



MIN 616 (M+F) Amendment 2

COVID 19 - Guidance on minimising risk to ships' crews and other maritime sector workers

Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crew of Merchant Vessels, Skippers and Crew of Domestic Passenger Ships and Inland Waterways Vessels

*This notice should be read in conjunction with the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, as amended
This MIN expires on 24 September 2020.*

Summary

This Note draws attention to UK Government guidance for companies and employers regarding management and mitigation of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

In this notice “shipowner” includes fishing vessel owner and “seafarers” includes fishermen.

Amendment 2 updates the links for guidance on www.gov.uk.

1. Introduction

1.1 Keeping shipping services running during the current COVID-19 outbreak will be vital to the fight against and recovery from the outbreak and seafarers have been identified as key workers. It is therefore crucial that robust protective measures are in place to minimise the risk to seafarers who are working to maintain essential supply chains and supporting services.

1.2 The International Safety Management Code section 1.2.2. says that:

Safety management objectives of the Company should, inter alia:

.1 provide for safe practices in ship operation and a safe working environment;

.2 assess all identified risks to its ships, personnel and the environment and establish appropriate safeguards



- 1.3 It is recommended that companies include measures for tackling risks posed by COVID-19 as part of their operational procedures for ships.
- 1.4 In addition, under the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, employers and shipowners have a duty to ensure the health and safety of seafarers and other affected by their undertaking and to put in place measures to reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.5 While social distancing is fundamentally a public health measure introduced to reduce the spread of infection, it is also relevant to controlling risks within the workplace.
- 1.6 Shipowners and employers should ensure that seafarers are able, where possible, to follow Public Health England guidelines on social distancing (including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metre distance from others) and hygiene (washing their hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds).
- 1.7 Where one or other of these measures is not practicable, other protective or mitigating measures should be taken to minimise the risk to seafarers.

2. Government Guidance

- 2.1 Links to relevant official UK Government guidance are appended in Annex A. This includes guidance on the availability of coronavirus testing for essential workers who are self-isolating.

More Information

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Annex A

COVID-19 UK Government Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-shipping-and-sea-ports-guidance/guidance-for-shipping-and-sea-ports-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

COVID-19 – Getting tested

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): 5 steps to working safely

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely>

COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

