

MEMBER ALERT

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BIRD FLU ALERT FOR VESSELS CALLING IN BRAZIL

The government health authority in Brazil, ANVISA, has recently announced measures to protect the country from "Bird Flu".

All vessels which have called at any port in the areas considered as affected by the disease during the last 30 days prior to arriving in Brazil will not receive free pratique via radio and will be submitted to a thorough inspection. At this time it has not been decided whether the inspection will take place while the vessel is still at roads or after berthing.

The countries considered as affected by bird flu are the following: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Herzegovina, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam

The following items will be checked and should be notified to the authorities by the Master prior to arrival/berthing at Brazilian ports:

- if the vessel was supplied with any products of bird origin at affected ports;
- date and place of the supply;
- which/type of products;
- quantity;
- if they were already consumed or are being kept in the freezer;
- if these products generated any kind of residues or waste;
- if these products have been incinerated
- if these residues were thrown into the sea or are on board;
- if any crewmember had any symptoms, such as fever, intestinal problems, breathing difficulties, indisposition, etc.

If the health authorities do not find any evidence of the above items on board, the vessel will be cleared and free pratique issued as usual.

We would like to thank Williams Brothers Brazil for their assistance on providing information for this Alert.