

# **MEMBER ALERT**



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## **CURRENT OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS AMID RECENT REGIONAL COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)**

Your Managers have been informed that all ports in China are generally operating but due to enhanced COVID-19 pandemic control measures, some ports are congested to different extents.

Terminal staff, pilots, surveyors, etc. must undergo quarantine for 14 days following the performance of relevant engagements, while the same is required for international trading vessels, especially vessels considered to have high epidemic risks on board.

There is a shortage of pilots at some ports, thus vessels' berthing and departing may be delayed. Additionally, crew shore leave is generally completely disallowed.

The following information concerns vessel arrival, crew change and crew medical requirements at different ports in the PRC.

### **Liaoning province (Dalian, Bayuquan, Jinzhou, Dandong)**

For Dalian, Bayuquan, Jinzhou, Dandong port, the local port operators or managers, and the customs/immigration authorities, usually require incoming vessels to declare and provide a temperature monitoring table for all crew members covering the previous 21 days prior to the vessel's berthing, together with a health declaration form for all the crew members.

Some terminals may require the vessel's itinerary in the past 28 days, crew boarding time and location, etc., as well as a letter of declaration to confirm that no crew will disembark, or to confirm that no accompanying persons and/or illegal immigrants are on board the vessel.

There is no standard declaration form required by all the ports. In other words, each port operator may determine its own form of declaration, and the form will be sent by the shipping agent to the Master for completion before/after the vessel's arrival.

At Bayuquan, the latest look out circular (LOC) requested by the port is said to require the vessel's agreement to leave its berth in the event that a COVID-19 positive case is confirmed on board. PCR tests are required to be carried out on all international incoming vessels/crew members.

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Pilotage requirements: each pilot is required to take a PCR test after each pilotage service. The pilot's next pilotage service will be permitted only after the PCR test result has been confirmed as negative. At several places in Dalian, as pilot boat use is restricted, and only tugs are available, the pilotage service may be slower than before.

Green medical care channels remain open to seafarers with serious injury or life-threatening illness. There have been reports that in some of recent COVID-19 positive confirmed cases, disembarkation of the affected seafarer for medical care and repatriation was not permitted at several places in Dalian, Bayuquan, etc. Specific requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The change of foreign crew is not allowed by local port authorities. Change of Chinese seafarers might be permitted on a case-by-case basis, and if allowed, the joining crew must have been vaccinated.

## Tianjin

A case-by-case policy is applied in Tianjin and any particular restrictions will depend on the relevant information declared to the authority. Vessels arriving from India will be allowed to berth after a minimum of 14 days have elapsed since departure from India.

At some terminals, pilotage might not be arranged during night-time for high-risk vessels.

Seafarers are able to receive medical treatment for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 issues.

## Caofeidian

Where a vessel has any connection with India, the vessel will only be allowed to berth after 28 days have lapsed since her departure from the last port. Pilotage will not be arranged during night-time if the period between the vessel's departure from her last calling port and its arrival is less than 14 days.

A seafarer who is COVID-19 positive is not permitted to disembark. As for seafarers who are COVID-19 negative, the local authorities are unlikely to permit them to go ashore to receive medical treatment unless a life-threatening situation exists.

The changing of Chinese crew only is permitted. For seafarers signing off, the vessel must have left her last port more than 28 days ago. For seafarers signing on, a nucleic acid test (NAT) report taken within 48 hours, as well as proof of vaccination and, the holding of a green healthy code marked "HS" will be required.

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## **Jingtang**

Where a vessel has any connection with India, the vessel will only be allowed to berth after 21 days have elapsed since her departure from the last port of call. Pilotage will not be arranged at night-time if the period between the vessel's departure from the last calling port and its arrival is less than 14 days.

A seafarer who is COVID-19 positive is not permitted to disembark. As for seafarers who are COVID-19 negative, the local authorities are unlikely to permit them to go ashore to receive medical treatment unless a life-threatening situation, exists.

The changing of Chinese crew only is permitted. For those signing-off, the vessel must have left its last port more than 28 days ago. For those signing-on, an NAT report of a test taken within 48 hours as well as proof of vaccination and the holding of a green healthy code marked "HS" will be required.

## **Qingdao**

If the vessel has called at any Indian port or changed Indian crew members within the past 21 days before her arrival, a PCR test will be performed on the whole crew.

For Dongjiakou terminal, if the vessel has called at any Indian port or changed Indian crew members, a PCR test will be arranged. Before the test results are available, cargo operation cannot be commenced.

Generally, COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to disembark for shore treatment. But if the number of positive crew members is large, the authorities may refuse disembarkation. For urgent medical need, the authorities usually will approve shore treatment requests and render cooperation in terms of repatriation.

Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed. Signing-off of foreign crew members is possible on condition that they leave the country directly. Signing-on of foreign crew members is likely to be more difficult due to visa issues.

## **Longkou**

If the vessel has changed crew within the past 14 days, the authorities will consider their requirements on a case-by-case basis. If the crew change was arranged in high risk countries such as India, Russia, etc., sometimes the authorities may ask the vessel to wait at the anchorage until 14 days have elapsed since the crew change before she can be berthed.

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For these vessels, the customs will decide whether to arrange PCR tests for the crew taking into consideration the particular circumstances which apply.

If the vessel has called has any Indian port or changed Indian crew within the past 28 days, the customs will attend on board and conduct PCR tests.

In recent COVID-19 crew cases, the authorities agreed to disembark crew members for medical treatment. For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree that crew can visit a doctor ashore.

Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed. For Chinese crew members signing-on, vaccination is required.

## **Rizhao (including Lanshan)**

If the vessel's last port of call was in India, the authorities usually require her to wait in the outer anchorage until 21 days have elapsed since her departure from the Indian port. After berthing, contactless cargo operation is typically be arranged. Usually, the customs will not attend on board for PCR tests.

For vessels that have changed crew within the last 14 days, the customs will decide whether to conduct PCR tests to the crew on a case-by-case basis.

Usually, COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to go ashore for medical treatment. In some cases, if the crew member is asymptomatic, the authorities may ask the crew member to return to the vessel before her departure.

For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree that crew may visit doctors ashore. Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed, while the changing of foreign crew is not.

## **Yantai**

If the vessel has called at an Indian port or acquired Indian crew within the last 28 days, all the crew will receive PRC tests. Before the test results are available, no cargo operation are allowed.

Usually COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to go ashore for medical treatment. For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree that crew may visit a doctor ashore.

Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed, while the changing of foreign crew is not.

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If the vessel has called at a high-risk area or country within the last 21 days, all the crew will receive PRC tests. Before the test results are available, no cargo operations are allowed. “High risk areas or countries” include, but are not limited to: India, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

Usually the COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to go ashore for medical treatment. For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree that the crew may visit doctors ashore.

Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed, while the changing of foreign crew is not.

## **Weihai**

For vessel arrival requirements, the authorities will consider the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Usually, COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to go ashore for medical treatment. For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree for crew to visit a doctor ashore.

Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed, while the changing of foreign crew is not.

## **Shidao**

The authorities will consider the situation on a case-by-case basis. Usually, the COVID-19 positive crew members are allowed to go ashore for medical treatment.

For urgent medical need, the authorities generally agree that crew may visit a doctor ashore. Changing of Chinese crew members is allowed, while changing of foreign crew is not.

Your Managers recommend that Members take note of this information and be guided accordingly.