

Circular From NORTH

Date: 14 February 2020

Coronavirus Outbreak - Impact on Shipping

In response to the 2019-nCoV novel coronavirus outbreak, a number of countries, ports and organisations are publishing details of the measures being put in place.

The below is a brief summary of information we have received so far that has the potential to impact ship operations.

Last updated: 06 February 2020

Country	Informing party	Date	Summary of advice
Argentina	Pandi Liquidadores S.R.L	31-Jan	- Health Authorities have informed that Argentina is a low-risk country. - However, it has implemented, effective as from 31 Jan, the obligation to include copies of the last 48 hours of ship's medical logbook when requesting "free pratique" prior to ship's arrival. - The Health Authority has also recommended to anyone to notify to National Boarded Authorities immediately if there is any suspicion that any crewmember or passenger on international voyages may have an infectious disease or any similar symptoms of the coronavirus 2019-nCoV. - In those cases, the sanitary officers will provide the corresponding instructions however the people suspected must be isolated (on a cabin on board or a hotel at shore) and wait for instructions. - So far there are no restrictions for travelling or to trade.
Argentina	Alejandro Vega	04-Feb	Argentina Health Authorities released an Epidemiological Alert thru a circular message "Coronavirus 2019-nCoV". Health authorities require that when vessels arriving from China or that have operated in a port of that country, photocopies of the last 48 hours of the Medical Record on

board, as well as the latest body temperature report of crew members and passengers must be attached in Free Practique request in TAD System. (Distance Procedure System – Health Authorities electronic system).

Australia	Aus Ship P&I	04-Feb	The Australian Government are implementing enhanced risk assessments on all international vessels calling into Australia: • Mandatory pre arrival reporting of human health on board must be undertaken at least 12 hours prior to the vessels arrival into Australian territorial waters. (The Master must update authorities should the human health status on board the vessel change at any time whilst the vessel is in Australian waters.) • If at any time a human health risk is reported, a biosecurity officer will conduct assessments on a case by case basis, and work with national and local health departments to manage risk to the ill persons and other crew, seaport personnel, border staff and health professionals. • Most, if not all Australian Port Authorities are expected to implement the following additional regulations for all vessels intending to berth – Masters of all ships due to arrive in Australian Ports are required to declare their last 5 ports of call and confirm that they have no crew members showing symptoms of Novel coronavirus on-board. • Where Novel coronavirus is evident or suspected, seaport personnel and shore staff will not be required to board the vessel. • The Port Authority will delay pilotage services to vessels that have transited directly from China, but which have been at sea for less than the 14 day quarantine (self-isolation) period.
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It is reported that NSW has decided to apply the 14 day elapsed time period retrospectively and as from yesterday will not embark a pilot on a ship arriving from China that has not spent 14 days at sea.

The Biosecurity Department is also requesting ships agents clarify the following information, should their vessels have recently called into a port in mainland China:

- The Date the vessel departed China
- Ports called into between departing China and arriving in Australia
- Declarations as to whether any sick personnel are on board
- Declaration of the previous 5 ports of call

Further to the above, vessels may expect heightened bio-security/quarantine measures being implemented; including:

- Australian Biosecurity Department personnel attending the vessel wearing full body protection /HAZMAT style gear
- Stevedores wearing masks and other protective gear, and being instructed to keep distance and avoid contact with crew where possible
- Ships agents may carry out procedures from the wharf instead of boarding the affected vessels, so as to minimise potential contamination risk
- Seafarers aboard affected vessels may be barred from leaving the vessel.

Bangladesh	JF (Bangladesh) Limited	04-Feb	Correspondents have provided an English translated copy of the circular dated 30.01.2020 issued by Chittagong Port Authority that states:
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In order to prevent the Coronavirus in the country, all the Shipping Agents will have to provide information stating that “Ship’s Master and his Crew members are free from Coronavirus” at the time of giving declaration of arrival of the vessel. The Radio Control will confirm this with the Master on arrival of the vessel at outer anchorage and then will record the same in the “Fresh Arrival Book”.

There is no restriction so far announced for Chinese Flag vessels or Chinese crew members on board other than the requirement of declaration for vessels arriving at Chittagong

There is no quarantine requirement announced.

