

Circular

RE: COVID-19 regulations at Korean ports

Ingosstrakh recently faced with number of requests from Shipowners in respect of restrictions caused by COVID-19 at Korean ports. Please find below advice prepared together with Messrs. SEAsia Claims Solutions.

Contrary to previous months, COVID-19 KCDC government regulations on vessels entering Korean ports are no longer uniformly applied by the National Quarantine Stations (NQS) across the country. Although the below regulation guideline will serve as the base regulation but each district National Quarantine Stations will now implement modified regulations (as they see fit) specific to their respective regional ports. Consequently, please consider the following details as a general reference only and Shipowners will have to contact their agent at the port of calling for information regarding the COVID-19 government regulations specific to the port in question.

General information

Vessel Quarantine Screening Procedure

The local agents in Korea will submit an "Electronic Quarantine Screening Possibility Checklist" to the National Quarantine Station (NQS) prior to vessel's arrival and should the vessel fall within any of the checklist categories, the NQS will carry out a 'Boarding quarantine inspection'. There is no English version of the checklist available so key parts have been translated for your reference:

Checklist

- 1-1. Vessel arriving from any other country and a crew/personnel has boarded the vessel within 14 days prior to arrival at the Korean port.
- 1-2. Vessel arriving from any other country and crew/personnel working in an environment where masks could not be worn or 2M distance keeping was difficult (engine room etc.)
- 1-3. Vessel arriving from any other country and entering Korean port for the purpose of vessel repairs
2. Death on vessel or sick crew suffering from infectious disease on vessel.
3. Vessel not in possession of a valid 'Ship Sanitation Certificates'

4. Presence of infectious disease contagion or trace of such contagion on the vessel or cargo suspected of being contaminated or sick animal on board.
5. Vessel arriving within the screening period for alternate infectious disease (Cholera, MERS, Polio, Ebola etc.) applicable areas.

If the vessel is included in any of the above criteria, NOS officer will board the vessel and conduct 'Boarding quarantine screening' of:

- Review the medical list/log documents onboard the vessel.
- Ear canal temperature check (above 37.4 degrees Celsius is considered a fever). If a crew has taken fever reducer medication, the said crew is deemed to have a fever regardless of temperature measured.
- Review the Health Questionnaire submitted by each crew.
- Routine infectious disease or pest vector check (mess hall, galley etc.)

If the vessel/crew passes the screening, the NOS officer will issue a vessel quarantine certificate. Cargo operation is allowed only after issuing of the vessel quarantine certificate by the NOS officer.

For the vessels that do not fall into any of the categories on the checklist, the vessel will be approved for an 'Electronic Quarantine Screening', a quarantine procedure used in normal circumstances where formalities are done via internet/fax and vessels are able to carry out cargo operation as before (procedure prior to COVID-19).

For major Korean ports, all vessels arriving within 14 days of the departure from Russia (i.e. last port in Russia), will be subject to 'Boarding quarantine inspection'. This is irrespective of the criteria advised above.

Crew Disembarkation

For any crew wishing to disembark the vessel, whether it be formal entry into Korea or temporary shore pass, must undergo COVID-19 test conducted by NOS officer onboard the vessel and wait onboard until a negative result is confirmed (time for result varies to each port but over 1 day expected in general). If there is an emergency requiring urgent hospitalization of a crew, COVID-19 test procedure onboard the vessel may be waived to be conducted at the hospital. Upon receiving negative result of the test, NOS issues a certificate to the individual and thereafter, following measures are further taken:

- Formal entry into country through Ministry of Justice: 14 days quarantine at government designated facility. For Korean nationals or foreigners with long term stay

visa, one may stay at his/her personal accommodation. Everyone must install NQS application on their personal mobile phone that is working.

- Shore pass holder: No 14 days quarantine required but must install NQS self-diagnosis application on their personal mobile phone that is working.

Crew entering Korea may avoid the 14 days quarantine if they are able to prove to the Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries that for the last 14 days, 1) the crew has stayed on the vessel, 2) no record of disembarkation/embarkation of persons or change of crew and 3) no one on the vessel has shown relevant symptoms or are sick.

Entering Korea as passenger

In respect to foreigners entering Korea as passengers (flight, ferry etc.) such as new crew arriving for crew change, all visitors are subject to a 14 days quarantine at a designated government facility and if symptoms are observed, COVID-19 test will be carried out. Cost of facility stay is for the visitor's account (around USD1,500-USD2,000 currently).

Please be additionally informed that the criteria and regulations administered by the port authorities in this Circular are for general reference only as the situation is changing frequently (almost weekly) overall and differently for each port. Owners should liaise closely with the local agent prior to arrival for relevant details as conditions may have changed since the last calling at the port.

We would like to additionally draw Shipowners' attention to the importance of immediate reporting about any crew incident to Ingosstrakh to manage the case in the most professional and effective manner.

If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ingosstrakh.

Best regards,

Ingosstrakh Insurance Company

P&I Department