MEMBER ALERT

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC): YELLOW FEVER QUARANTINE FOR SHIPS ARRIVING FROM NIGERIA. PERU AND BRAZIL

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently reported an increase of outbreaks of yellow fever in the following countries/regions: Nigeria, Peru and Brazil (excluding Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe).

As a result, the PRC's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) have issued new requirements, effective for three months as of January 19, 2018, as follows.

Requirements for seafarers and vessels

Vessels having transited/traded in these countries and specified regions shall present valid vaccination certificates against yellow fever to the entry-exit inspection and quarantine institutions when entering China. For those without valid vaccination certificates, a 6-day observation period calculated from the date they left the above countries/areas is required at the place they arrived in the PRC.

If any person from the above countries is found to have symptoms of fever, chills, headache, muscle pain or other symptoms, a declaration should be made to the entryexit inspection and quarantine office and body temperature monitoring, medical checks, testing and other health and quarantine work shall be conducted. Persons who suffer such symptoms should seek medical treatment immediately, and explain their recent travel history to a doctor after entering the country.

Effective disinfection should be made to aircraft, vessels and containers from the aforementioned countries/areas. In case insects, or waste, used articles or cargo are found in containers: or where aircraft, vessels and containers do not have a valid disinfection certificate; they should be placed at a distance of no less than 400m away from the land, or other vessels, as the case may be, before disinfection treatment begins.

Vessels must provide proof of that a mosquito eradication measures have been taken to the CIQ.

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Implementation by local CIQ offices

Implementation requirements by local CIQ offices may differ from port to port. At some ports, such as Xiamen, mosquito eradication measures must be conducted at berth whether or not written proof of such mosquito eradication has been presented when entering China.

At ports such as Hainan, Longkou, Laizhou, Yantai, Qingdao and Rizhao, a mosquito eradication certificate shall be presented during port entry formalities; otherwise, the local CIQ will require that mosquito eradication measures be conducted at anchorage before berthing.

The cost of disinfection may vary from port to port. It appears that disinfection may be charged by vessel GT, ship type or other metric. Members should check with their local agents as to the local requirements and the costs of mosquito eradication locally.

It is recommended that vessels which sail from ports within the affected countries/areas to the PRC obtain a mosquito eradication certificate before departure if possible. It is also suggested that owners check with their local agents about local CIQs' requirements in advance so as to avoid any possible delay or difficulty when calling China.

Please note that the above requirements may change as medical conditions develop. Your Managers will keep Members informed of any further changes to the requirements should they arise.

The Managers thank their correspondent, Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service, Ltd. for this information. A full text of the requirements can be found here.