



Vessel Traffic Centre

Marine Department, G.P.O. Box 4155, Hong Kong

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Ref. No:	() in MD-VTC-F01-095-01C- 002-P001	Your ref. No.:	
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To All Shipping Agents/ Companies in Hong Kong,

Updated Exemption Conditions and Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

Your attention is drawn to the attached self-explanatory letter from Department of Health regarding the "Updated Exemption Conditions and Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels". Please be advised that the aforementioned exemption conditions become effective from 09 August 2021.

Please bring the letter from Department of Health to the attention of ship owners, ship masters and other relevant parties. Should you have any further enquiries on exemption conditions, please contact Department of Health direct.

Yours faithfully,

(K.T. POON)
for Director of Marine

Encl.

1. Letter from Department of Health -- Updated Exemption Conditions and Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

本署檔號 Our Ref. : DH/PHD/P6/3002
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港口衛生科
Port Health Division

9 August 2021

To All Shipping Agents/Companies in Hong Kong,

Updated Exemption Conditions and Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

The Government has adopted a risk-based approach and re-categorised overseas places into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups¹ taking into account a basket of factors on 9 August 2021.

There are corresponding updates effective on 9 August 2021 in the “*Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation*” (**Annex A**) and “*Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services (viz. bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents, etc.)*” (**Annex B**)

Please note that the quarantine requirements for incoming vessels are also updated on 9 August 2021. You may find the details in **Annex C**.

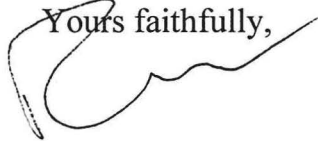
If you have any enquiry on quarantine arrangement, please contact the duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702.



¹ The list of specified places under Cap. 599H Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation is available at the Government's Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website. (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html>).

Thank you very much for your ongoing support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong)
for Director of Health

- Annex A : Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation
- Annex B : Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services (viz. bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents, etc.)
- Annex C : Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

**Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change
for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation**

**Crew Change Arrangement Concerning Vessels which have called the
ports of “Group A Specified Places” under Cap. 599H**

No crew change (including sign-on and sign-off crew) is permitted for goods vessels which have called the ports of high risk places specified in Group A under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong. These vessels will be allowed to enter Hong Kong for cargo operation without crew change. All crew members should remain on-board the vessels during the stay of the vessels in Hong Kong waters and should not get ashore.

**Crew Change Arrangement Concerning Vessels which have called the
ports of Places other than “Group A Specified Places” under Cap. 599H**

For goods vessels with cargo operation which have not called the ports of “Group A specified places” under Cap. 599H during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong and intend to conduct crew change, the following conditions will apply:

1. Shipping companies/agents shall submit the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) and Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) of vessel together with the details of the sign-on and sign-off crew to be changed (including their names and flight schedules) 72 hours prior arrival of the vessel for the Marine Department (MarDep)’s approval. For out-going crew members of goods vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong (and have not called the ports of Group A specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong), shipping companies/agents should declare in its crew change application how would the out-going crew member concerned take the SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test according to the means as mentioned in clause 8 below. In the crew change application, ship companies/agents should also indicate the out-going sea crew who is a Hong Kong resident and will stay in Hong Kong after signing off. Ship companies/agents should indicate in the crew change application whether the vessels have called the ports of any “Group A Specified Places” under Cap. 599H during the 21

days prior to arrival in Hong Kong. The crew change application should be submitted to both MarDep and the Department of Health (DH) by email –

MarDep: *pmovtc1@mardep.gov.hk*

DH: *pa_rp@dh.gov.hk*

2. All crew members should remain on-board the vessels during the stay of the vessels in Hong Kong waters and should not get ashore.

3. Point-to-point transfers should be arranged by the shipping companies/agents for crew members to and from the vessel. Use of public transport including MTR, airport shuttle train and taxi for crew transfer is prohibited. Crew members should wear masks during the entire journey to and from the vessel.

Sign-on Crew

4. Signing-on crew members should only arrive Hong Kong when their vessels are berthed in Hong Kong and should get onboard immediately upon arrival.

5. Signing-on crew members arriving Hong Kong at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to sign-on goods vessels must have a negative result of polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test at an ISO 15189-accredited laboratory or a laboratory recognised by the Government where the laboratory is located with the specimen collected within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight to Hong Kong. All signing-on crew members must take a post-arrival SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test at the DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre upon arrival at HKIA and wait for the results there or any other location as designated by DH ("test and hold"). Upon arrival, they must only use the designated channel within the HKIA to arrive at the designate pick-up point. They should wear masks during the entire journey from the HKIA to the vessel.