Brazil	Brazmar	06-Feb	Brazmar have kindly provided a translation of the National Sanitary Authority (ANVISA) technical note No
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4/2020/SEI/GIMTV/GGPAF/DIRE5/ANVISA:

“Specific guidelines for ports and vessels:

First, it should be noted that a vessel journey between China and Brazil takes much longer than 14 days, the incubation period required in this case. The average time for a vessel to travel between China and Brazil is 45 days. Thus, based on the risk assessment carried out so far, the following stands out:

- With the intensification of surveillance to detect possible suspected cases of 2019-nCoV and response, it is essential that the Maritime Health Declaration is filled out correctly and in a complete form for evaluation regarding the issue of Free Pratique. It is worth mentioning that requests for Free Pratique must occur between 48 or 72 hours in advance, which allows for a prior assessment by Anvisa, before the authorisation for berthing (Free Pratique issuance).
- Any change in the health status of the crew or passengers must be reported immediately to the Health Authority.
- In the case of a 2019-nCoV suspect on the vessel, the Free Pratique will be issued on board, with the triggering of the local Contingency Plan and the removal of the designated crew member to hospital will be considered if necessary.
- According to the epidemiological bulletin (Vol. 51, no 04) of the Ministry of Health, suspected cases should be isolated and use surgical masks.
- Any other crew member who comes into contact with the suspected case must wear PPE (surgical mask; eye shield or face shield; gloves; cloak / apron).”

Law firm SMA have provided advice on what to expect from Brazilian authorities should infection be suspected on board.

China	Huatai Insurance Agency and Consultant Service Ltd	03-Feb	Huatai summarises the protection and control measures implemented by the port Authorities of each major Chinese port:
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Health declarations

1. Health declaration before berthing:
 - Tianjin and Xiamen Health Declaration Form is required before vessel's berthing.
 - Dalian the Customs officers will attend on board the vessel and take temperature of each crew.
2. Vessels with crew from Wuhan or Hubei Province on board would be monitored especially.
 - Putian and Quanzhou of Fujian Province: may not be allowed to take berth.
 - Ningbo the vessel probably has to be isolated for 14 days before taking berth.
3. Substitution of crew is limited.
 - Shanghai, Xiamen, Ningbo, Tianjin, Dalian forbidden by the port Authorities.
 - Qingdao and Guangzhou forbidden in principle, unless under some special circumstances.
4. Crew disembarkation is strictly restricted by all ports
5. During berth in the port, the crew should take preventive measures.
 - Dalian, Xiamen, Guangzhou: The crew must wear a facial mask when they have contact with others in the port.
 - Tianjin: The crew must wear a facial mask and temperature test should be taken every day. When any crew has fever, the Customs should be informed immediately.

Port congestion / port operation

1. The loading/discharging operation slow down due to lack of stevedores
2. The land transportation of cargo into the port or from the port is insufficient since trucks without local license are restricted to enter into the port area.
3. As vessels are restricted to call at Wuhan port, transshipment of cargo by inland river feeder vessels in and out the ports in the Yangtze River is affected.

Ports affected:

- Shanghai, Tianjin, Huanghua, Lianyungang, Jingtang and Caofeidian

Ports not affected:

- We learned that Zhangjiagang Port and the ports nearby in Yangtze River were not of congested due to heavy fog from time to time in the past week instead of the outbreak of coronavirus.

Supply of Provisions

Generally speaking, supply of provisions to foreign vessels is not restricted.

- Tianjin: Demand of Supply of Provisions be declared 24 hours in advance.
- Qingdao and ports nearby: Has limit to some of the provisions. Please check with local agents.
- Dalian: The provisions should be quarantined by Customs as usual.

Ship Repair

Due to lack of workers, the schedule of ship repair might be affected.

- Zhoushan as the local Government restricted the entrance of vehicles with license of other places and people from other places, the efficiency of the shipyards in Zhoushan decreased substantially.

Cargo Preparing

Some exported cargo could not be delivered to the loading ports in time due to transportation restriction in and out of Hubei Province. It is reported that China Council for the Promotion of International Trade would offer force majeure certificates to local companies, if they are unable to fulfil their international contractual obligations due to the coronavirus outbreak.

