

New Coronavirus (new COVID-19) Outbreak and Recent Practices at Turkish ports

We have felt the necessity to prepare this circular regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak which has infected thousands in more than sixty countries since the outbreak began in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

As the matter has revealed worrying situations, we have noted that the Turkish Authorities have recently taken decisions leading to preventive actions at Turkish ports.

In this respect, as a result of the information obtained from “General Directorate of Health for Borders and Coasts”, vessels will not be able to call Turkey for 14 days following a call from a “contaminated country” regardless of city / port.

That being said, vessels which depart from “a country affected with coronavirus” will not be allowed to get berthed at a Turkish port before 14 days of quarantine period.

Accordingly, based on declaration provided by local agents, pre-arrival at a Turkish port vessels will be kept at anchor area (off the port) and there will be no contact with the vessel until above mentioned quarantine period is completed. Following the above, sanitary officers will board the vessel in the first instance for medical check of the crew members and the vessel’s operations at the designated port will be guided by the authorities’ decision following the medical check.

On top of all the above, we have also been informed that the quarantine period (mentioned to be 14 days) might be shorter or longer depending on the port.

Although the list of affected countries varies on a daily basis, as per the information gathered as of 04.03.2020, China is the worst affected with fatalities reported in other countries and regions such as:

the U.S., Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, France, Taiwan, Iran, Italy and South Korea, which also has the highest cases of confirmed infections outside China.

The other nations with confirmed cases include Andorra, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Armenia, Mexico, Nigeria, New Zealand, Algeria, Switzerland, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, Germany, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Greece, Norway, Pakistan, Nepal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, UAE, the U.K. and Vietnam.

The above provided information reflects the current situation as of 04.03.2020. As the new COVID-19 outbreak continues evolving, we would still recommend Members to contact their local agents in Turkey in order to obtain the latest updated information before calling a Turkish port.

Metropole Maritime & Trading Ltd. Co.