



**Subject:** Covid-19 - New Crew Change Procedure

**Notification:** 25- C

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear All,

The Directorate of Maritime Affairs has now issued “Guidance on the crew change activities and Control of (COVID-19) at the ports. Shipping Agents has to follow the below orders for crew changes which will be facilitated at SOHAR Port.

The (COVID-19) test and quarantine compliance has to be arranged by shipping agents for all crew change services. The shipping agent has to liaise directly with hereunder mentioned authorities with prior notice. All expenses incurred in (COVID-19) test and associated travel, quarantine facility etc. to be settled by the shipping agent.

We hereby summarize those Guidance’s for your easy reference.

Please inform all ships calling SOHAR Port under your agency for information and necessary compliance.

**For Seamen crew departing from the ship to the Muscat Airport:**

- 1- The shipping agency should send a request with a list of crew departing from ship to the airport along with copies of their documents to the Port Health Department. The Port Health Department will write a letter to the Security Coordination at the ROP, with no objection in case requested by ROP.
- 2- **“24 hours”** before the travel date, the captain of the ship should send a letter to the Port Health Department stating that the departing crew’s are free of Covid-19 and that the Airport name and date of travel are specified in the letter to allow their disembarkation from the ship.
- 3- When disembarking from the ship to the airport, departing crew should pass through the Port Health Department for the Temperature measures and symptoms check and they will be provided with a message “to whom it may concern” from the Port Health Department.

**For Seamen crew coming from their countries to the Sultanate via Muscat Airport:**

1. The shipping agency should send a request to the Port Health Department with a list of crew arrivals and copies of their no objection documents. The Port Health Department will write a letter to the Security Coordination at the ROP with no objection in case requested by ROP.
2. The shipping agency should send a letter to the ROP immigration and health department at the Airport stating that the crew will stay for less than **7 days** in the Sultanate. This shipping agent should also clarify whether the ship that the crew are signing on is an international ship or a local ship, this is to avoid wearing the bracelet for the international ship crew. This letter should be send before the crew arrives in the Sultanate to present it to the proper authorities at the Airport.

3. After the crew arrives to the Sultanate, The Shipping Agent will arrange the stay of the crew at the hotel until the result of the Covid-19 test appears. All expenses will be settled by the Shipping Agency.
4. If the COVID-19 test comes “negative”, the crew will be allowed to leave the hotel and sign on to the ship and the port health department should be informed. The crew should be in quarantine at the ship for a period of 14 days and they should measure their temperature twice a day and the symptoms check has to be always Monitored. This will be the responsibility of the captain of the vessel.
5. If the COVID-19 test comes “positive”, the crew will be in quarantine at the hotel for 14 days, and the shipping agency should arrange for the patient/s to be treated. All expenses will be settled by the Shipping Agency.
6. In case the ship is a **local ship**, the crew will have to wear a bracelet from the airport and they should take it off after 14 days of quarantining at the ship “*in the event that the result is negative*” and returned back to the nearest health complex/hospital. If the bracelet has been destroyed, the shipping agency will be charged a fine of up to 200 Omani Riyals.
7. In case of the ship is an **international ship** and the result of the Covid-19 test is “*negative*”, the crew will not be asked to wear a bracelet. However, the responsibility of the quarantining and symptoms check will be under the captain of the ship who will be also responsible to measure the temperature of the crew twice a day and follow up on symptoms for a period of 14 days.

In case of questions our team can be contacted at: [OPS@soharportandfreezone.com](mailto:OPS@soharportandfreezone.com)

Thanking you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. Batti Al Shibli  
Harbor Master- SOHAR Port and Freezone

***It all starts here***

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