Circular Ref No.: PNI 1402

Date: 15 Sep 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Subject: Enhanced Quarantine Inspection at Chinese Ports for Vessels Arriving From Ebola Affected Countries** 

On 9th July 2014, China' Administration of Quality Supervision (AQSIQ), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Health and Family Planning Commission and National Tourism Administration have jointly issued the Notice on the Prevention of Africa Ebola Virus Disease into China (No.75 of 2014), which stated that carriers of vehicles, container, cargos, luggage and parcels from Ebola affected areas should cooperate with local CIQ's quarantine inspection before their entry into China. If there is any potential risk of Ebola virus affection, the carriers shall comply with quarantine requirements accordingly. In practice the quarantine inspection and requirement are carried out by local CIQ to different extents at different ports in China.

We have recently been reported several cases of enhanced quarantine inspections to vessels calling China and have received a number of enquiries into the current requirements of local authorities in this respect. In order to provide a comprehensive brief on this to our clients, we have checked the local situation with local authorities at major ports in China and would like to report the following for owners/Club's ready reference.

Shandong area (including Qingdao, Rizhao, Lanshan, Yantai, Weihai, etc.)

As to ports located in Shandong province, only Qingdao CIQ has strict quarantine inspection requirement for vessels calling at Qingdao port from Africa. The basic requirements of Qingdao CIQ are as follows:

- (1) Conduct the routine quarantine inspection on board for vessels from Africa. The contents of quarantine inspection are mainly checking the body temperature of the crew and the hygiene situation of crews' living quarters, etc.:
- (2) For vessels from Ebola affected areas, Qingdao CIQ also required disinfection treatment. The cost of disinfection treatment is around RMB 0.05\*gross tonnage of vessel.

As for vessels' calling at other ports in Shandong province, it is required that vessels' local agents submit the related situation to local CIQ for their determination on whether conducting onboard quarantine inspection at anchorage.

2. Liaoning area (including Dalian, Yingkou, Jinzhou, Bayuquan, etc.)

All vessels/containers, cargos and baggage, etc. from Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and other West African countries/ports are subject to quarantine inspection/investigation at the anchorage. Crewmember's body temperature, the medical record and epidemic situation are required to be examined.

# 3. Tianjin

There is no formal document issued by local CIQ authorities on vessels' quarantine inspection of Ebola. Tianjin CIQ advised that any vessels that have been to Ebola affected areas within 21days are required to be quarantine inspected. Usually it takes more than 21days (around 28 days) for vessels arriving at Tianjin port from West Africa, thus until this circular is issued, there has been no special quarantine inspection of Ebola be conducted at Tianjin area.

#### 4. Shanghai

Shanghai CIQ has issued a formal notice to local ship agents on Ebola Virus' prevention and control measures as follows:

- (1) A strict onboard quarantine inspection is required to be conducted for vessels' calling at Shanghai port from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.
- (2) If the vessel had been calling/staying at Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria within 30 days prior to arrival in China, the vessel's local agent should remark/report the situation to local authorities when applying for entry formalities.

(3) If any crew/passengers had been staying at Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria within 30 days prior to arrival in China, the vessel's local agent should report the situation to local authorities as soon as possible.

All vessels that have called Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria should be inspected by quarantine officers in inner anchorage (Wu Song) in advance before entry of Shanghai port. Vessels will only be permitted to enter Shanghai port after local authorities' approval.

### 5. Guangzhou

From our local experiences, all vessels from Ebola affected areas should go through strict quarantine inspection, including crew's temperature examination and disinfection treatment on vessel.

### 6. Fujian area (including Fuzhou, Xiamen, Ningde, Putian and Quanzhou)

The local CIQ requests vessels from Ebola affected areas report the crewmembers' temperature record and the vessel's navigational record in recent 3 weeks before the vessel's arrival for CIQ's evaluation on whether outer anchorage quarantine inspection is required or not. If the quarantine inspection is required, the CIQ will inspect the crewmembers' body temperature and conduct disinfection for vessels from Ebola affected areas, such as the Republic of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone Nigeria and Congo at the outer anchorage. A certificate will be issued to the vessel if the quarantine inspection result is satisfactory.

#### 7. Shantou

There is no formal notification at present stage on the requirement of quarantine inspection of Ebola for vessels arriving at this port and there have not been vessels from Ebola affected areas calling at Shantou port recently.

## 8. Hainan area (including Yangpu, Sanya, Basuo and Haikou)

The local CIQ of Hainan province would strictly monitor vessels sailing from Ebola affected areas, and require the vessel to report the crewmembers' temperature record, navigational record in recent 3 weeks before the vessel's arrival to decide whether outer anchorage quarantine inspection is required.

As the Club and Members may note from the above information, local authorities at almost all the major ports in China are paying close attention to vessels arriving from Ebola affected areas. Though there hasn't been any unified quarantine standard and requirement, in practice, some ports are quite strict on the quarantine inspection to vessels sailing from Ebola affected areas.

In order to avoid any unnecessary problems, we recommend that owners of vessels that have called Ebola affected areas within 30 days prior to arrival in China should contact and check with the local agent to figure out local CIQ's requirement on the formality of Ebola quarantine inspection that may be in place in advance.

We hope the above is of assistance. Should you have any query, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Shan Hong

Vice President