

**In response to the novel corona virus COVID-19, Iceland has implemented several safety measures, which are outlined below**

**General**

1. Vessels are already required to transmit the Captain's Declaration of Health via SafeSeaNet. This declaration shall generally be transmitted no later than 24 hours before arrival in port. The Customs service monitors this system and informs the office of the Chief Epidemiologist (CE) if there is suspicion of infection aboard a vessel.
2. Additionally, the Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG) shall contact the vessel before the vessel docks and request the Captain to transmit a Declaration of Health as regards COVID-19 to the ICG. See image 1 in instructions.
3. The pilot will ask the same questions through the communications channel of the relevant port, upon arrival of the vessel.
4. Further information and the Health Declaration Form can be found in the instructions at [INSTRUCTIONS FOR PORTS AND VESSELS](#).
5. Iceland has implemented the travel restrictions imposed for the Schengen Area and the European Union. Further information can be found at [NEWS BULLETIN](#).
6. Please note that according to regulation 238/2020 the travel restrictions do not apply to essential travel, including passengers in transit; health and care workers on professional travel; **transportation crews (airlines and cargo ships)**. **The Regulation can be found at [REGULATION 238/2020](#)**
7. More information on the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 can be found at the [Directorate of Health](#).

**Port State Control (PSC)**

1. Iceland will continue inspections as per PMoU procedures with some additional precautions.
2. Before each individual inspection, the Icelandic Port State Control Coordinator (PSC) will request the vessels agent to provide a Crew List, which includes detailed information about crew changes - where and when embarked, etc. Vessels in quarantine will not be inspected unless absolutely necessary and an "overriding factor". The Port State Control Officer (PSCO) shall in such scenario be equipped with proper overall Personal Protective Equipment, etc., as recommended by the Office of the Chief Epidemiologist.
3. The PSCO shall use proper gloves when inspecting the vessel, change gloves when needed, wash hands thoroughly and use disinfecting gel. Mouth caps are recommended, no food or drink shall be consumed on board and no handshakes. Minimise the number of personnel needed to accompany the PSCO during inspection. All paperwork and process of the inspection will be on the bridge except walk around and operational controls.
4. These procedures will be in place until further notice from the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management's Coordination Centre.

### **Flag state surveys and extension of ship certificates**

1. At the request of the owner/operator statutory surveys may be postponed and relevant ship certificates extended up to 3 months from their date of expiry. Note should be taken of any outstanding issues. This shall apply to all Icelandic flagged vessels registered in national Ship Register.
2. This extension applies to certificates issued by the Administration and the recognised organisations. The extension also applies to certificates issued by service providers conducting services on behalf of the Administration, including, but not limited to service providers re-certifying life-saving equipment, fire-fighting equipment or radio equipment.
3. Extension of statutory ship certificates will be reflected in the national ships survey and certification database. The certificate in question need not be physically endorsed or replaced by a new certificate on board the vessel.
4. The shipowner is at all times responsible for ensuring that all its ships are operating according to all the applicable regulations, domestic, international Conventions, and EU legislation.
5. Statutory surveys should only be carried out after careful assessment of the situation with COVID-19;

### **Guidelines on seafarers' and fishermen's certificates of competency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

In spite of challenges related to the coronavirus COVID-19, the Icelandic Transport Authority is accepting online applications for all personal licenses and processing complete applications.

#### **STCW Certificates**

Seafarers who are unable to extend the validity of their certificates of competency and endorsements attesting the attainment of the competence necessary to perform functions on board ships are granted a general extension for up to three months, but no longer than until 1 September 2020. This applies to STCW certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency and endorsements confirming or recognizing a certificate of competency.

#### **STCW medical certificates**

Due to challenges related to the coronavirus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers, essential for ships operations, expiring during the period of the state of emergency are extended from the end of their validity for up to three months, but no longer than until 1 September 2020.

#### **STCW-F Certificates**

Due to challenges related to the coronavirus, fishing vessel personnel may be unable to present a valid medical certificate. In response to this, ICETRA will grant an extension to the validity of STCW-F certificates of competency for a period of 3 months, but no longer than until 1 September 2020.