

On the 12th of March, 2020 an emergency situation was declared by the Estonian Government and specific restrictive measures were introduced. These measures have the following impact on vessel traffic:

1. Calls of cruise ships have been banned until 1 May 2020.
2. The ferry line between Tallinn and Stockholm is closed. Freight transport between Estonia and Sweden continues between Paldiski (EE) and Kapellskär (SE).
3. The ferry traffic between Estonia and Finland continues (concentrating mainly to freight) but the number of operating ferries is reduced.

Measures concerning foreign vessels visiting Estonian ports were introduced:

1. Crew members of foreign-flagged vessels are permitted to enter the territory of Estonian ports only for mooring and cargo operations.
2. Crew members are not allowed to disembark while the vessel is staying at a port.
3. As regards repatriation of seafarers via Estonia, crew members are allowed to enter Estonia as transit passengers only on the basis of a reasoned application submitted to the Police and Border Guard Board (Tallinn Cordon) or Tallinn-1 border crossing point (Airport) under the following conditions:
 - 3.1 crew members who exhibit no symptoms of disease are allowed to pass through the territory of Estonia without delay on their way to their country of residence in case of available transport connections (air traffic, buses, etc.);
 - 3.2 crew members who exhibit no symptoms are allowed to pass through the territory of Estonia without delay for the purpose of taking up employment on a cargo vessel.
4. Crew members are not permitted to stay at Estonian accommodation establishments.

Regarding routine work of port state control and flag state matters, we have rearranged our work in the following way:

1. PSC
inspections are not carried out on a vessels that had last port of calls in the countries belonging to the list of high risk states (at the moment 13 states).
2. FSI
For the time being inspections of Estonian vessels in foreign ports are not carried out by our personnel. If possible, these obligations will be delegated to recognised organisations or postponed in a case-by-case basis.

In relation to the spread of the COVID-19 virus we have identified the following risks which can affect services vital for the safety of navigation, provided by the State:

- If VTS and COFREP services cannot operate 24/7

Counter measures: GOFREP operational activities will be partially delegated to the Finnish counterparts. VTS personnel: a) will work longer shifts, b) will work in reduced manning conditions, c) will not work at the nighttime.

- In case of expiry of seafarers' certificates and endorsements while the educational and training institutions have closed down most of their educational activities (only e-learning available)

Counter measures: In order to extend the validity of certificates and endorsements under these extraordinary circumstances, we have prepared abridged curricula for e-learning (without proving practical skills). These curricula will be exclusively meant for those who have performed seagoing service for 12 months in the last 5 years or for 3 months in the last 6 months. Those who complete these courses will be granted a temporary extension which will be valid until the end of the emergency situation, but for a maximum of 3 (6) months.

- If the department dealing with certification of seafarers is closed down

Counter measures: The Maritime Administration will inform international organizations that in the emergency situation the validity of all certificates and endorsements of seafarers working on ships is exceptionally deemed to be automatically extended for a certain period of time.