

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



Updated on 16th June 2020

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

Portugal declared the State of Emergency on 18 March activating a series of measures including significant restrictions on movement throughout the country. **Portugal lifted the State of Emergency on 3 May** and lockdown is gradually being relaxed with the new State of Calamity.

Ports have not been affected by the lockdown.

All flights from and to Spain and Italy are suspended, with exception of diplomatic and armed forces, mail and suppliers or provisions, as well as humanitarian or medical. International flights are also suspended as per EU regulations with some minor exceptions.

Road, railways and river transportations are suspended on Portuguese borders with the exemptions of above mentioned cases.

People arriving to Portugal by sea, air or ground borders may be subject to quarantine for 14-days in a hotel. This containment measure may suffer some adjustments by Regional Health Authorities.

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

In the event of a Covid-19 infected on board, the infected area must be kept isolated and Port Health Authority will advise the measures to be taken after assessing all risks, which will include an active surveillance procedure and possibly disembarking of infected crew member.

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.

**4. Are Portuguese Ports Open?**

Yes, Portuguese ports are open.

Cruise ships can berth at ports on mainland Portugal, but passengers can only disembark if they are Portuguese nationals or residents. Recreational vessels and private yachts are not permitted to dock, except for refuelling or taking on supplies. Passengers may only disembark to return to their country of origin and once they have completed 14 days' self-quarantine on board, starting from the day the vessel entered Portuguese territorial waters.

Vessels calling to Portugal for non-commercial calls may be prevented to enter into Portuguese ports and it will be the Health Maritime Authority and Local Port Captaincy who will authorise them on a case by case basis. No crew change will be allowed to non-commercial calls vessel.

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

They are not boarding so far.

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

Pilots are working as usual.

**7. Is towage service restricted?**

Towage service is working as usual.

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

Mooring service is working as usual.

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

Terminals are all operative, but applying contingency plans to keep social distancing and personal protection. Some terminals do not allow visitors on board, crew change or supplies. On these case a launch is required. Crew and shore personal contact is kept to minimum.

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

Factorives are operative.

**11. Are customs offices operative?**

Yes, customs office is operative, but prioracing telematic clearance.

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

Surveyors are all operative, but with some restrictions depending on the contingency plans of terminals.

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

Yes, there are available.

**14. Is crew change allowed?**

Shore leaves are suspended to all crewmembers within Portuguese ports.

On a case by case basis and upon advise of Health Maritime Authority, it may be authorized crew changes.

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?**

Taxi companies are operative, but they have limited the number passengers.

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

Hotels are mainly closed and if accommodation is required then it has to be allowed by authorities.

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

Yes, delivery of spareparts, couriers and provisions are allowed.

**18. Is bunkering allowed?**

Yes, bunkering operations are allowed.

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

Yes, repairs can be performed when necessary and where it is possible.

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

Ship's Sanitation certificates can only be extended at the moment.

**21. Which is the contingency plan of local agency?****PRIOR ARRIVAL**

We shall request Master to send us all pre-arrival docs (via e-mail), which should be sent back to us at earliest time, in order to enable us to open vessel's file in IT Port System.

Vessel must inform if they have any COVID-19 action protocol that personnel ashore should follow on board.

About 48/36 hrs prior arrival, we shall send documents required for safety meeting already filled by terminal and we'll be pleased to receive same vessel's documents required to be signed by loading master filled in by vessel. Same principle will be applicable to all documents required to be filled in and/or stamped on cargo agreement meeting.

Upon receiving from both sides all documents required signatures and stamps signed, we shall send it to both parties, so that all parties have their documents duly signed and stamped.

**ALL STAGES**

All requests from vessel and/or owners should always be made via e-mail, without prejudice for quick actions to receive requests by phone.

**ARRIVAL / BERTHED**

Upon arrival/berthing, we shall send to Master e-mail requesting times, R.O.B.s and drafts on arrival.

Upon berthing, Master to designate 1 (one) liaison Officer for the whole stay which will be person of contact during the call. Any Original documents required to be delivered to agent, should be placed on an envelope and delivered to agent at gangway by Liaison Officer.

At berth, if agent physical presence found to be required o/b – if allowed by terminal to enter – agent will be met by Liaison Officer whom must ensure that agent is placed on a room with no more than 4 people and wide enough so that persons at the room may be 2 m apart from each other.

During all stay of vessel in port, we shall be liaising by phone or e-mail with master or chief officer.

**END OF OPERATION**

On completion of operations all documents required to be signed, must be filled-in, signed & stamped and shall be send to agent via e-mail.

Agent will distribute it accordingly, so that in the end everyone one get the all documents signed and stamped by all entities.

All SOF + LOPs issued, will be distributed as explained above.

Cargo Documents, such as B/L and other Original docs, we shall request your good consideration to act as an EDP.

Draft of the B(s)/L will be sent to Master and Owners for approval before issuance.

We shall send Master Scan copy of the Original B(s)/L and upon checking that all is ok, Master to send us a letter with authorization to agent to signed on Master's behalf.

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