

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID 19 IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent for Caribbean region Messrs. Caribbean Marine provides comprehensive update on current situation and on prevention and control measures implemented by local administrations in response to the latest outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in region.

BAHAMAS:

The government of The Bahamas has not announced any changes regarding the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions and protocols related with the prevention of the spread the COVID 19 announced by the authorities at all Ports remain applicable and compulsory (please see last update). Crew changes is allowed.

In case that a crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, health authorities has to be informed and they will be the one who authorized the disembark to shore medical assistance in the public or private hospital system.

COLOMBIA:

The president of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, according to Decree 1550 on November 28, 2020, extended the instructions of the health emergency generated by COVID-19, among which are selective isolation with responsible individual distancing, until January 16, 2021.

The restrictions and protocols related with the prevention of the spread the COVID 19 announced by the authorities at all Ports remain applicable and compulsory (please see last update).

Crew changes are allowed with restrictions.

In case that a crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, health authorities has to be informed and they will be the one who authorized the disembark to shore medical assistance in the public or private hospital system.

CUBA:

On December 1st, 2020, the passage of the Sancti Spíritus, Cabaiguán and Trinidad municipalities, were approved to phase three of the COVID-19 recovery stage, allowing among other measures, the restart of state and private public transport.

The biosafety protocols establish that all travelers upon arrival on the island, their temperature will be measured, a PCR diagnostic test will be applied and their mobility in the territory will be limited until the results of the test are obtained, which it usually occurs 24 hours later. Five days later, travelers will need to have another PCR test.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID 19 announced by the authorities in all ports remain applicable and mandatory (see last update).

The ban on crew changes continues.

In the event that any crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, the health authorities must be informed and will authorize the disembarkation for medical assistance on the ground in the hospital system.

CURACAO:

On November 30, 2020, the authorities announced that the precautionary measures for COVID-19 applied from November 16 to December 6, 2020, remain in force until December 21, 2020, among which the following stand out: curfew throughout the country between 9 p.m. and 4:30 a.m., the mandatory use of masks in closed spaces and public transport, and the availability of public transport until 9 p.m.

All crew changes are subject to approval by the COVID Crisis team and they will arrange all transportation.

The following documents must be presented at least 5 days before the crew change: copy of passport, navigation book, medical certificate, ship's maritime health status, any other information.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID 19 established by the authorities in all ports remain mandatory (see previous updates).

In the event that any crew member presents an injury or illness other than COVID 19, the health authorities must be informed and they will authorize the landing to receive medical assistance in the hospital system.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

The government of the Dominican Republic has not announced any changes regarding the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Free platique and medical protocol remains unchanged (see prior update for more details).

Crew changes are allowed, however, authorization from the High Level Presidential Commission is required. Required documents: crew details, passport copy and preliminary flight details to request authorization.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID 19 announced by the authorities in all ports continue to be applicable and mandatory (see the latest update).

Medical assistance is possible, but must be approved by the authorities, at this time it is analyzed on a case-by-case basis and is very restrictive.

VENEZUELA:

The government of Venezuela has not announced changes regarding the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Commercial flights to and from the following destinations are maintained: Mexico, Dominican Republic, Iran, Panama, Turkey, Russia and Bolivia.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID 19 announced by the authorities in all ports remain applicable and mandatory (see last update).

In the event that any crew member presents an injury or illness other than COVID 19, the health authorities must be informed and they will authorize the landing of medical assistance on the ground in the public or private hospital system.

The issuance of safe conducts to key workers in the sector (seafarers and personnel associated with the port-ship interface) continues, to guarantee their mobilization on land, as indicated by the Maritime Authority in Circular No. 014 (Special Notice 011 COVID-19) April 27, 2020.

MOZAMBIQUE: CREW CHANGES NOW POSSIBLE

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in Mozambique Budd Group reports on recent changes in COVID restrictions. On the 4 December, the Maputo's Harbour Master has advised that crew changes would henceforth be possible in the terminals of Maputo and Matola.

Vessels will need to communicate their requests for crew changes to the port in writing via their ship or protective agents in advance. They should specify the names, ranks and full particulars of the off- or on-signer(s) and indicate the estimated dates and details of the operation.

On-signers will require an official negative PCR test result issued up to 72 hours before their arrival in Mozambique.

Off-signers must obtain a valid and official negative PCR test result from one of the laboratories approved by the local Sanitary Authorities:

- Sistema Nacional de Saude
- Hospital Privado de Maputo
- ICOR
- Clinicare
- Medicros

The off-signer should not leave the vessel before a negative PCR result from a test carried in accordance with the PCR protocol has been communicated by the Sanitary Authorities to the Harbour Master, and the vessel has received his written authorisation to disembark the off-signer.

If the PCR test has been carried out by a recognised health facility which is not on the above list, the Direction of Sanitary Authorities in Maputo will have to validate the result.

It also would be possible to change the crew at Outer Port Limits or within inner anchorage. Vessels must seek authorization in advance and follow the procedures set out in the circular. The Harbour Master will advise the best position for vessels to undertake such operations safely depending on the prevailing conditions (availability of boats, weather, etc.)