

### REOPENING OF SEA BORDERS WITH STATE OF QATAR

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in UAE Messrs Gulf Agency Company (Dubai) LLC informs that Qatar borders are now open and there is no restrictions for vessel to directly trade between the U.A.E. and Qatar or any other GCC countries.

For port calls, Insureds shall contact their respective agent(s) in U.A.E. and Qatar before fixing vessels to get full understanding on amended port rules and customs regulations as applicable in both U.A.E. and Qatar.

### 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:**

The government of the Bahamas has not announced any change 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:**

On January 6, 2021, the Minister of Health and Social Protection, Fernando Ruiz Gómez, reported that Resolution 002 was issued regarding the request for PCR tests as a requirement for travelers entering the country. The Resolution establishes that the embarkation of travelers who are in the country of origin do not present PCR test must be allowed, when they verbally state that they had difficulties to take the mentioned test or to obtain the result in the term required prior to the flight. For these purposes, the

verbal manifestation of the passenger will be sufficient, which will be understood to be made under the gravity of oath.

The passenger must inform the Migration officer at the time of immigration control if he has a PCR test with a negative result for Covid-19, performed within 96 hours prior to boarding or if he chooses to:

- Perform the aforementioned test in Colombia and do preventive isolation until it has a negative result of it, or
- Carry out preventive isolation for 14 days or during the term indicated by the health authority, in case you choose not to take the test in Colombia.

Travelers must also inform the address in which the preventive isolation will be kept.

The value of the PCR test and the costs derived from preventive isolation will be the responsibility of the traveler.

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 28, 2020, the authorities of the Ministry of Health announced the application of the following International Health Control Measures:

- Reduction in the entry of travelers from the United States, Mexico, Panama, Bahamas, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, starting on January 1, 2021, for which the authorities of the Civil Aeronautics of Cuba readjust the necessary details with the airlines.
- Presentation of a PCR test with a negative result for COVID-19, 72 hours before the start of the trip. This measure will take effect on January 10, 2021.
- Upon arrival in Cuba, the currently established health protocols will continue to be implemented; which include carrying out a new PCR test at the border and, in the case of international travelers who do not arrive as tourists, another PCR test five days after their arrival.

On January 4, 2021 Roberto Morales Ojeda, Deputy Prime Minister reported the following:

- The province of Pinar del Río goes to phase three of the recovery stage, and the provinces of Matanzas and Villa Clara are moved back to that same phase.
- Return to phase one of the recovery stage to the Mayabeque and Artemisa provinces.
- In all the territories that regress in the recovery phases, reinforcement measures are applied, especially hygienic-sanitary

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 January 1, 2021, the following measures are applicable:

##### Travel from low risk countries

The countries Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bonaire, Dominica, Grenada, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Saba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Eustatius, Saint Maarten, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos, are considered low risk. Passengers from these countries, before their departure, must comply with the following steps:

1. Complete the digital immigration card online prior to departure at [dicardcuracao.com](http://dicardcuracao.com).
2. Within 48 hours before departure, they must digitally fill out the Passenger Locator Card (PLC) at [dicardcuracao.com](http://dicardcuracao.com) and bring a printed proof document.

##### Travel from high risk countries

Countries not mentioned above are considered high risk. Passengers from these countries, before their departure, must comply with the mandatory steps for passengers from low-risk countries, additionally, they must show the negative result of a certified COVID-19 PCR test and upload a printed test of this document. The test is taken a maximum of 72 hours before departure, in an accredited laboratory. Negative COVID-19 PCR test results must be recorded at [dicardcuracao.com](http://dicardcuracao.com) prior to departure.

Entry conditions that apply to all travelers (from low and high risk countries):

- If you have been in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days prior to arrival, they will be placed in mandatory quarantine.
- You must carry a printed document that certifies the mandatory steps that you must follow during the trip.
- You must be properly insured for medical care and any additional expenses in case you must be in quarantine or if you become ill during your stay.

The precautionary measures for COVID-19 announced by the authorities on December 8, 2020 are still in use until January 11, 2021, which are: curfew throughout the country between 21:00 hrs and 04:30 hrs, the mandatory use of masks in closed spaces and public transport, and the availability of public transport until 21:00 hrs.

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.

#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

New measures were implemented to stop COVID-19, according to Presidential Decree No. 740-20 of December 30, 2020, please see the following:

- It is established that from January 1 to January 10 the curfew will be from 17:00 hrs. until 05:00 hrs., Monday through Friday, with two hours of free transit to reach their homes at 19:00 hrs.
- It is established that on Saturday 9, as well as Sunday 10, January 2021, the curfew will be from 12:00 hrs to 05:00 hrs.
- During curfew hours, international passengers and operators of private or commercial vehicles that are transferring them, as well as employees of the maritime and air transport sector duly identified, will be allowed to circulate in transit to or from ports and airports, among other people.

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:**

On January 1, 2021, the authorities announced the decision to resume the 7 + 7 scheme with the beginning of a radical quarantine from Monday, January 4 to Sunday, January 10, 2021.

On January 8, 2021, the National Civil Aeronautics Institute (INAC) ratified that, according to the provisions of NOTAM C0037 / 21 and A0018 / 21, commercial air operations between Venezuela and the countries of Turkey, Mexico and Bolivia continue to be open.

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.

## **PHILIPPINES. AMENDMENTS TO THE POEA STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in Philippines reports on recent amendments in local labor legislation. As it stands, the 2018 Amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labor Convention (MLC) 2006 mandates the inclusion of certain provisions in the Standard Terms and Conditions Governing the Overseas Employment of Filipino Seafarers On-Board Ocean-Going Ships concerning the seafarer's employment agreement which shall continue to have effect while a seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships, among others.

In compliance with the above-cited 2018 MLC Amendments, the POEA issued Memorandum Circular No. 34, Series of 2020 which amends the POEA Standard Terms and Conditions as follows:

1. Under "Definition of Terms", piracy and armed robbery against ships are now incorporated and defined.
2. Under Section 2 of the POEA Contract (Commencement/Duration of Contract), another provision was added to state that the seafarer's employment agreement shall continue to have effect while a seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships, regardless of whether the date fixed for its expiry has passed or either party has given notice to suspend or terminate it.
3. Under Section 6 of the POEA Contract (Wages), another provision was included which states that where a seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships, wages and other entitlements under the seafarers' employment agreement, relevant CBA or applicable national laws, including the remittance of any allotments, shall continue to be paid during the entire period of captivity and until the seafarer is released and duly repatriated or, whether the seafarer

dies while in captivity, until the date of death as determined in accordance with applicable national laws or regulations.

4. Under Section 19 of the POEA Contract (Repatriation) letter H was amended and now states that the entitlement to repatriation may lapse if the seafarer concerned does not claim it within a reasonable period of time to be defined by national laws or regulations or collective agreements, if applicable; except where the seafarer is held captive on or off the ship as a result of acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships.

In addition to the above, the one-page employment covering contract was likewise amended to make reference to the POEA Memorandum Circular No. 34.

The amendments have taken effect last 26 December 2020.