

# F.A.Q. Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 contingency measures at the Spanish Ports



Updated on 19th June 2020

*“All the ports of General State Interest are strategic infrastructures by their own definition, some of them also being critical infrastructures. All of them are guarantors of the operation of services that are defined as essential and therefore must continue to operate, guaranteeing supply by facilitating the flow of merchandise in them.”*

## 1. Which are the measures that Spain has adopted in reference to Covid-19 outbreak?

The Government of Spain declared the State of Alarm on 14 March 2020 ordering people to stay at home unless they have to buy food or medicine or go to work. The State of Alarm has been extended up to 21 June. Port community and customs offices are operative and are not affected by the lockdown being considered to form part of essential services.

Government has advised his plans for the deescalation which will be gradual and asymmetrical according to regions. There will be 4 phases and each phase will last at least two weeks.

Most of Spanish territory is on de-escalation **Phase 3**.

The so-called New Normality will arrive at all Spanish regions on 22 June with the end of the State of Alarm. It is said that social distancing and face mask use will be necessary at least until autumn, but all other mobility restrictions will be lifted. The region of Galicia, Catalonia and the Basque Country are already in the New Normality.

Spain opens to tourists on 22 June as well, but Balearic Islands is already receiving first tourists this week.

**2. What are the local regulations if a ship has a covid-19 infected on board?**

On 17 March shore borders with France, Portugal and Andorra were re-established and it is only allowed to enter Spain via shore to Spanish people, Spanish citizens, cross-border workers, embassies or consulates members and supplies or provisions of any kind. Ports and Airports borders status keep under normal circumstances. Moreover, on 18 March EU closed EU borders for non-EU nationalities.

Please click on the following link to have access to [I.M.O.'S Circular Letter No. 4202/Add.6 27 March 2020 with Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

Port Authorities, Harbour Master and Foreign Health Office must be reported 24-hrs prior to ship's arrival with the Maritime Declaration of Health if there is any infected or suspect of covid-19 infected on board.

There is no official procedure after that, but non-officially understand ship will be required to drop the anchor until a doctor comes on board and carries out the covid-19 test. Crew member will be required to be isolated on his cabin waiting for the results. Foreign Health Office would study on a case by case basis how to proceed after that.

Please click on the following link to have access to [W.H.O.'s operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreaks on board Ships \(Interim guidance 25 March 2020\).](#)

**3. Are there disinfection companies available to clean ships' accommodations?**

Yes, there are ports with this service available, but not at all of them.

**4. Are Spanish Ports Open?**

Yes, all Spanish Ports are all open and operative.

Passenger ships and cruises are banned at the Spanish ports with the exemption of Spanish flagged pax ships and those ro-pax ships who exclusively carries provisions.

Ceuta, Canary Islands and Balearic Islands ports only allow ro-pax ships with no passengers on board.

All other ships, even if they are coming from Italy for loading or unloading, can enter Spanish ports.

**5. Are Port State Control inspectors attending on board?**

No, they have cancelled all inspections on board until further notice.

**6. Are Pilots boarding ships for berthing or unberthing?**

Yes, all pilots are boarding the vessel during ship's berthing or unberthing.

**7. Is **towage** service restricted?**

Towage service is working as usual at all Spanish Ports. There is no reduction of activity.

**8. Is **linesmen/boatmen** service restricted?**

Mooring services are working as usual at all Spanish Ports. There is no reduction of activity.

**9. Are **Liquid & Gas terminals** working as usual?**

Terminals are operative, loading and discharging ships without any delays. However, terminals have adopted different contingency plans. For instance, at Bilbao there are terminals that are not boarding the ships and require all paperwork to be issued ashore. It also means that ships must connect hoses/arms on board. Other terminals around Spain require paperwork to be issued only on deck, but they connect hoses/arms on board. And others, most of them, work as usual and loading masters wear mask and gloves, if they have.

Generally, EDP (Early Departure Procedures) are being adopted for loadings.

**10. Have **local factories** shut down due to Covid-19?**

All liquid and gas in bulk factories and refineries are operative being considered to form part of essential service sectors.

**11. Are **customs** offices operative?**

Yes, they are all operative and clearances are telematic. There is a limited number of custom officers attending their office.

**12. Are **surveyors** working as usual?**

Yes, they do.

