



CUSTOMS DIRECTIVE 4. March 22nd 2020.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The Coronavirus Steering Committee has formally updated its Travel Advisory as Joint Travel Advisory 4. Accordingly, I have issued an updated Customs Directive effective from the date of this directive that should be read in conjunction with Joint Travel Advisory 4.

This directive applies to Cargo vessels, Ore vessels, Bulk carriers, Tankships, Supply and Bunker vessels, Logging vessels, Fishing vessels, Pleasure craft, Yachts and Super yachts, Cruise liners and other marine and scientific vessels.

1. All vessels arriving in the Solomon Islands may elect to clear formalities in Honiara or at Noro.
2. All vessels departing the Solomon Islands may elect to clear formalities in Honiara or at Noro.
3. No Health, Customs nor Immigration clearance services will be authorised at any other location, including at suffrage wharves.
4. Health Officials shall be first to board any vessel or craft. Health Authorities shall have the responsibility to clear the vessel from a health perspective. If an all-clear for medical assessment is given by Health, then Immigration and Customs shall board the vessel for subsequent clearance of cargo, passengers and crew.

5. If Health authorities do NOT grant clearance for any passenger or crew, the entire vessel shall be deemed to have been placed into immediate quarantine until such health clearance or condition is complied with and the determined time frame has passed.

Obligations upon the vessel Master

6. Masters must report any illness on board to Health at the time of boarding.
7. If any crew member or passenger has joined a vessel (or disembarked due to health reasons) en-route to Solomon Islands, the master must ensure that person's prior travel history is clearly documented. Even if that person boarded the vessel in a non-affected country the prior travel history will determine the commencement of the 14 day period of quarantine for the entire voyage, regardless of where the voyage originally commenced.
8. All inwards Noro vessels placed under quarantine shall immediately sail under yellow Quarantine Flag to Honiara Port and must lie at anchor at sea and complete any quarantine time period and comply with any condition set by Health Authorities.
9. Supplies to quarantined vessels can be made during a quarantine period, however Masters must ensure that suppliers are not permitted to come on board the vessel.
10. Masters shall ensure no temporary visitors come aboard a quarantined vessel. This shall be strictly enforced with relevant penalties for non-compliance.
11. Royal Solomon Island Police Force will be monitoring compliance

Cruise Ships and Yachts

12. Cruise liners: will not be permitted into the country for the next 90 days - until 20th June 2020

Yachts: can only enter the country if seeking shelter from dangerous and inclement weather conditions. Any yacht using this provision will be quarantined for 14 days calculated under article 7

Shipping Agents

13. All shipping agents should ensure forward vessel voyage details and crew and passenger details are provided to Health/Customs/Immigration as early as possible to help us to mitigate risk.

Guidance Rules relating to vessel quarantine:

The time limit for quarantine is 14 clear days at sea at the time of arrival in the Solomon Islands before clearance will be given. Vessels arriving within the 14 day window must remain at anchor / offshore until the 14 day period has elapsed and Health clearance given.

In emergency situations only, decided individually by the Steering Committee, variations to this criteria may be permitted – for example, supply by fuel tanker when local national supplies are determined by the Committee to be critically low. “Urgent” General cargo and “perishables” will not be accepted as an eligible excuse to relax our vigilance and will be subject to the quarantine period.

Upon arrival, Health Officials shall board the vessel and determine the state of health of passengers and crew. Based upon their assessment, Health shall decide to either

(a) Issue a health clearance and permit boarding of the vessel by Customs and Immigration

At this point in time, the presence of Coronavirus has not been confirmed in SI, although there are some persons whom have been placed under precautionary quarantine.

These measures shall remain in force until further notice. Customs Directive 3 is hereby cancelled.

Jim Sutton

Comptroller of Customs