

Department: Chief Harbour Master

26 August 2020

To: SAASOA Members
Ship Owners and Agents
Bunker Operators
Ship Chandlers
Off Shore Operators
Vessel Crew Shuttle Services
Stevedore Companies
Terminal Operators

CC: Executive Manager SHE
Port Managers
Harbour Masters
Deputy Harbour Masters
Senior Operations Managers
Port Health
SAMSA

TO BE COMMUNICATED INTERNALLY & EXTERNALLY

CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER – NOTICE No. 7 - HEALTH RISK ALERT – COVID-19

Note: The previous TNPA Notice No. 6 is hereby withdrawn and TNPA Notice No. 7 comes into force from the above date.

1. BACKGROUND

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) daily situation reports regarding COVID-19, there has been an increase in the number of global cases reported and the number of fatalities related to the disease. WHO has declared the coronavirus a global epidemic and has rated the risk of COVID-19 spread as very high. The South Africa President declared a State of Natural Disaster and implemented lockdown as from 27 March 2020 (COVID-19 Lockdown Level 5). On 09 April 2020, the lockdown was extended by 2 weeks but at COVID-19 Lockdown Level 4. As of 01 June 2020 until 15 August 2020, the country was operating at COVID-19 Lockdown Level 3 and subsequently moved to COVID-19 Lockdown Level 2 which has been extended to 15 September 2020. The Minister of Transport has issued amended regulations on 20 August in terms of the Disaster Management Act of 2002 and these further influence and impact operations in our South African commercial ports.

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is responsible for the management of the 8 commercial ports in South Africa and as the TNPA, we value our employees, stakeholders and port users. It is important for us to review the risks and address any gaps in preventing the spread of the disease as the COVID-19 situation

develops. Due to the risks posed by this global pandemic and the rapid increase of cases in South Africa, TNPA has implemented measures as per the regulations published in line with the Disaster Management Act of 2002 and amendments and other relevant Regulations.

2. MEASURES IN PLACE

The following measures must be read in conjunction with the Disaster Management Act 2002 – Lockdown amendments and other relevant COVID 19 regulations including the SAMSA Marine Notices.

- 2.1.1. A declaration of health of all onboard the vessel, including passengers and stowaways
- 2.1.2. It is important that all vessel Masters make accurate maritime declarations of the health and wellbeing of all on board to the Authorities. Any false declaration will be viewed in a serious light and reported to the South African Maritime Authority and Port Health Officials for further action resulting in detention, fines and additional stricter measures.

3. Cargo and Passenger Vessel Crews

- 3.1.1. Foreign crew changes can only take place in the Ports of Cape Town & Durban and this applies within port & off port limits.
- 3.1.2. An application is required to be made 96 hours prior to the crew change on a prescribed Form A as per the SAMSA Notice to Mariners No. 40 of 2020. The completed form should be sent to the Department of Transport (DOT) for approval by the Agent or vessel Representative and a copy of the approval from DOT be sent to the Office of the Port Harbour Master and Security Department for granting of movement at port.
- 3.1.3. Passenger ships are not permitted to call at any of the ports except for crew change, bunkers, stores and disembarkation of returning South African Crew, South African residence and permanent citizens.
- 3.1.4. Taking of bunkers and stores and crew changes from passenger vessels is permitted at the Ports of Cape Town and Durban only as prescribed in the SAMSA Notice to Mariners No. 40 of 2020.

4. Maritime Safety Precautions

- 4.1.1. Masters of vessels must maintain a medical log of daily temperature screening of all persons on board and this must be presented to the Port Health Officer on request.
- 4.1.2. Persons disembarking and embarking vessels must wear PPE, maintain physical distancing, ensure good hand hygiene and their luggage must be sanitized.

