

Port of Cotonou (Benin) Announces Anti-Ebola Measures

According to Budd's Benin office, the port of Cotonou has now introduced measures aimed at preventing the Ebola virus from entering the country.

Below you will find Budd's Benin in-house translation of the port circular.

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Concerning the Conditions of Access for Vessels in the Port of Cotonou in the Context of the Fight Against the Ebola Virus

The Managing Director of the Port of Cotonou draws the attention of all port users, and in particular ship agents, to the following preventive measures which are being introduced to fight the Ebola virus and which must be strictly applied by all vessels seeking to enter the port:

1. Three days before their ETA in the port of Cotonou, all vessels must provide the Harbour Master with the full list of their ten previous ports of call;
2. All vessels which have either come from or have called in a country where there is an Ebola outbreak must have on board all the equipment necessary to prevent the virus from spreading;
3. Vessels which have either come from or have called in a country where there is an Ebola outbreak and which have on board all the equipment necessary to prevent the virus from spreading, must stay on the roads until such time as they have undergone an inspection by the agents of the Ministry of Public Health and received authorisation to circulate freely. Only then will the Pilot be authorised to assist with berthing;
4. In addition, gloves and protective masks must be worn by all persons and all crew members while the vessel is berthed in the port of Cotonou.

The Managing Director of the Port of Cotonou counts on the understanding and collaboration of all those who utilise the port and in particular ship's agents, to ensure that the present measures are applied without exception.