

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:

On May 17, 2020 Dr. Hubert Minnis (Prime Minister of the Bahamas) announced that pleasure craft that have been anchored offshore in Bahamian waters for well beyond 14 days will be allowed to come ashore to conduct routine business, while practicing physical distance protocols.

On May 28, 2020, Prime Minister declared that the country has moved to Phase 3 of the gradual economic and social reopening plan. Likewise, a resolution to extend the state of emergency COVID-19 until June. The new curfew's schedule will be imposed 2100-0500 Monday to Friday, with the existing weekend lockdowns in effect until further notice.

Airports remain closed to all incoming international passenger flights, only emergency flights are allowed to operate.

Seaports remain close to all private regional and international boaters through at least June 29. However, pleasure craft are now permitted to dock at Bahamas' seaports since May 18, and most domestic inter-island travel has resumed. Local and international cargo on board sea vessels continue to operate.

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 change is still forbidden.

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:

President Iván Duque announced that the mandatory preventive isolation, implemented to control the COVID-19 pandemic, will extend from Monday, June 1 to June 30, 2020 throughout the national territory, according to Decree 749 dated May 28, 2020 of the Ministry of the Interior.

This provision will be combined with the new phase of flexibility, which foresees the reopening of new sectors of the economy. Authorized activities include "professional, technical and general services", which include marine surveyors.

Airports are closed for Domestic and international flights. Domestic flight continues blocked up to 01 July 2020 00:01 hours.

For their mobility in the national territory, marine surveyors must have a reasonable proof that they are part of the authorized exceptions in decree and have the form issued by the Logistics and Transportation Center of the Ministry of Transportation.

The restrictions and protocols related with the prevention of the spread the COVID 19 at ports remains the same. Agents are only allowed to board during clearing of vessel at some ports and carry out the key meeting thereafter the agent must leave the vessel and continue doing its work in a remote way. Agents must use all personal protective elements (PPE) such as mask, glasses, gloves and protective safety suit. Crew Changes are not permitted Borders are Closed.

Medical assistance is available for life-threatening illnesses only.

On May 13, the Cuban Government extended the closure of the airport until at least June 30, 2020

No changes have been announced by Cuban government in relation to the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

CUBA:

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).

Prohibition crew change continues.

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.

CURACAO:

As of May 22, the curfew was reduced from 00:00 to 06:00 and the total quarantine was suspended.

Hato International Airport currently is partially open for commercial flights; KLM Airline is flying (to/from Amsterdam). Crew changes are allowed. Groups to move to/from the vessel directly (also OPL). If not possible to go on board / from board same day as flight, they should stay in quarantine hotel. On-Signing crewmembers must be healthy in order to fly, the use of masks (N95 or similar) is mandatory by crewmembers and the driver all the time; social distance of 2 meters is compulsory; luggage should be collected and handled by the crewmembers by themselves. No deviation is allowed during transfer from the airport to their destination other than the harbor immigration office.

The restrictions and protocols related with the prevention of the spread the COVID 19 established by the authorities at all Ports still compulsory (please see previous updates).

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.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

On June 1, 2020, President Danilo Medina extended the state of emergency and the curfew (Monday to Saturday from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am and Sundays from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am) until 13 June 2020, according to decrees 187-20 and 188-20, respectively.

On May 20, 2020 the process of gradual reopening of economic activities began, which consists of 4 phases, having completed Phase I from May 20 to June 2, 2020.

Phase II started on June 3, 2020, which will last until June 16, 2020.

Phase III is scheduled to run from June 17 to July 4, 2020, and Phase IV will begin on July 5, 2020.

It is expected that airports and commercial flights will resume operations in July.

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). Some extra measures are taking place, after vessel arrival the temperature of all crew members is taken by the Medical Commission of the Port Authorities and they are checked for other COVID 19 symptoms. Social distancing is compulsory. Medical assistance is possible but must be approved by the authorities, for the moment is analyzed on a case by case basis, and is very restrictive.

Crew change remains forbidden.

VENEZUELA:

On June 1, 2020, the Relative and Controlled Normality phase began, which establishes the 5 X 10 modality throughout the country for 10 productive sectors (5 days of work and 10 days of quarantine). The activated sectors correspond to 34% of the employed population.

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).

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.

It Continuous the mechanism to issue safe conduits to key workers in the sector (seafarers and personnel associated with the port-ship interface), to guarantee their mobilization in ground, as indicated the Maritime Authority in Circular No. 014 (Special Notice 011 COVID-19) of April 27, 2020

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ISSUES PROTOCOL ON CREW CHANGE AND REPATRIATION OF SEAFARERS

Local Correspondent and law firm Messrs. Del Rosario Pandiphil Inc. provides info on recent changes in procedure of crew change.

As it stands, the Philippine government recently issued the protocol on crew change and repatriation of seafarers under the jurisdiction of the Philippines during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This

issuance is pursuant to the call of the International Maritime Organization to designate seafarers as 'key workers' and allow their unhampered movement.

For those joining ships, Filipino crew must be RT-PCR tested at the point of hire. Private laboratories may be utilized for this purpose. While awaiting results, crew are to undergo facility-based quarantine. These requirements shall be for the account of the employer.

Joining of foreign crew on-board ships within waters under Philippine jurisdiction is currently not permitted.

For ship disembarkation, disembarking Filipino crew shall undergo RT-PCR testing. Thereafter, they shall proceed immediately to the designated quarantine facility where they await the test result. For crew on-board cruise ships, they shall undergo RT-PCR testing and will have to stay on-board the ship until their results come out and they are given clearance to disembark.

For disembarking foreign crew, only those without signs and symptoms and with confirmed outbound flights are allowed to disembark from the vessel. The foreign crew's outbound flight must be within four (4) hours from the time of disembarkation. Disembarking foreign crews need not undergo a CoVID-19 test; they must wear mask and any other PPE while in transit from vessel to the aircraft.