



SOUTH KOREA

13 AUG 2020

## Coronavirus, COVID-19

*The following information was received from our correspondent on 13 August:*

### QUOTE

Having checked with the Korea Centre for Disease Control (KCDC), we are advised that foreigners entering Korea from the below 8 countries, a document confirming negative COVID-19 PCR test result (within 48 hours prior to departure) from designated clinic/centre is required for boarding of flight & entry into Korea. Details of the designated clinics/centre should be obtained from the Korean embassy of respective country of departure.

List as updated on 12th August 2020

- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Philippines
- Russia
- India

KCDC would not confirm whether other countries not listed above would require similar documentation and instead, guided us to check with the Korean embassy of each respective country for most updated details regarding documentation requirements. KCDC warns that the list and conditions are continuously changing on a weekly basis and enquiries to the embassies should be made sufficiently in advance.

Please also note that the previous restrictions on entry/visa/passport regarding Hubei province of China have been lifted as of 10th August 2020.

Upon successfully entering Korea as a foreigner via a flight, the visitor will be transported to a government designated facility for 14 day quarantine. COVID-19 test will be carried out as deemed necessary by the authorities during the quarantine period. Cost of facility stay is for the visitor's account.

*This Correspondent's advice is published by The Swedish Club as a service to members. While the information is believed correct, the Club cannot assume responsibility for completeness or accuracy.*



In respect to disembarkation of crew at Korean ports (i.e. not passenger), due to different standards applied by each regional National Quarantine Stations (NQS), we cannot provide comments on general disembarkation procedures to be expected. We would recommend that the Member check with the local agent of the calling ports for details on the vessel quarantine procedures of the specific port in question. However, we can advise that upon successfully disembarking the vessel following the vessel quarantine standard applied, the crew will be transported to a government designated facility specific for seafarers for isolation/quarantine of 10-14 days. These facilities are not always available due to lack of rooms and in such case, the crew must wait on board the vessel until a room becomes available.

We trust the above is of an assistance.

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[attached] Previous information related to the advice.

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*The following information was received from our correspondent on 6 July:*

#### QUOTE

COVID-19 situation has been continuously changing in Korea and having checked directly on how the government measures are being implemented on the ground, the public announcement made on the National Quarantine Station homepage have been found to be inaccurate. Accordingly, we have investigated into actual measures taken and can share the updated criteria & application of COVID-19 screening for vessels entering Korean ports as follow:-

#### **Vessel Quarantine Screening Procedure**

As of 6th July 2020, the local agents in Korea will submit an “Electronic Quarantine Screening Possibility Checklist” to the National Quarantine Station (NQS) prior to vessel’s arrival and should the vessel fall within any of the checklist categories, the NQS will carry out a ‘Boarding quarantine inspection’. There is no English version of the checklist available so key parts have been translated for your reference:

#### Checklist

- 1-1. Vessel arriving from a high-risk country **and** a crew/personnel has boarded the vessel within 14 days prior to arrival at the Korean port.
- 1-2. Vessel arriving from a high-risk country **and** crew/personnel working in an environment where masks could not be worn or 2M distance keeping was difficult (engine room etc.).
2. Death on vessel or sick crew suffering from infectious disease on vessel.
3. Vessel not in possession of a valid ‘Ship Sanitation Certificates’
4. Presence of infectious disease contagion or trace of such contagion on the vessel or cargo suspected of being contaminated or sick animal on board.
5. Vessel arriving within the screening period for alternate infectious disease (Cholera, MERS, Polio, Ebola etc.) applicable areas.

If the vessel is included in any of the above criteria, NQS officer will board the vessel and conduct ‘Boarding quarantine screening’ of:-

- Review the medical list/log documents onboard the vessel.
- Ear canal temperature check (above 37.4 degrees Celsius is considered a fever). If a crew has taken fever reducer medication, the said crew is deemed to have a fever regardless of temperature measured.
- Review the Health Questionnaire submitted by each crew.
- Routine infectious disease or pest vector check (mess hall, galley etc.)

If the vessel/crew passes the screening, the NQS officer will issue a vessel quarantine certificate. Cargo operation is allowed after issuing of the vessel quarantine certificate by the NQS officer.

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For the vessels that do not fall into any of the categories on the checklist, the vessel will be approved for an 'Electronic Quarantine Screening', a quarantine procedure used in normal circumstances where formalities are done via internet/fax and vessels are able to carry out cargo operation as before (procedure prior to COVID-19).

List of the high risk countries is updated routinely (weekly to monthly) and NQS will send notices of the changes made to the local agency offices. The complete updated list should be checked with the Member's agent when the vessel is scheduled to call to Korean ports.

### **Crew Disembarkation (as of 6th July 2020)**

For any crew wishing to disembark the vessel, whether it be formal entry into Korea or temporary shore pass, must undergo COVID-19 test conducted by NQS officer onboard the vessel and wait onboard until a negative result is confirmed (12hrs expected). If there is an emergency requiring urgent hospitalization of a crew, COVID-19 test procedure onboard the vessel may be waived to be conducted at the hospital. Upon receiving negative result of the test, NQS issues a certificate to the individual and thereafter, following measures are further taken:-

- Formal entry into country through Ministry of Justice: 14 day quarantine at government designated facility. For Korean nationals or foreigners with long term stay visa, one may stay at his/her personal accommodation. Everyone must install NQS application on their personal mobile phone that is working.
- Shore pass holder: No 14 day quarantine required but must install NQS self-diagnosis application on their personal mobile phone that is working.

Crew entering Korea may avoid the 14 day quarantine if they are able to prove to the Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries that for the last 14 days, 1) the crew has stayed on the vessel, 2) no record of disembarkation/embarkation of persons or change of crew and 3) no one on the vessel has shown relevant symptoms or are sick.

### **Entering Korea as passenger**

In respect to foreigners entering Korea as passengers (flight, ferry etc.) such as new crew arriving for crew change, all visitors are subject to a 14 day quarantine at a designated government facility and possible COVID-19 test, if symptoms are observed. Cost of facility stay is for the visitor's account (around USD1,500~USD2,000 currently)

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*The below update was received on 24 July:*

QUOTE

Further to our last update on 6th July 2020, kindly note that COVID-19 KCDC government regulations on vessels entering Korean ports will no longer be uniformly applied by the National Quarantine Stations across the country.

Although the regulation last reported on 6th July 2020 will remain as the base regulation but each district National Quarantine Stations will now implement modified regulations specific to their respective regional ports. Consequently, from here on, we would recommend that the Member contact their agent at the port of calling for information regarding the COVID-19 government regulations specific to the port in question. Thank you.

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