We suggest Members whose vessels are scheduled to call at Chinese ports in the near future, to keep close contact with their local agent so as to get the latest port information, and to remind their crewmembers to take necessary protection measures.

France	Budd Group	28-Jan	On 27 January, ship agents received a memorandum from the Port of Marseille-Fos confirming that the sea links between Wuhan and Dourges have been suspended and advising that the flyer should be distributed to all vessels which have called in China. The flyer advises that anyone suffering from the symptoms of a respiratory illness should: • Wear a surgical mask when others are present; • Use disposable tissues and wash hands regularly; • Contact the French medical emergency services (SAMU – call “15”) and tell them of any journey to Wuhan (or China). To reduce the risk transmission, people with novel coronavirus-type symptoms are requested not to go to a hospital or general practitioner.
Gibraltar	A. Mateos & Sons	31-Jan	• Gibraltar Port Authority requires that the CORONAVIRUS DECLARATION FOR-000156 be completed by every vessel that will call Gibraltar at either the Western Anchorage, East anchorage, North Anchorage, any alongside berth, Quick turnarounds, medical disembarkations, OPLA and OPLB. • The form is to be filled in, signed and stamped. No exemptions will be given. Agents are to stress to the captain to fill in this form carefully and to answer all questions. • Please note that the following special conditions will apply to vessels who have answered yes to any of the questions in the declaration: • Remote pilotage requirements will be applied to the vessel. • No crew members will be allowed to disembark the vessel during its call at Gibraltar. • With respect to ongoing operations shore personnel embarking / attending the vessel will not be allowed then to disembark. • Shore personnel are to minimise all interaction with the crew as much as practically possible. • The GPA reserves the right to further scrutinise any incoming vessel if it deems necessary in the interest of public health.

- Agents will receive via email from the Vessel Traffic Service Supervisor (VTSS) a special condition clause. This clause is to be forwarded to the master and to service boat operators.
- Service boat operators are to limit contact with crew members from the vessels that have been issued the “special condition cause”
- If any vessel declares that crew members are suffering from any sickness in relation to this protocol/declaration, the vessel will be refused clearance at first instance and will be referred to other agencies on a case by case basis

Korea	Spark International	04-Feb	For vessels arriving at Korean ports from or via China, the National Quarantine Station and related authorities have set up an enhanced screening measures for the crew onboard. National Quarantine Station officers are boarding those vessels to check the body temperatures of each crew along with handing out questionnaires to be filled out personally by all crew members.
Kuwait	Inchcape Shipping Services	29-Jan	Kuwaiti port authorities have advised: <i>“Due to the current Epidemic spread of the coronavirus, we are taking extra precautionary measures. All ship Masters coming directly or transiting China ports, are kindly requested to ensure to provide us a statement that no symptoms was observed such as high temperature, sore throat, coughing or breathing difficulties. Therefore, we appreciate to inform port authority immediately if such case take place onboard.”</i>
Malaysia	Kuantan Port Authority	04-Feb	Kuantan Port Authority has issued port circular 01/2020 which provides measures in Kuantan Port. This includes: • At least 48h prior to arrival, agent to advise the authorities if vessel’s last three ports included a Chinese port • Screening at anchorage prior to berthing • Crew not allowed to disembark without permission from Medical Officer, even after screening

- Crew with history of travel from, or passport issued at, Hubei Province will not be allowed to disembark

Pakistan AIV (Pvt.) LTD 06-Feb Governmental department Port Health Establishment issued a travel advisory on 1 February that includes:

- Vessels must submit a health declaration that there are no symptoms on board.
- No crew disembarkation until clearance from Port Health is obtained.
- Suspected infected vessels will be isolated at outer anchorages.

The Port Qasim Authority further requires that crew from foreign vessels are not allowed to disembark.

Philippines Pandiman Philippines Inc 06-Feb The Department of Health have issued Circular 2020-0034 dated 4 February 2020.

There are separate requirements for cruise ships and cargo vessels. These include:

Cruise Ships

- Cruise ships that have sailed from China, Macau or Hong Kong in past 14 days are not allowed to dock in any Philippine port.
- Cruise ships that have not called in China, Macau or Hong Kong in past 14 days are allowed to dock but must provide health declaration, travel itineraries and undergo screening.
- No Filipinos are allowed to embark in any cruise ship going to China.

