



## **Ebola Update – 22 October 2014**

### **Ports in West Africa**

The summary below has been updated on the basis of the information available to the Budd Group's Network of Offices at the time of writing. Insofar as the situation is constantly evolving, Clubs and their Members are invited to seek advice from their P&I Correspondents or Ship Agents before any calls in West Africa.

In the Ebola-affected countries – Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – hygiene measures such as temperature checks, hand-washing in chlorine solution or the wearing of gloves and/or masks have been introduced to limit the risk of infection on board vessels.

To the best of our knowledge, no seafarers have contracted Ebola during a call to one of the Ebola-affected countries.

#### **Angola - Update**

Ports of **Luanda, Lobito and Namibe** – no official port circulars regarding vessels arriving via an Ebola-affected country but health officials are reinforcing sanitary and hygiene measures.

No passengers from the Democratic Republic of Congo are allowed to enter or leave **Cabinda**. Land borders have also been closed.

#### **Benin - Update**

According to port circular N° 2173/PAC/DG/DGA/SG/DCM/DOMS, the following measures are now applicable in **Cotonou**:

- Three days before their ETA in the port of Cotonou, all vessels must provide the Harbour Master with the full list of their ten previous ports of call;
- All vessels which have either come from or have called in a country where there is an Ebola outbreak must have on board all the equipment necessary to prevent the virus from spreading;
- Vessels which have either come from or have called in a country where there is an Ebola outbreak and which have on board all the equipment necessary to prevent the virus from spreading, must stay on the roads until such time as they have undergone an inspection by the agents of the Ministry of Public Health and received authorisation to circulate freely. Only then will the Pilot be authorised to assist with berthing;
- In addition, gloves and protective masks must be worn by all persons and all crew members while the vessel is berthed in the port of Cotonou.

#### **Cameroon**

- Sea borders now opened between Cameroon and Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria have been closed.
- 21-day quarantine in place for vessels who have recently called in any of the above countries. The 21 days run from the date at which the vessel left the relevant country.
- Sanitary inspections carried out at anchorage at the end of the 21-day quarantine period.
- Port congestion may mean that no berths are available immediately after the quarantine period despite a clean bill of health.

#### **Cape Verde**

In a circular dated 9 September 2014 summarised in English below, Cape Verde modified its ban on all vessels from Ebola-affected countries as follows:



(Cape Verde continued)

- Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 1 (1) of Resolution. 66/2014 of 20 August, as in. 2, extended by Resolution 74/2014, (the Government of Cape Verde) may, for humanitarian, emergency medical, economic or other relevant public-interest reasons, authorize the entry into the national territory, of non-resident foreigners who, in the last 30 days, have been in one of the countries affected by hemorrhagic fever caused by the Ebola virus, by order of the Prime Minister.
- All applications should be made to the Manager of National Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Paulo Lopes (paulo.lopes@palgov.gov.cv; mobile: +238 9953114);
- The answers will be sent via electronic mail with the celerity that the matter imposes.

### **Congo (Democratic Republic)**

No measures.

### **Congo Pointe Noire**

No measures.

### **Equatorial Guinea**

- Vessels travelling to/from West, Central or East Africa are not allowed to berth in the ports of **Malabo** and **Bata**.
- Issuance of visas has been suspended for those intending to travel to Equatorial Guinea from Central and West Africa.
- All incoming and outgoing flights to/from Sao Tome et Principe, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Gabon have been cancelled as a prevention measure against the spread of Ebola to Equatorial Guinea.
- The Equatorial Guinea government has requested that West and Central African countries instruct their embassies in Equatorial Guinea to suspend issuing visas (to Equatorial Guinea nationals or foreign residents in Equatorial Guinea) for onward travel to any country in West or Central Africa.
- There have been no reported cases of Ebola in Equatorial Guinea.

### **Gabon**

On 14 August, Gabon introduced the following measures which remain in force:

- 3 days before their ETA in a Gabonese port, vessels must provide the full details of their ports of call over the preceding 30 days.
- No vessel which has called in a country affected by Ebola will be allowed to berth.
- All people who are in contact with a vessel and its crew must wear gloves. People who are not wearing gloves will be prevented from boarding.
- Health inspectors from the National Institute of Public Hygiene and Sanitation will board berthing vessels at the same time as the pilots.
- Until the health inspectors have left the vessel, no-one else will be allowed to board.
- Until further notice, crew members will not be authorised to leave the confines of the port.
- Crew changes are suspended until further notice.

### **Gambia**

- All vessels which have been in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea or Nigeria within the 21 days preceding their arrival will be screened by health officials.
- Vessels will not be allowed to berth before this process has been completed and may be placed in quarantine or refused entry to the port.



