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EBOLA VIRUS – Update 3

As previously advised the situation in the various countries of West Africa regarding the Ebola virus is very fluid and is changing on a daily basis.

In this context and further to our advice of 19.08.2014 and updates of 22.08.2014 and 27.08.2014 please find below a summary of the latest information we have received from various TCI Africa Offices in West Africa.

SENEGAL

The first report case of Ebola in Senegal was announced on the 29th August, 2014. It concerned a man from neighbouring Guinea who managed to enter the country. He was quarantined in a specialised hospital in Dakar. So far no further measures or restrictions have been taken vis-à-vis the shipping community at Dakar.

GABON

Further to a notice issued by the Gabonese Ministry of Transport in Libreville to the Port Authorities in Gabon on the 14th August, 2014 advising that any vessel calling at a Gabonese port coming directly from a county affected by the current Ebola virus outbreak (i.e. Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia & Nigeria) would not be allowed to enter or berth at the port we are advised that the port authority at Port Gentil has recently banned a vessel coming from Matadi DRC. Consequently we are waiting for an official notification as to whether DRC is to be added to the list of the 4 banned countries.

GHANA

Whilst there has been no reported case of Ebola to date in Ghana the Port Health Authority has issued the following advice / precautionary measures

- Masters have been requested not to allow their crew to leave the vessel. They are to remain on board at all times keeping their cabins and portholes shut.
- Stevedores have been asked to work solely in their designated area and are not permitted to enter the vessel's accommodation.
- All documents are to be signed at a designated area provided by the vessel's administration (i.e. Chief Officer or Master) for health & safety reasons.
- Vessel's are still berthing and continue to work as usual without delay. Port Health Authority representatives always board vessels in port, not at the anchorage.

- Port security with regards to security & safety to ship is still in place due to the ISPS Code; however health & safety has been stepped up due to Ebola virus.
- Body search on dock workers is being carried out by selected officials from Port Health trained to handle such matters.
- Wearing of surgical gloves has been recommended by Port Health to avoid direct contact with others.

NIGERIA

The first reported case of Ebola outside Lagos has been report in Port Harcourt on the 28th August, 2014. Whilst those in contact with the deceased were quarantined TCI Lagos advises that so far there has been no effect on ship operations / movements at Port Harcourt or on the Bonny River and that no special measures, other than those already in place, are planned for the time being.

LIBERIA

In the continuing fight against the spread of the Ebola virus the Liberian Maritime Authority issued the attached Marine Operations Note 08/2004 for all users of all sea ports in Liberia.

As well as indicating the measure taken with regards to port workers and entry / exit to the port the note also outlines measure taken with regard to visiting vessels and crews including no shore leave or crew changes.

With the situation regarding the Ebola outbreak changing almost daily we strongly advise all Owners / Masters / Charterers to remain in contact with their local agent in order to ascertain prior to arrival the very latest and most up to date information regarding any new restrictions or health / sanitary procedures to be applied.

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As Agents to the Managers of TCI AFRICA