6. Shipping companies/agents should declare on a letter of certification that the signing-on crew member concerned has been tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid with the specimen collected within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight to Hong Kong (as mentioned in clause 5). The letter should also include an emergency local contact phone number for prompt contact with the concerned crew under emergency situation.

7. Signing-on crew members are required to present MarDep's approval letter (as mentioned in clause 1), the negative test report (as

mentioned in clause 5) and letter of certification (as mentioned in clause 6) to staff of DH when he/she enters Hong Kong at HKIA. The shipping companies/agents should prepare at least one copy of the certification letter to be carried by each crew when arriving Hong Kong for submission to DH staff. Crew members who fail to present and submit the abovementioned documents to DH staff will be denied entry, and the shipping companies/agents concerned are required to arrange these crew members to fly back to their originating country(ies) forthwith.

Sign-off Crew

8. Signing-off crew members who have completed their service on-board will be required to stay onboard the vessel during their stay in Hong Kong and travel directly for repatriation to their home countries so as to minimise contact with the local community. For goods vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong (and have not called the ports of Group A specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong), ship companies/agents are required to **EITHER** –

- (a) arrange a SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test for the signing-off sea crew at an ISO 15189-accredited laboratory or a laboratory recognised by the Government where the laboratory is located with the specimen collected within 72 hours prior to the vessel's ETA at Hong Kong and obtain a negative result; **OR**
- (b) arrange the signing-off sea crew to take a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 by one of the recognised testing institutions in Hong Kong upon the vessel's arrival, and these crew members will need to stay on board his/her cargo vessel until the result (negative) is available [i.e. test-and-hold arrangement on board the vessel in Hong Kong].

9. Signing-off crew who are Hong Kong residents and who will stay in Hong Kong after signing off are required to take a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 as in clause 8(b) above. They are not exempted from compulsory quarantine, and are subject to the prevailing quarantine arrangement as with other non-exempted persons. These signing-off Hong Kong crew must use land transportation designated by the Government to the designated quarantine hotels direct from the location where they go ashore. Shipping companies/agents will be provided with a list of land transportation designated by the Government

for their direct contact to make land transportation arrangement to designated quarantine hotels.

General

10. Shipping companies/agents should keep and if requested provide information on the testing, transportation and logistics arrangement of the crew members (such as details of the flights taken by the crew concerned, licence plate number and driver details of the vehicles, name of ferry and coxswain details used to transfer the crew members, exact time and location of the picking up/setting down of the transfers, laboratory reports, etc.) for ease of contact tracing.

11. Shipping companies/agents must report to the MarDep immediately upon receipt of information of any COVID-19 positive cases of their seafarers.

12. Shipping companies/agents failing to comply with the above conditions and/or provide the required information will be denied future crew change for one month.

Annex B

Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services (viz. bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents, etc.)

Sea crew onboard goods vessels which have called the ports of high risk places specified in Group A under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong purely for shipping services are not exempted from compulsory quarantine arrangement.

For goods vessels which **HAVE NOT called the ports of “Group A specified places” under Cap. 599H** during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong purely for shipping services, the following conditions will apply:

1. **Application submission:** ship agents or shipping companies of the vessels are required to state in their Pre-arrival Notification (PAN) the purposes of entering Hong Kong waters (i.e. to receive bunkering, reprovisioning and/or other shipping services) and submit to MD at least 24 hours prior to their arrival.
2. **No change in sea crew nor landing of sea crew onshore:**
 - (i) for goods vessels entering Hong Kong purely for bunkering/reprovisioning, they will be required to berth at anchorage areas designated by MD at all times during their stay in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) all sea crew of these goods vessels will be required to stay onboard at all times when the ship remains in Hong Kong. No crew change is allowed.
3. **Precautionary measures:** while local workers do not need to go onboard the goods vessels for provision of bunker/reprovisioning services or for switching of documents, in the unlikely event that individual local worker(s), for some special reasons, need to perform duty onboard, they should take all the precautionary measures (such as

wearing personal protection equipment at all times, and regular checking of body temperature). Signing / exchange of documents should be handled by e-mail transmission as far as possible, or through a carrying basket and/or disposable plastic bags transferring between the supply barge and the goods vessel following health precautionary protocol as considered by the health authorities.

