



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Updated on *19th June 2020*

Pls find below latest implications in connection with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) at Hong Kong :-

A. Restriction from Entering Hong Kong

The Hong Kong SAR Government restricts non-Hong Kong residents who have visited the Hubei Province in the past 14 days upon arrival from entering Hong Kong since January 27, 2020.

With effect from March 25, 2020 0001Hrs LT, and until further notice:

- All non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to Hong Kong; and
- Non-Hong Kong residents coming from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have been to any overseas countries and regions in the past 14 days.

With effect from June 01, 2020 0001Hrs LT, all transit services (i.e. flight transfers at airside only) at Hong Kong International Airport will be resumed. To minimize any unforeseeable confusion/complications it is advised that through-tickets to be issued and baggage should be checked-in all the way from origin departure airport through to destination airport without re-check-in at Hong Kong International Airport.

B. Compulsory Quarantine (for Non-Seamen)

Starting from February 8, 2020, the Department of Health (DH) will issue quarantine orders to all people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland, including Hong Kong residents, Mainland residents and visitors from other places. People concerned must stay at designated places (quarantine centre, home or other accommodation) for a 14-day compulsory quarantine. Apart from the exempted persons under the "Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation", people who have been to the Mainland in the past 14 days upon arrival at Hong Kong, even if they enter Hong Kong via other places, are also covered. They should not have any symptoms and should have passed temperature checks upon entry. Those with symptoms will be referred to the DH for further handling. Arrivals holding a visa with validity of less than 14 days will be denied entry.

With effect from March 25, 2020 0001Hrs LT, and until further notice:

- All travellers coming from Macao and Taiwan, including Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents, will be subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine, which is the same as the arrangements for people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland.





C. Cargo Vessels and Other Non-Passenger Vessels calling to Hong Kong

Hong Kong port is normal at this moment. All port formalities for vessel arrival and departure are normal. The ports of call and rotation of the vessel will not be affected.

Vessels calling for cargo operations, bunker supply, replenishment, Fresh Water supply, spare parts/cargoes import and export services are all normal.

The Department of Health requires all crew members on board goods vessel entering Hong Kong to arrange **self 'medical surveillance' onboard** during their stay in Hong Kong (except crew individual had been visited to Hubei Province in China in past 14 days).

'Medical surveillance' refer to the following:-

- you should wear a surgical mask during work and if need to go out
- you must pay attention to your health condition, and take body temperature daily. If you feel unwell, please inform your agent or call Department of Health at 852-2125 1999 or 2125 1122.
- agree to be interviewed by Department of health regarding your health condition.

D. Crew Changes for Cargo Vessels and Other Non-Passenger Vessels

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) for passenger + cargo arrival and departure also in normal. HKIA now undergo addition body temperature checking to all passengers and passengers are advised to allow sufficient time for relevant procedure.

With effective from March 8, 2020, all inbound travellers via Hong Kong International Airport are required to submit health declaration form. To be environmental friendly, travellers are encouraged to submit the form online (website: www.chp.gov.hk/hdf), or continue to submit the paper form which can be obtained on board their flight.

With effect from June 01, 2020 0001Hrs LT, all transit services (i.e. flight transfers at airside only) at Hong Kong International Airport will be resumed. To minimize any unforeseeable confusion/complications it is advised that through-tickets to be issued and baggage should be checked-in all the way from origin departure airport through to destination airport without re-check-in at Hong Kong International Airport.





