



MINISTRY
OF MARITIME ECONOMY
AND INLAND NAVIGATION

**EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TAKEN BY POLAND RESULTING FROM THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

State on 24.03.2020

On March 13th 2020, the Minister of Health announced an epidemic threat in the territory of the Republic of Poland and on March 20th 2020, the state of the epidemic has been declared.

In consequence the temporary restoration of border control of persons crossing the state border constituting the internal border of the Republic of Poland was ordered with a simultaneous temporary suspension or limitation of border traffic at specific border crossing points.

Traffic at the maritime border has not been suspended. Traffic on the maritime border, as on the land border has been limited.

Cargo vessels operations are carried as usual.

Ferry traffic for heavy goods vehicles operate as usually. Drivers performing road transport, also international combined transport, do not undergo a 14-day quarantine. but the passenger traffic at the entrance to Poland in general is suspended with some exceptions as follows.

The borders of the Republic of Poland, while returning to the country, can be crossed by all Polish citizens and only foreigners who are: spouses of Polish citizens, children of Polish citizens, persons with a Pole's Card, persons with the right of residence or the right to the limited duration of stay in Poland, holders of a work permit.

All passengers of the ships are subjected to sanitary control, consisting of measuring the body temperature and filling out the location card.

All persons, with some exceptions, returning to the territory of the Republic of Poland, including the ship's passengers have to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

Ship crew working on ferries is exempted from the obligation of 14-day quarantine, But the crew who had finished their contracts and therefore had ended performing their official duties, should undergo such quarantine. The exemption can be also applied for the crew members who disembarked in Polish port and were on a continuous voyage, without calling at foreign ports, for 14 days before calling at Polish port. (as it could be reasoned that they underwent the quarantine on board).

Ship crew also undergo the sanitary control, consisting of measuring the body temperature but they are exempt from filling out the location card as the information about them, are possessed by the shipowners. The procedures for the crew member with the higher temperature are the same as for passengers – they should be isolated. If the decision of disembarkation is taken the precautionary measures should apply in accordance with the hospital advise .

Cases of ships liable for PSC inspections are considered on an individual basis, based on the epidemic risk assessment; the same applies to flag state inspections.

Vessels that do not call at foreign ports, e.g. fishing vessels or tugs operate normally and its crew do not undergo quarantine.

Pilotage is being carried on normal basis. Pilots are equipped with protective equipment.

On March 19th, 2020, Minister of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation has issued *Guidelines on extending the validity of seafarers' maritime documents in the period of restrictions due to COVID-19 epidemic risk*. The *Guidelines have been updated on March 25th, 2020*.

Shipbuilding and shiprepair yards

The rules for vessels entering Polish shipyards are the same as for cargo vessels.

At the present time, Polish shipbuilding and shiprepair yards are operating normally, they are realising and accepting new contracts. Besides the generally imposed countermeasures, the Polish shipyards have taken their own additional countermeasures to protect the workforce health and safety.

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