4. **Regular COVID-19 Testing:** shipping services companies should arrange frontline staff of the respective ship services trade who would need to work on the launch boats and may have contacts with sea crew onboard ocean going vessels or river trade vessels during their course of operation to take regular COVID-19 tests (on a 14-day interval). The shipping services companies should also keep a full record of staff undergoing COVID-19 testing for necessary checking.

5. **COVID-19 Vaccination:** shipping services companies should deploy workers who have completed COVID-19 vaccination (i.e. 14 days after receiving two doses of vaccine) (unless contraindicated) to conduct relevant services involving physical contact with goods vessels as far as possible. Local workers who could not be vaccinated for medical reasons should be certified by a medical practitioner as unfit for vaccination, and should be subject to frequent testing (say at least once every 7 days) as considered by the health authorities.

6. **Penalties:** ship agents are required to ensure that the goods vessels will only take ship services provided by the ship services companies which have complied with the above conditions. If a goods vessel (or the sea crew on board) or ship agent fails to comply with the aforesaid conditions, MD may disallow the ship agent from arranging goods vessels to visit Hong Kong for bunker and other ship services for one month.

Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels
(Effective since 9 August 2021)

	Purpose of calling Hong Kong	Visited Group A specific place(s) (high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group B specified place(s) (medium-risk) and Taiwan within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group C specified place(s) (low-risk) only within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Mainland China or Macao within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#
Goods vessels (including OGVs and RTVs)	With cargo operation (Crew)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions
	For switching document, bunkering and / or provisioning (Crew)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self-monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination* and antibody+ status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions
	For any other purpose and without cargo operation (Crew)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self-monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination and antibody status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course with positive antibody result: compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring
	Non-crew (Passenger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory

	Purpose of calling Hong Kong	Visited Group A specific place(s) (high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group B specified place(s) (medium-risk) and Taiwan within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group C specified place(s) (low-risk) only within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Mainland China or Macao within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#
		monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination and antibody status	quarantine for 21 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course with positive antibody result: compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	quarantine for 14 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring
Fishing vessels (including local and non-local fishing vessels)	Crew (including fish collectors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self-monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination and antibody status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course with positive antibody result: compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visited Mainland China only: Medical surveillance[@] only under specified conditions Visited Macao: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring
	Non-crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self-monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination and antibody status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course with positive antibody result: compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring

	Purpose of calling Hong Kong	Visited Group A specific place(s) (high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group B specified place(s) (medium-risk) and Taiwan within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Group C specified place(s) (low-risk) only within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#	Visited Mainland China or Macao within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#
Other vessels	All persons on board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days plus 7 days self-monitoring required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination and antibody status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course with positive antibody result: compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days plus 7 days self-monitoring Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days Completed COVID-19 vaccination course (regardless of antibody status): compulsory quarantine for 7 days plus 7 days self-monitoring

The list of Groups of specified places and relevant quarantine measures required by Cap. 599H is available at the Government’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website at (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html>)

*A person is deemed to have “completed a COVID-19 vaccination course” if he/she arrives at Hong Kong on or after the 14th day after completing the vaccination. The 14th day after a person has completed a COVID-19 vaccination course is counted by taking the next day after the person received the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine as the 1st day. For example, for a person who received the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine on 10 May 2021, the “1st day” would be 11 May 2021 and the “14th day” would be 24 May 2021.

(i) For both the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac vaccine) and Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine), completing the vaccination course involves receiving two doses in general. For persons previously infected with COVID-19, they may be deemed to have completed the COVID-19 vaccination course after receiving one dose of Comirnaty vaccine.

(ii) For individuals who received COVID-19 vaccines in places outside of Hong Kong and have received the recommended doses as stipulated in relevant guidelines, the vaccines received should be those COVID-19 vaccines that are recognised for relevant purposes as specified by the respective specification or direction which is available at the Government COVID-19 thematic website (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf).

+ A Person is deemed to have “positive antibody result” if he/she possess positive result proof of a recognised serology antibody test conducted in Hong Kong within the past 91 days (13 weeks). List of Recognised Private Medical Laboratories for Conducting Recognised Antibody Test is available at the Government’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website at (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_local_antibodytesting.pdf)

@ Upon arrival at Hong Kong, you must pay attention to your health condition, take body temperature twice daily and report to your shipping company/agent. If you feel unwell, please call 2125 1133 (have stayed in Mainland, Macao or Taiwan) or 2125 1999 (have stayed in all overseas countries/territories). You are allowed to operate another trip and must wear a surgical mask during work.

If you have any enquiries about the quarantine arrangement, please contact duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702.