

LOSS PREVENTION NOTICE No. 3
SOUTH AFRICA and EBOLA VIRUS
CREWS AND STOWAWAYS

Further to our two previous loss prevention notices regarding the Ebola Virus and how it impacts on ships, crews and stowaways that arrive at South African ports, the South African Government has now advised as follows:

Cabinet has issued an immediate travel ban for **non-South Africans** from countries affected by the Ebola virus outbreak, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said on Thursday.

"A total travel ban for all non-citizens travelling from these high-risk countries (**Guinea, Kenya and Sierra Leone**), unless the travel is considered absolutely essential," he told reporters in Pretoria.

"For citizens of South Africa who wish to travel to these countries, they will be requested to delay their travel unless it is absolutely essential for them to travel."

He said South Africans coming from such West African countries would be subjected to a strict screening process, and medically examined if need be.

They would have to complete a comprehensive health questionnaire before being granted entry into the country. "If the comprehensive medical and the temperature screening reveal something, they will have to subject themselves to a complete medical examination."

For people from medium- and low-risk countries, including Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia, the normal surveillance processes would continue. Cabinet met in Cape Town on Wednesday. A South African man working in Liberia was tested for Ebola on his return from Monrovia over the weekend. Tests came out negative.

We therefore again urge all ship owners to exercise caution when visiting West African ports and to carry out a full stowaway search prior to departure. We know that this can be time consuming however the few hours it takes to carry out the search could be few hours well spent when considering the costs of repatriating stowaways and the costs of deviating to another port. In South Africa, our stowaway team is working around the clock to assist owners in removing stowaways from ships passing South Africa from West Africa but owners must be mindful that they are going to face delays whilst health checks on stowaways are carried out.

Owners and claims handlers must be aware that we cannot land a stowaway in South Africa unless he is in possession of a valid travel document. Our team is working closely with numerous embassies to issue temporary travel documents but the embassies are all based in Pretoria. Often the embassy will require a representative to attend on board the vessel to verify the nationality of the stowaway. This all adds to the delay in issuing the travel document. The stowaway then has to depart from South Africa as soon as he is removed from the vessel.

We can only remove stowaways off port limits (OPL) in Cape Town and Durban. We can only remove stowaways OPL Durban if the vessel has previously called at a South African port. In Richards Bay, the vessel has to berth and there are serious berthing delays at Richards Bay at the moment and priority is given to cargo working vessels.

The questionnaires which we send out must be completed with as much information as possible as this does aid in speeding up the process to obtain a travel document. Remember

that stowaways will often lie about where they are from so therefore information regarding family and phone numbers is vital information. We are interviewing Stowaways when they are removed from vessels and they are commenting that it is very easy to board ships in West Africa and that crews are not carrying out a thorough stowaway checks prior to sailing. We remind Owners that crews must also check above the rudder compartments too since we have now just had two ships that arrived in South Africa with several stowaways hidden in that area.

The longer it takes us to receive the questionnaires and photographs the longer it takes us to obtain travel documents bearing in mind the travel bans that are being put in place. Please do not forget that we need good quality photographs too.

If the club or its members have any queries on the subject then please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the P&I Associates stowaway team who will gladly advise and assist.

Neil Chetty in Cape Town +27 83 250 3381

Garth Hansen in Saldanha Bay +27 83 283 3493

David Macdonald in Durban +27 83 253 0170

Vishal Pragraj in Durban +27 83 441 5685

P&I Associates 24 hour duty number +27 83 250 3398

Michael Heads
Managing Director
P&I Associates (Pty) Ltd
Durban
South Africa
Tel: +27 31 301 1102
Fax: +27 31 301 1290
Mobile: +27 83 4534899
E-Mail: headsm@pandi.co.za