Cargo Ships

- All vessels that have sailed from China, Macau or Hong Kong in past 14 days must be boarded at the quarantine anchorage.
- Upon arrival at the quarantine anchorage, hoist the yellow flag at the foremast and immediately inform the quarantine station via agents. No embarkation or disembarkation allowed.

- Quarantine boarding formalities – Master to submit a health declaration and the Bureau of Quarantine will issue free pratique.

In all cases, the master must report to the Quarantine medical Officer (QMO) if any flu-like symptoms on board.

Waste disposal not allowed from vessels that called in China, Macau or Hong Kong in past 14 days.

Singapore	SSA – Singapore Shipping Association	28-Jan	The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has implemented temperature screening at all sea checkpoints, including ferry and cruise terminals, PSA Terminals and Jurong Port, for inbound travellers since 24 January 2020, 12pm.
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Travellers and ship crew arriving at sea checkpoints will undergo temperature screening conducted by on-site healthcare assistants. Suspect cases will be referred to the hospitals for further assessment.

MPA has put up health advisories at the sea checkpoints to advise travellers and ship crew on the precautionary measures to take when travelling, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices at all times.

Singapore	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)	03-Feb	Since 24 January 2020, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has implemented temperature screening at all sea checkpoints, including ferry and cruise terminals, PSA terminals and Jurong Port, for inbound travelers.
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In line with Singapore Ministry of Health's (MOH) press release dated 31 January 2020, MPA will extend the precautionary measures to include passengers and crew members with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days, as well as ships whose previous port of calls in the last 14 days included mainland China. This will take effect from 1 February 2020, 2359h.

Port Marine Circular No.02 of 2020 as attached provides health advisory for;

- operators, owners, masters, persons-in-charge and crew members of harbour and pleasure craft
- shore personnel visiting ships alongside the wharves and at the anchorages
- shipowners, ship managers, agents and masters of Singapore Registered Ships

Port Marine Circular No.03 of 2020 as attached provides the National Environment Agency's (Port Health Office) requirements to submit the Maritime Declaration of Health to the Port Health Office.

Thailand	SPICA	06-Feb	Port Authority of Thailand requires the Master to complete and submit information 24 hours prior to the vessel's arrival;
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- Information of conveyance (Tor.1 Form).
- Maritime information of health via radio telegram (Tor.2 form).
- Maritime declaration of health (Tor.3 form).
- Last port of call / port clearance.

In case, the last port of call is China and departure was within 14 days, Quarantine Office shall also require the Master to complete their questionnaire prior to berthing of the vessel.

If crew has experienced any illness, fever or respiratory problems, quarantine officer may attend on board for investigation.

United Arab Emirates	Mutual Marine Services – al Mushtaraka LLC	30-Jan	Federal Transport Authority – Land & Maritime Circular (2) 2020:
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All UAE ports must ensure that any vessel that has visited a Chinese port in previous 30 days must provide a Master's statement that crew are free from symptoms. This must be provided at least 3 days prior to arrival.

USA –	Hudson Tactix	31-Jan	MSIB 04-20 reminds of the following requirements:
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Delaware
Bay

- The master of a ship destined for the Delaware Bay Captain of the Port zone shall report to the CDC, the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person among passengers or crew (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15-day period preceding the date of expected arrival in accordance with 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CPR)§ 71.21. The CDC Philadelphia Station can be reached 24 hours a day at (215) 365-6401.
- Also, under 33 CPR. § 160.216, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel is required to immediately notify the nearest Coast Guard Sector whenever there is a hazardous condition aboard the vessel.
- While the presence of a person with coronavirus like symptoms does not by itself constitute a hazardous condition, vessel operators should report suspected cases or other unusual circumstances whenever they are in doubt.
- Vessel masters should inform Coast Guard and Customs boarding teams of any ill crewmembers onboard.

