

ANAVE – Circular de Régimen Interior

Madrid, 17 de febrero de 2022
Ref: Explotación 6/2022/AB

Asunto: Relevos de tripulaciones en China: requisitos de pruebas COVID-19 a bordo del buque para efectuar cambios de tripulación.

Muy Srs. nuestros:

Los Ministerios de Transportes y Asuntos Exteriores, y la Administración General de Aduanas de China han publicado el **documento** “*Notice on future improving the prevention and control of epidemic among crew members of international vessels*” sobre los **requisitos** para que los **marinos** se sometan a una **prueba COVID-19 a bordo** antes de llegar a China, si el buque tiene previsto efectuar relevos de tripulantes, y que les adjuntamos en un **Anexo**.

Como saben, desde el comienzo de la pandemia China prohibió cualquier relevo de tripulantes en su territorio y estableció unas estrictas normas de entrada a su país. La publicación de este documento se ha interpretado por Intertanko e ICS, tras confirmarlo con las autoridades chinas, como una relajación de estas medidas. No obstante, **ICS recomienda a los armadores contactar con los agentes locales antes de planificar cualquier relevo en dicho país.**

En esencia, el documento circulado por las autoridades chinas establece las siguientes cuestiones:

- Se aplica a todos los buques en viaje internacional que pretendan acceder a un puerto de China y tengan previsto efectuar cambios de tripulación.
- Todo el personal de a bordo debe someterse a una prueba antes de que el buque abandone el último puerto extranjero con destino al primer puerto de llegada en China.
- Durante el viaje, se deben hacer pruebas a toda la tripulación el 1^{er}, 4^o, 7^o y 14^o día del viaje (si la duración del viaje le fuera de aplicación).
- Lo ideal es que las mismas se lleven a cabo mediante pruebas de ácido nucleico (NAT), aunque también se aceptan los kits de pruebas rápidas.
- El armador debe tomar las medidas necesarias para que los kits de las pruebas se entreguen a bordo y estén bajo la supervisión del capitán del buque.
- Los resultados deben presentarse a las autoridades chinas directamente por el buque a través de una aplicación móvil oficial o mediante una copia electrónica a través del agente portuario designado por el armador en China.
- Si el resultado de la prueba es positivo, debe hacerse una segunda prueba y presentar los dos resultados.
- Si un tripulante da positivo o presenta un estado de salud anormal durante el viaje antes de llegar a China, se debe comunicar a las autoridades para coordinar la gestión y el tratamiento del caso.

Si alguna empresa tiene interés en conocer los requisitos que se aplican en otras zonas del mundo para efectuar los relevos de tripulantes, hágannoslo saber y trataremos de recabar información actualizada sobre los mismos.

Muy atentamente,

Elena Seco

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Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs, General Administration of Customs of
the People's Republic of China

Notice on the remote prevention and control of the
COVID-19 epidemic for the crew on ships on
international voyage

Ministry of Transport Announcement No. 14 of 2022

To reinforce the efforts on the prevention and control of the COVID-19 epidemic and stem the import of infection cases and ensure the health of the crew on ships on international-voyage in accordance with all relevant laws and legislations such as "National Border Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China", the "Emergency Response Law of the People's Republic of China", the "Maritime Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China" and the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council in Response to the Coronavirus Epidemic, the relevant matters related to strengthening the remote prevention and control of the new crown pneumonia epidemic among the crew of international voyage ships are hereby announced as follows:

1. This announcement applies to all ships on international voyage that intend to enter and plan to carry out crew changes at ports within the territory of the People's Republic of China.
2. This announcement applies to all crew members of the ship who are on board the ship within 48 hours before leaving the last port abroad, and the crew who test positive should be treated at the nearest port in a timely manner. During the voyage after leaving the last port prior to entering China waters, they should refer to the latest directions issued by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. If crew members are tested positive, emergency isolation and treatment measures should be implemented on board, so as to prevent the spread of infection and protect the health of the rest of other crew members.

Nucleic acid testing should be prioritised for COVID-19 testing. Other rapid testing methods such as antigens testing can be used in the absence of nucleic acid testing. The selection of COVID-19 rapid testing should be via rapid detection solutions approved by the drug supervision and administration departments of the People's Republic of China or relevant countries and regions outside China.

3. The vessels to which this announcement is applicable to, shall organize shipboard personnel to undergo COVID-19 testing on the 1st, 4th, 7th and 14th days (if applicable for the length of the voyage) of

the outbound voyage to the first China port and submit the test results one day before the arrival date. The COVID-19 test results and relevant details for all crew members of the ship are to be submitted to the maritime administration agency and customs department of the locality where the first port of entry is, one day before the ship's arrival. The "Guidelines for the Remote Testing and Information Submission for Ships on International Voyages" are attached as an Annex to this Notice.

If, during the voyage enroute to China water, it is found that the health and testing information of the crew is abnormal, the ship captain shall promptly report the abnormal crew situation to the shipping company or crew service agency and take emergency response to implement isolation measures and seek treatment. The maritime affairs administration receiving the crew testing information and the vessel concerned shall promptly report the relevant information to the joint prevention and control mechanism (leading group, command headquarters) where the first port of entry is located for coordination on the next management steps.