**13. Are there available **masks, gloves, hygiene gels** and **Covid-19 test**?**

Government of Spain required that all masks, gloves, hygiene gels and Covid-19 tests being requisitioned for their own control and delivery to hospitals. This measure has been lately relaxed with the arrival of these products. However, it is still difficult to buy them on the pharmacies.

**14. Is **crew change** allowed?**

Crew change is allowed although notice there are inbound and outbound countries restrictions or banning. Crew members and inspectors visiting the ships will need to stay into an aparthotel or an authorized hotel until ship's berthing or will need to go directly on board.

Repsol and Cepsa terminals require crew change to be carried out via seaside. So, a launch would be required.

Bilbao immigration office has advised they will not authorize any embarking and disembarking unless it is a case of emergency. Canary & Balearic Islands & Ceuta ports and airports are closed for passengers, except for inter-islands workers.

Non-EU nationalities are not allowed to enter EU-countries for at least 30 days.

According to Ministerial Order TMA/374/2020 dated 28 April following documents will need to handy-carry a crew member who would like to sign in-off in Spain: Certificate of Competency, Seafarer ID card, Seamen Book, Contract of Employment and a Letter from the Agency.

Free circulation of seafarers to max 10 km from port area is presently restricted until the State of Alarm is over at all Spanish ports. So, all seafarers will need to stay on board.

Please click on the following link to have access to the [Communication from the Commission with Guidelines on protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers, passengers and other persons on board ships dated Brussels 8 April 2020](#).

**15. Have Taxi companies taken any special contingency measures?**

Yes, most of them have restricted the transport service to 1 crew member per car (ie Bilbao, Barcelona or Tarragona).

**16. Is there any specific hotel regulation due to Covid-19?**

Hotels all over Spain are closed since 26 March. However, authorized Hotels and Aparthotels with kitchen are still open. Most of aparthotels are at this moment empty.

**17. Can ships receive spareparts, couriers and provisions?**

Yes. Couriers and spareparts are delivered as usual going through all customs procedures. Airports are open and transports can be arranged without any delay. Shipchandlers are also delivering their provisions without delay.

Repsol and Cepsa terminals require all spareparts and provisions to be embarked via seaside. So, a launch would be needed.

**18. Is bunkering allowed at the Spanish Ports?**

There is no restriction on this sense. So those Spanish ports who can supply bunkers will continue to do it as usual. Despite, Gibraltar has suspended STS cargo operations, this is not affecting bunkering supplies which are being conducted as normal.

Peninsula Petroleum has forbidden the stay on board of their barges of any surveyor or agents. So bunker surveys are not possible with them so far.

**19. Are repairs allowed during ship's stay?**

Repairs are allowed as per usual conditions. Workshops are working as usual.

**20. Are Ship's Sanitation Certificates being renewed and/or extended?**

Sanitary officers are not attending on board for these inspections until further notice. Therefore, it cannot be renewed at the moment. As of 15 April Sanitary Office at Las Palmas has resumed inspections and therefore it is possible to renew or extend the SSC.

**21. Which is the contingency plan of IBERICA MARITIMA?**

Over the past weeks IBERICA MARITIMA has been taking proactive steps to protect the workplace to ensure that all staff is working safe and continuing to operate effectively to ensure all services are provided as usual which consists on keeping part of the staff working at home fully segregated from those staying in the office and securing all water-clerks attending onboard successfully pass the Covid-19 questionnaire and have no illness evidence. Furthermore, our company has deployed its COVID-19 Contingency Plan to attend the ships in safest way to guarantee the health of its workers, ship's crew and the entire Port Community and to establish the necessary measures to guarantee the operation.

During ship's port call the following guidelines will be followed:

- 1) Avoid visiting the vessel whenever possible.
- 2) There should be no close contact, handshake between crew and shore personnel and a minimum distance of 1 meter should be maintained.
- 3) Contact to be made by phone or radio.
- 4) Paperwork to be sent by email if possible.
- 5) In case we must visit the vessel we will request permission to Master/Owners for following all precautions in accordance to their guidelines + Point 2.

We are fully committed to continually providing the highest level of service and appreciate your understanding and support throughout this period.

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**For any other question please send us your request and/or call us at our usual telephone numbers.**

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