USA –
Federal
(All States)

Hudson Tactix

04-Feb

The USCG has issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin MSIB 02-20 to replace 01-20, stating:

On January 31, 2020, the President of the United States then issued a proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Non-immigrants of Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus and Other Appropriate Measures to Address This Risk. This proclamation includes temporary suspension of foreign nationals (with some exceptions such as vessel crewmembers) who were physically present in the People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau), during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States, to enter in effect February 2, 2020 at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Level 3 Travel Health Warning to avoid all nonessential travel to China (click [here](#)) and the U.S. Department of State increased its Travel Advisory for all of

China to Level 4 “Do not travel to China” (click [here](#)). The CDC Travel Health Warning contains precautions to protect travellers and others if one must travel to China.

Illness of a person onboard a vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port facility is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216 and must be immediately reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) under 33 CFR 160.206.

Cases of persons who exhibit symptoms consistent with 2019-nCoV must be reported to the COTP. Such persons will be evaluated and treated on a case by case basis.

Per 42 CFR 71.21, vessels destined for a U.S. port are required to report to the CDC any sick or deceased crew/passengers during the 15 days prior to arrival at a U.S. port. Guidance to vessels on reporting deaths and illnesses to the CDC can be found [here](#). U.S. flagged commercial vessels are also advised to report ill crewmembers in accordance with the requirements of each foreign port called upon.

Vessel owners/operators and local stakeholders should be aware of the following:

- Passenger vessels or any vessel carrying passengers that have been to China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) or embarked passengers who have been in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the last 14 days will be denied entry into the United States. If all passengers exceed 14 days since being in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) and are symptom free, the vessel will be permitted to enter the United States to conduct normal operations. These temporary measures are in place to safeguard the
- American public.
- Non-passenger commercial vessels that have been to China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) or embarked crewmembers who have been in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the last 14 days, with no sick crewmembers, will be permitted to enter the U.S. and conduct normal operations, with restrictions. Crewmembers on these vessels will be required under

COTP authority to remain aboard the vessel except to conduct specific activities directly related to vessel cargo or provisioning operations.

- The Coast Guard considers it a hazardous condition under 33 CFR 160.216 if a crewmember who was in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the past 14 days is brought onboard the vessel during transit. This requires immediate notification to the nearest Coast Guard Captain of the Port.
- The Coast Guard will continue to review all “Notice of Arrivals” in accordance with current policies and will communicate any concerns stemming from sick or deceased crew or passengers to their Coast Guard chain of command and the cognizant CDC quarantine station, who will coordinate with local health authorities.
- Vessel masters shall inform Coast Guard boarding teams of any ill crewmembers on their vessel prior to embarking the team and Boarding Teams should verify the type of illnesses with CDC if concerns arise.
- Local industry stakeholders, in partnership with their Coast Guard Captain of the Port, should review and be familiar with section 5310 Procedures for Vessel Quarantine and
- Isolation, and Section 5320 – Procedures for Security Segregation of Vessels in their Area Maritime Security Plan.
- Local industry stakeholders, in partnership with their Coast Guard COTP, should review and be familiar with their Marine Transportation System Recovery Plan.
- For situational updates, please check with the **CDC**.

USA – New Orleans	Patriot Maritime Compliance, LLC.	28-Jan	According to MSIB XX-20, the USCG / COTP of New Orleans require: • Vessels calling within COTP sector will receive an email if the submitted ‘Notice of Arrival’ declares that the vessel has called to China within last five ports of call. • If any of the crew are exhibiting symptoms it must be reported as a ‘hazardous condition’ as defined in 33 CFR 160.216.
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Failure to report the above can lead to a civil penalty of up to

\$94,219.

Vietnam	SPICA	06-Feb	There are no official statements from the authorities currently, but correspondent's understanding of the situation in Vietnam is as follows: • In Vung Ang port located in Vung Ang Economic Freezone and Qui Nhon Port checks and restrictions have reportedly been put in place which mirror those in China. Crew may not be allowed off the ship but that the ship may call. • For the rest of the country, including Hongai, correspondents are not aware of any quarantine restrictions at this stage. • Flights to mainland China remain suspended. • Strongly recommend that any ships due to call Vietnamese ports liaise closely with their appointed agents as agents will have the most recent updates on the steps being taken in the specific ports.
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Source of Information: North of English P&I Club