14 days after the return from the voyage given no apparent symptoms occur.

In addition, we would like to inform that:

- Port of Klaipėda is open for navigation except for cruise shipping.
- Travelling restrictions have also caused difficulties for specialized staff, such as inspectors, to access the vessels and conduct legally required inspections. Therefore, Flag State inspections, audits, assessments, etc., for Lithuanian flagged ships located in foreign ports are now suspended.
- Port State control of a foreign ships calling Lithuanian ports will be performed after the assessment of potential risks and consultations with National Public Health Center and taking into account guidelines established by IMO <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx> and Paris MoU.
- Premises of Lithuanian Transport Administration have restricted access.
- Seafarers' health survey in the Klaipėda Seamen's Hospital is suspended.
- The implementation of full-time training and education is suspended.

In view of epidemic situation regarding COVID-19 disease (coronavirus infection) and in order to reduce the spread of the disease internationally, the National Public Health Center under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (NPHC) is conducting enhanced medical quarantine control at Lithuanian border crossing points.

Please be informed that in order to avoid an unnecessary interference for the international carriage of goods and the limitation of the movement of goods, the medical quarantine control procedures are applied in Klaipėda State Seaport in accordance with the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, as follows:

- 24 h prior arrival the master of the ship shall submit a Maritime Declaration of Health, as required by International Health Regulations approved by World Health Organization, confirming that all crew members are healthy;
- Information about crew's health has to be confirmed 2 hours prior arrival to the port.

**If the Maritime Declaration of Health contains an information about a sick person on board the ship, actions must be taken as follows:**

- The ship shall be moored at the quay;
- NPHC personnel comes on board to investigate the epidemiological situation;
- when a person is detected with COVID-19 symptoms, he is transported to a medical institution by an ambulance;
- as directed by the NPHC, common areas and the cabin(s) on board the ship must be cleaned and disinfected by the ship's appointed personnel, if not available - by a Lithuanian licensed company;

- Only after cleaning and disinfecting the ship, activities and work of agents, stevedores, surveyors are allowed on board, so that the works of unloading/loading the cargo could begin;
- Crew is not allowed to leave the ship;
- Persons (e. g. ship's agent) who are in contact with the ship's responsible personnel (captain, chief mate, etc.) must wear personal protective equipment;
- non-crew members, who had no contact with crew members, are allowed to participate in the loading / unloading the cargo after ship's cleaning and disinfection.