



TAIWAN

19 MAY 2020

Coronavirus, COVID-19

The following information was received from our correspondent on 19 May:

QUOTE

You must have noticed that most countries have implemented stricter boarder control to foreign visitors in the prevention from COVID-19 transmission. Crew served onboard ships is a controversial issue to every government. Although IMO had once asked all countries to render assistances to crew who need help on the sea, various local rules to the international travelers still bring up some problems to shipowners and P&I Clubs.

We provide the latest regulations of Taiwan border control to crew landing as enclosed for your easy and quick reference. Simply all the foreign crew are still not allowed landing except for emergent medical request to the ill/injured crew. A special entry permit should be applied to authority (Taiwan Center of Disease Control) in advance. For the foreign crew sign on-off, only the vessels with Taiwan flagship can apply for the special permit to port authority. Of course, all the landed crew should complete the 14 days quarantine required by government.

UNQUOTE

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In order to efficiently control the transmission of COVID-19 pandemic, the government of Taiwan publish guidelines for shipowners to follow. We hereby summarize the key issues in the guidelines as below for your reference.

Authority's suggestions and measures to be taken by ship while berthing at Taiwan's ports during Covid-19 pandemic:

1. Shipowners shall establish the disease transmission monitor system, and all prevention measures should be completely executed onboard ships. The master is requested to take crew's body temperatures twice a day and make the records for authority's review if necessary.
2. The deck logs, medical logs and relevant crew management records shall be duly kept by designated crew. If required, all of them shall be disclosed to authority for review and check.
3. In 3 to 72 hours before berthing to Taiwanese ports, shipowners/master needs to report to Taiwan Center of Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) to apply for quarantine and declare the crew health condition. In addition to the Marine Declaration of Health (MDH), master also has to complete the form of COVID-19 Health Declaration of Crew Onboard to Taiwan CDC. (as attachment)
4. Before calling the first port of Taiwan, shipowners are obligated to actively report the crew information, including names, port /date of landing to Immigration Agency of Taiwan. The port authority will also provide relevant quarantine notice for those crew (Taiwanese and foreign) who intend to disembark from ship.
5. Shipowners registered in Taiwan may proceed with crew (foreign) change in Taiwan ports provided that an advanced entry permit shall be obtained and the crew has to complete the essential 14 days home quarantine. The port authority has the full discretion to exam and issue the special temporary pass to the sign on-off crew for landing in Taiwan.
6. In the entry permit application to authorities, shipowners need to submit the crew personal information and healthy condition records together with vessel's certificates to authorities for review and check. Once the permit is issued, the landing crew can have the permit in paper and hand it over harbor police for entry formalities.
7. In case any suspicious symptom of COVID-19 is found, immediate notice should be given to Taiwan CDC.

Except for crew change or emergent occasions such as critical illness suffered by crew, all foreign crew are not allowed to land in Taiwan. Yet, if the foreign crew serves for

Taiwanese shipowners, an advanced application for landing can be made by shipowners to authorities.

As the transmission of Covid-19 has been well controlled and restrained, Taiwan authority agrees to land the crew serving for Taiwanese shipowners including sign on-off operation provided that all above are strictly followed and satisfied.

Response to suspicious COVID-19 outbreak onboard

1. In case there is a suspicious case onboard, the master shall immediately order the crew to stay in an isolated cabin where is with good ventilation, and independent air circulation system. Meantime, the other crew needs to calculate and ascertain the numbers of the medical supplies onboard. To avoid the transmission of the virus, crew is requested to wear surgical masks, gloves and glasses (the waterproofed apron and goggles should be also worn up if necessary).
2. The master needs to ask and monitor all crew onboard to keep social distance (1 meter outdoor and 1.5 meters indoor). Regular hand wash or alcoholic sterilization thereto is suggested.
3. Before berthing to Taiwan ports, the medical logs about the medicine taken by the suspiciously infected crew, body temperatures records, contact history should be thoroughly made for authority's review and reaction.
4. MDH and COVID-19 Health Declaration forms need to be filled in and handed to Taiwan CDC through local agent before vessel's arrival.

Suggestion to foreign shipowners in dealing with crew disembarkation for medical assistance in Taiwan:

In practice, the following aspects are observed:

- Subject to the discretion of Taiwan CDC, the agent will arrange the disembarkation of ill crew for medical treatment in hospital. Before that, Taiwan CDC may request a webcam diagnosis by local doctor (the doctor will not visit the ship for medical services).
- In hospital, the ill crew will be admitted in an isolated ward for treatment. That is to say, the local agent cannot contact or visit the crew. We suggest a local mobile phone can be provided to the crew for necessary liaison with his family or shipowners during the stay in Taiwan.
- After discharge from hospital, the crew will be sent to a quarantine hotel for 14 days. During the period of stay in hotel, the crew is not allowed visiting anywhere.

The food and daily commodities will be supplied and helped by trained personnel in hotel.

- The crew needs to take his body temperatures twice a day, and the records thereof will be collected and reviewed by authorities. If any symptom of COVID-19 is noted by the crew, it should be immediately reported to authority. The crew can call the agent for necessary assistance.
- After the 14 days quarantine, the crew has to take the repatriation flight back his homeland as soon as possible but if no vacant flight is for the repatriation due to lockdown policy imposed in crew's homeland, the crew still needs to wear a surgical mask all the time in Taiwan.
- For foreign shipowners, a local agent has to be appointed for proper timely action for ship interests. If there is any question, contact the agent to clarify and for more information.

Hope you find the above useful. If you require further inputs, please let us know.