

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID 19 IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in Caribbean region Messrs. Caribbean Marine, as usual, are very kind to provide new 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 February 13, 2021, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, promulgated the Amendment (5) to the Order for Risk Management for the Covid-19 Pandemic, 2020, which established: ☐ The prohibition of entry to the Bahamas of any vessel or person that has left from Haiti, whether arriving by air or sea, for a period of 21 days starting on February 15, 2021 ☐ The implementation of the curfew for the island of Grand Bahama, Monday through Sunday between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. 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:

On February 10, the Colombian authorities learned that due to the new travel restrictions imposed by the Canadian government to stop the spread of the coronavirus, Air Canada announced the suspension of several international routes. For this reason, the airline suspended Bogota-Montreal flights from February 14 to May 1, and the Bogota-Toronto flights from February 17 to May 2.

Likewise, they were informed that as of February 15, the Canadian government imposed a mandatory PCR test and a three-day quarantine "at its own expense" for travelers arriving in that country while they await the results.

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 February 5, 2021, the restriction of the mobility of people and vehicles began to be applied in the 15 municipalities of Havana, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. every day until further notice.

From February 6, 2021, institutional isolation was implemented for all international travelers arriving in the country and the reduction of commercial flights from the United States, Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Jamaica.

Travelers upon arrival must present a negative PCR certificate and the sample will be taken for the first PCR test to be performed on Cuban territory. Passengers must remain in isolation centers until they have a response to the second PCR test, which will be carried out on the fifth day of their arrival on the island.

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:

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

The precautionary measures for COVID-19 remain in force until February 22, 2021, among which are: curfew throughout the country between 11 p.m. and 4:30 a.m., mandatory use of masks in closed spaces and public transport, and availability of public transport until 11 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.

Social distance is mandatory and there is a nationwide curfew from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. from Monday to Saturday and total curfew on Sundays.

Free pratique has to be granted once the ship has docked and has been authorized by the authorities. The following is added to the medical protocol: the crew list, the last ten ports, the P&I certificate and the declaration of maritime health must be sent before the arrival of the ship. A ship that comes from ports in China, Italy, Spain, the United States and other places infected with COVID 19, must arrive at the ports of the Dominican Republic after 14 days of departure from said port or must wait the 14 days required at sea and Once the approved time has elapsed, if there are no sick crew members on board, the Medical Commission evaluates when it can dock.

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.

VENEZUELA:

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

Air operations to and from Venezuela, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Turkey and Bolivia are maintained.

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.

UAE RATIFIES THE 1996 PROTOCOL TO LLMC 1976

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in UAE Messrs. Mutual Marine Services Al Mushtaraka Group reminds that ratified previously 1996 Protocol by virtue of the Federal Decree No. 167 of 2020 will enter into force for the United Arab Emirates on 23 May 2021.

Respective Circular No. (03) Of 2021 has been issued on 25/02/2021 by Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure being the federal maritime authority of United Arab Emirates.

The 1976 LLMC Convention sets specified limits of liability for certain types of claims against shipowners:

- Claims for loss of life or personal injury, and
- Other claims, such as property claims (including damage to other ships, property or harbour works), delay, bunker spills, pollution damage, etc.

The Convention also allows for shipowners and salvors to limit their liability except if "it is proved that the loss resulted from his personal act or omission, committed with the intent to cause such loss, or recklessly and with knowledge that such loss would probably result"