4. The COVID-19 testing mentioned in this notice is to implement the requirements for remote testing and detection to prevent and control infection of crew members on ships on international voyage ships. This notice shall not be used as a precondition for crew change, and shall not exempt the ships and their crew from nucleic acid testing at the time of entry implemented by the local Customs authorities.

5. Embassies and consulates abroad may provide assistance to ships to obtain COVID-19 test kits outside of China and for the treatment of Chinese crew members who have tested positive for the new crown virus. The Customs Department shall facilitate the approval of the COVID-19 test kits from China for use on board ships.

6. All relevant shipping companies and crew service agencies shall strictly implement directions in this notice and make arrangements in advance. This announcement applies to shipping companies, crew service agencies, ships or related personnel who violate the requirements of this announcement and violate the relevant laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China and shall be dealt with seriously in accordance with law.

7. This Announcement shall come into force on 15 February 2022 and applies to ships on international voyage departing from the last foreign port after 15 February 2022, it shall be implemented in accordance with the requirements of this Announcement.

By Ministry of Transport,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
General Administration of Customs
January 28, 2022

Annex: Guidelines for the detection and information
submission of the new crown virus on board the remote end of
international voyage ships

ANNEX

Onboard COVID-19 testing for ships on international voyage ships

- On-board inspection and information submission guide

There are two ways to test and submit COVID-19 test results and information on from ships on international voyages, as follows:

Method 1: Submit through the “船员健康在线(App)”

“船员健康在线(App)” is a reporting platform for use on board ships. This App is available on mobile devices using Android Operating System. The guide for shipping companies to use this App is as follows:

1. Arranging for testing to be carried out onboard

Shipping companies such as ship owners, managers, operators, agents and entities can arrange for COVID-19 testing on crew members on their ships and have access to information on the results of crew tests. The test-kits required for covid-19 testing by the crew of the ship should be delivered to the ship in advance.

The shipping company shall designate an operator to organise and the implement of the COVID-19 testing and submit information of the crew, under the direction of the ship captain.

The ship captain is the overall in-charge to implement the COVID-19 test on the ship and is responsible for supervising all the shipboard personnel to carry out the test and upload the results for all crew. In the event that any shipboard crew is tested positive, the ship captain shall organize the isolation and arrange for the treatment and report to the relevant authorities.

2. Account opening and App operating instructions

(1) Registration of shipping companies

After the shipping company submits the required information on the “船员健康在线(App)”, the shipping company will receive the account name and password on the designated email address when the background check for account approval is completed. The shipping

company will need to log in to the account and enter the information of the ship that is arriving in China and the designated operator for carrying out the COVID-19 test. Relevant information and updates can be obtained through the Crew Health Online (App).

(2) Information submission by Designated Operator

The operator designated to arrange for the onboard testing and submit information through the App is required to download the “船员健康在线(App)” and register an account and log in to enter information of the ship and all the crew.

Within 48 hours before the vessel leaves the last foreign port enroute to any China ports the designated operator shall submit the information of the vessel and each crew member, as well as the name and departure time of the last overseas port before the voyage enroute to China, the name and expected time of arrival at the port in China, and the COVID-19 test results of all the crew before departure. Internet availability is required for this step. Once this first submission is completed, subsequent onboard testing are to be carried out, as and when required with test results uploaded on this App.

3. on-board testing

The “船员健康在线(App)” will prompt the shipping company and the designated operator to implement on-board testing and will also notify and warn the App users if the COVID-19 tests have not been carried out or if there are any abnormal situations.

The designated operator shall take a photo of the test result of each crew member. The photo of the test result shall clearly display the test kit, the test result identification line and the personal information page of the crew service book. The test results are to be submitted via the App. A summarised report of the crew test information during the voyage and other relevant information will also be forwarded to the maritime administration agency and customs and other departments. The “船员健康在线(App)” can be used in the absence of internet network during the voyage to store and save the test results of all the crew. The “船员健康在线(App)” will automatically upload all test data the next time when internet network is available.

If any test results are found to be invalid, a retest needs to be carried out according to the above steps until the test outcomes show negative or positive. If the test result is positive, another test should be carried out, and the two test results should be submitted via the “船员健康在线(App)”.

The “船员健康在线(App)” automatically generates and updates status code for the ship, which is divided into four colors: "green, blue, yellow and red". Green means tested and

reported as required and not detected positive, blue means not tested or reported as required but not detected positive, yellow means tested and reported as required but detected positive, and red means not tested or reported as required and detected positive.

Method 2: Submit through the ship agent

This method may be used as an alternative to using the “船员健康在线(App)”. After the crew of the ship completes the new crown virus test during the voyage as required (the day before the port), the ship owner fills in the "Summary Form of The COVID-19 Test information of the crew during the voyage " (see the appended table format), which can be submitted to the maritime administration agency and customs departments through the ship agent.

Both submission methods are at the discretion of the vessel.

Summary table of COVID-19 test information for crew members during international voyages

Vessel Name (Chinese & English)					IMO identification number										
Shipowner					Shipping agency company and contact person, contact information										
Ship management company and contact person, contact information					Shipping agency company and contact person, contact information										
serial number	Crew name	nationality	Passport number	Whether to change shifts	Covid-19 testing										
					Detection time	Test results	Detection time	Test results	Detection time	Test results	Detection time	Test results	Detection time	Test results	
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															

9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														
Detection reagent name and manufacturer														
Positive crew disposition														
I promise that the above information is true. Captain (signed): Date:														