## **Ghana – Update 2**

- Through their agents, vessels coming to Ghana must send the following documents to the port health authorities 3 days prior to their ETA:
  - Maritime Declaration of Health
  - Port Call List
  - Crew List and
  - Their best estimated time of arrival.
- For vessels which have called in an Ebola-affected country in the preceding 30 days, Port Health and immigration officials will carry out screening of crew members at anchorage prior to authorising berthing (assuming vessel is found to be Ebola free).
- At anchorage, screening charges totalling US\$ 2,500.00 will be payable by the vessel. These charges include: launch hire costs of US\$ 1,700.00 vessel plus two sums of US\$ 400.00 as danger money for the intervention at anchorage of the Immigration and port health officials.
- A 21-day quarantine period will be applied to any vessel where Ebola is suspected on board.
- For vessels which have not declared any call in an Ebola-affected country, health inspectors will carry out screening while the vessel is at quay before authorising any other parties to go on board.
- After berthing, gloves, masks and sanitizers must be provided to all visitors before boarding.

## **Guinea (Ebola Affected Country)**

- Health checks on all persons entering or leaving Guinea by sea, air or road.
- All persons embarking or disembarking from vessels will have their temperatures taken.
- Any person with a temperature of more than 38°C will be quarantined and have to undergo further tests.
- Strict hand-cleansing procedures for all persons going on board vessels.
- Disembarkation of non-Guinean stowaways has been suspended until further notice and the authorities are doing everything in their power to ensure that no stowaways embark in Guinea's ports.
- No cases of Ebola have been detected within the ports of Kamsar, Konta or Conakry.

## **Ivory Coast - Update**

### **Abidjan**

In addition to the information previously published, Port circulars issued in September and October 2014 have further clarify how the health inspection measures are to be applied:

- Health inspections will be carried out at anchorage on all vessels calling in Abidjan.
- Abidjan's port authority will provide launches to allow health inspectors from the Institut National de l'Hygiène Public (INHP) to board vessels on the roads.
- Inspection costs of FCFA 200,000.00 (roughly Euros 305.00) will be paid by the Port Authority in the first instance but will be recoverable from ship owners.
- No person will be allowed to board until the all clear has been given by the health inspectors.
- All vessels on international voyages must provide health inspectors with a list of their last ports of call and the signing on dates of all crew members.
- Additional information can be obtained from Abidjan's Harbour Master on +225 21 23 86 97/46 00 56 16/46 00 56 49.

### **San Pedro:**

- Copies of previous sanitary inspection reports and medical records for the previous 20 days to be provided to the port.
- Mandatory sanitary inspection on berthing.
- No person allowed to board until vessel has been cleared by authorities.
- Vessels with suspected Ebola cases on board are required to fly a yellow flag and may be quarantined for 21 days.



### **Liberia (Ebola Affected Country)**

- Both the ports of **Monrovia** and **Buchanan** are functioning normally.
- All persons entering the ports are subjected to mandatory health checks.
- No cases of Ebola have been detected within the ports.

### **Mauritania - Update**

- No vessels which have recently been in a country affected by Ebola are being allowed to either enter Mauritanian ports or anchor in the roads although we are not aware of any official circular to this effect.
- Vessels arriving from other countries may expect that their crew will undergo ID checks and possibly be interviewed by the authorities to ensure that there are no discrepancies regarding previous calls in the ship's declaration of arrival.

### **Nigeria - Update**

The World Health Organisation has declared Nigeria is no longer considered to be an Ebola-affected country while the US Centers for Disease Control has reduced their risk alert to level 1 (Watch).

- Health checks will be carried out at anchorage on all vessels entering Nigeria from Guinea, Sierra Leone or Monrovia to berth in Nigerian ports.
- Gloves and masks must be worn by all persons going on board.

### **Senegal - Update**

- Vessels who have called in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia must declare this fact to the port 24 hours before they arrive.
- Vessels whose call in an Ebola-affected country took place more than 30 days before their ETA in **Dakar** and who do not have any suspected cases on board are automatically given berthing authorisation.
- Vessels whose call in an Ebola affected country took place within the maximum 21-day incubation period are subject to health checks before they enter the port.
- Any vessel suspected of carrying Ebola will be quarantined outside the port.

### **Sierra Leone (Ebola Affected Country)**

- Health checks are carried out on all crew members.
- Crew are not authorised to leave their vessels during the call.
- All persons going on board must wear gloves and a mask.

### **Togo - Update**

- Health checks on all vessels no matter where they have called previously.

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