- 4.2. All vessels will be permitted to replenish fuel, stores, provisions, spares and conduct critical maintenance repairs, provided adherence to the Port Security COVID – 19 protocols can be proven.
- 4.3. All Ports are open for cargo operations under strict COVID – 19 protocols with conditions as stated below:
- 4.3.1. The vessel bridge and equipment to be sanitised before the pilot embarks and after the pilot disembarks the vessel. All bridge equipment to be used by the pilot will be sanitised. Social distance must be maintained at all times and external excess used to avoid contact.
- 4.3.2. Pens and all stationary to be used by the pilot must be sanitised. Where possible, these should be completed by the vessel preferably submitted in electronic copies.
- 4.3.3. All crew and visitors to the vessel must make use of PPE and maintain a distance of at least 2m where possible – no crossing in alleyways or narrow passages. Gangways must only accommodate a single file of people at least 2m apart. Only one way traffic on gangway. The rails of the gangway are to be sanitised every 4 hours. Tally offices, reception areas, common use areas and toilets facilities to be regularly sanitised and exceptional hygiene standards to be practiced.
- 4.3.4. No person must be allowed to board a vessel unless on official business. An accurate record/ log of all persons entering and tested must be kept and ready for inspection by any Authority. Temperature screening records of crew must be maintained on daily basis and any persons boarding the vessel must be screened. The vessel's COVID – 19 plans must include and indicate all restricted access areas on the vessel.
- 4.3.5. Dedicated sanitising stations must be provided on every vessel. All Terminal Operators to comply with all Government requirements to limit the spread of COVID – 19 – Social distancing and washing of hands must be observed and all must use the appropriate usual safety PPE as well as the masks.
- 4.3.6. Wearing of masks is mandatory at all times when in a public area and within Port Limits.
- 4.3.7. All used PPE being disposed of after use should be treated and disposed of as medical waste. A separate medical waste bin must be provided on every vessel for this purpose. This waste can only be landed ashore in ports which are capable to receive such medical waste.
- 4.4. The transfer of stores and spares for Off Port Limits vessels are permitted subject to compliance with strict COVID-19 Protocols.

5. MEDICAL EVACUATIONS FROM VESSELS

- 5.1.1. All Medical Evacuations to be conducted from vessels out at sea must be communicated by the shipping agent and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to Port Health Services of the nearest harbour.
- 5.1.2. Evacuation of seafarers, passengers, mariners on board all ships along the South African coastline must be allowed in terms of Search and Rescue as well as the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No.57 of 1951) and subject to the following:
 - 5.1.2.1. The evacuation must comply with the provisions relating to medical evacuations contained in the South African Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue Act, 2002 (Act No. 44 of 2002) and;
 - 5.1.2.2. The evacuation must be carried out in terms of the MRCC SOPS and Marine Notice 24.

6. GENERAL

- 6.1. All Stevedores must be registered as workers, have contact details to be able to be traced for purposes of sharing information and possible infection risks.
- 6.2. Shore leave for crew should be limited to necessary visits only. Permission must be obtained from TNPA for any crew to doctor accompanied by the relevant information – Port Health approval and the transporters CoVID-19 plan must be provided.
- 6.3. Limited interaction between bunker barge operator and vessels is permitted. Crew to ensure gloves are provided and used when handling mooring lines and all preventative precautions are upheld. Risk of disease transfer from hoses, flanges, tools and documents must be considered when providing PPE. Strict hygiene control must be in place for all activities conducted on board. Bunker barges to ensure hand washing facilities and sanitation is provided on board. Personnel from the bunker barge to ensure minimum interaction with Master and crew of vessel being serviced. Records of vessels and all interactions as well of any suspected and confirmed cases must be kept by the bunker barge operators and reported to the Port Authority. A COVID-19 Compliance Officer must be nominated as per the regulations.
- 6.4. Any confirmed cases of Coronavirus, suspected cases or other sickness are to be reported immediately to the nearest Port Control and to the Port Health Officer.
- 6.5. South African Ports remain at Security Level 2 of the Maritime Security Regulations 2004 (ISPS) and this means stringent measures in terms of access, searches and operations will apply. A declaration of security (DOS) must be signed for every vessel on arrival.
- 6.6. All waste removal will be permitted by licenced service providers with strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols and as per any additional requirements by the port- this is also subject to the service been available.

- 6.7. Technicians, surveyors and essential maintenance personnel will be permitted to visit vessels in port and anchorage – subject to meeting all COVID-19 requirements and adherence to COVID-19 protocols.
- 6.8. All vessels shall abide to all relevant SAMSA Marine Notices and TNPA Notices in force.
- 6.9. Although the South African economy is open all precautions still need to be taken to stop the spread of the virus.

Suspected cases should be discussed with public health department on call line no: 0800 029 999. The local Port Health Office, Harbour Master and Agency must be informed of any suspected cases.

By order of:



Captain Sabelo Mdlalose
Acting Chief Harbour Master
Transnet National Ports Authority
Date: 26-08-2020