With effective from June 8, 2020, crew change for cargo vessels and most of the other non-passenger vessels (including most types of offshore vessels) are allowed, under different criteria:-

1. For onsigners (i.e. those holding both valid seaman books and passports), joining vessel is arrangeable WITHOUT compulsory Quarantine, subject to the following :-

- Hong Kong Immigration normal Visa Control requirement
- Onsigner(s) in possess valid Passport and Seaman Book
- Onsigner(s) holding copy of our OKTB letter
- They should NOT born/resided in Hubei or Hubei related.
- Agreed to self “ medical surveillance “ for 14 days
- Onsigner(s) should not have any symptoms of being affected and passed temperature checks upon entry
- COVID-19 Test Report is NOT compulsory required.
- Onsigner(s) arriving HKG should try the best to arrive Hong Kong when their vessels had arrived and should get on board immediately upon arrival. Only if there is genuine need for them to stay at Hong Kong for a reasonable short period while awaiting to board vessel, they should be in hotel accommodation for self isolation until getting onboard.
- Subject to change without prior notice and eventual grant for entry purely on Immigration/Port Health discretion

2. For offsigner(s) under seaman status (i.e. those holding both valid seaman books and passports), only with vessels purpose of call for cargo operations, signing off is possible and arrangeable WITHOUT compulsory Quarantine, subject to the following :-

- Offsigner(s) in possess valid Passport and Seaman Book.
- Offsigner(s) holding return home country ticket (Immigration still require offsigners to leave Hong Kong as early as possible within reasonable short period. For specific pro-longed stay with supporting reason, permission is on case by case consideration only, without guarantee).
- The arrival vessel purpose of call is for “Cargo Operations“.
- Offsigner(s) should NOT born/resided in Hubei or Hubei related or those Individuals been visited to Hubei Province in past 14 days.
- Offsigner(s) should take the most direct way between the vessel and HK airport, and try best to avoid stop over any other public locations.
- Subject to change without prior notice and eventual grant for entry purely on Immigration/Marine Department/Port Health discretion.





3. For offsigner(s) under seaman status (i.e. those holding both valid seaman books and passports), with vessels purpose of call other than cargo operations, signing off is possible and arrangeable WITHOUT compulsory Quarantine, subject to the following :-

- Offsigner(s) in possess valid Passport and Seaman Book.
- Offsigner(s) holding IMMEDIATE return home country ticket. Tickets with long forward travelling dates may not be accepted.
- Offsigner(s) should NOT born/resided in Hubei or Hubei related.
- Offsigner(s) are required to stay onboard the vessel during vessel's stay in Hong Kong, and agreed to travel directly to the airport for repatriation to their home country. **No hotel accommodation is allowed nor staying at other location except the Hong Kong International airport.** (Bearing in mind that the current Airport security regulation only allow travellers with a valid air ticket or boarding pass for a flight in the next 24 hours and a valid travel document will be allowed to enter the airport terminal buildings).
- Subject to change without prior notice and eventual grant for entry purely on Immigration/Marine Department/Port Health discretion

Other information:-

Pls also bear mind that there are occasions/issues that some airlines rejected onsigning crew's boarding (even with OKTB), which is based on airlines commercial discretion and is beyond our control and assistance.

Also, for some local services (e.g. transportation, hotel, medical...etc) will have consideration of acceptance of people travel from overseas (especially crew from Europe and US) and may have limited choice for our arrangements.

For Supernumerary arriving with vessels (except those born/resided in Hubei or Hubei related or those individual(s) been visited to Hubei Province in past 14 days) to be subject to 'medical surveillance' on board during vessel stay in Hong Kong. Their signing off at Hong Kong will not be granted and require to sail with the vessel.

Passengers arriving with vessels (except those born/resided in Hubei or Hubei related or had been to Hubei Province in past 14 days, will be rejected) will require compulsory quarantine for 14 days on board and vessel will not be allowed to sail until 14 days compulsory quarantine period is completed.





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As the situation changes from time to time, please contact us at ops@benline.com.hk for updates in case of any enquiries or requirements.

All information provided based on our best knowledge and understanding and for reference only, without guarantee.

With Best Regards,
Ben Line Agencies - Hong Kong Operations
As Agents Only

All business transactions are subject to our standard trading conditions which are available upon request or can be viewed here:
www.benlineagencies.com/marine-terms-conditions

Source:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/today.htm>

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/index.html>

The related Law of Government HKSAR - [Cap. 599C](#) & [Cap. 599E](#)

