COVID-19 – Considerations for vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland
Issue date: 08 April 2020

PPA Port of Port Hedland remains guided by relevant Australian Commonwealth and State Government Agencies in relation to establishing required protocols to manage the COVID-19 issue during the course of port operations.

This Marine Safety Bulletin is to:
- Provide ship operators with links to relevant and official information issued by the relevant Australian Government Agencies.
- Outline the current requirements and considerations for vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland.

The Federal Department of Health, has issued three information bulletins specific to the marine industry:
1) COVID-19 information for marine pilots
2) COVID-19 Information for marine industry
3) COVID-19 information for cruise ships

These bulletins are frequently revised based on updated health guidance. Latest information is available on the website https://www.health.gov.au

The Western Australian State Government has also issued declarations under the State of Emergency that applies in the State. Declarations must be adhered to when any crew member is on land. The declarations can be accessed here.

What vessels have additional COVID-19 isolation requirements?

- International cruise vessels
- Vessels with crew or passengers who have left, or transited through, any country other than Australia in the last 14 days
- Vessels that have ill crew or passengers, or suspected or actual cases of COVID-19 on board
- Vessels that have crew or passengers who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

The following conditions are applicable for ALL ships calling at the Port of Port Hedland:

For vessels whose last port of call is in a currently designated ‘High risk’ country – China, South Korea, Italy, Iran (and any other country that may subsequently be added to the list), a 14-day quarantine period applies.
- Vessels will be considered for berthing on completion of the 14-day quarantine period, subject to no crew having fallen ill or showing COVID-19 symptoms during the 14-day period or prior berthing.
- Crew temperature records taken twice daily must be maintained on board and made available to PPA when requested.
- The transit time from departing the last international Port in a High-Risk country to berthing at Port Hedland will be taken into account as part of the 14-day quarantine period.
For vessels whose last port of call is from a ‘Non-High risk’ country and expecting to berth within the 14-day quarantine period, **PPA will adopt a risk-based approach** to facilitate the berthing with the following considerations:

- Details of the previous Port calls and operations conducted – Type of cargo operations / crew changes / other visitors on board / nature of interaction with marine pilots and shore personnel, etc.
- The 14-day quarantine period is applicable to the vessel in case of crew change taking place within the 14-day period prior arrival at Port Hedland.
- All crew declared as healthy with no display of COVID-19 symptoms. This will be evidenced by temperature records for all crew, taken twice daily for the 7 days prior to berthing. Masters must send an amended ‘Human Health update’ to Quarantine Authorities, in case of any crew showing symptoms of fever / runny nose / cough / sore throat / shortness of breath.

For vessels that have only bunkered / provisioned at the last Port (Non-High risk country), and are expecting to berth within the 14-day quarantine period, **PPA will adopt a risk-based approach** to facilitate the berthing with the following considerations:

- Ship operator guidance to crew regarding COVID-19, social distancing (maintaining a minimum of 1.5 metres distance) and control measures during interaction with shore personnel – marine pilots, agents, bunker barge crew, stores suppliers, etc.
- The PPA Port Hedland COVID-19 vessel questionnaire must be submitted via the ship’s agent to PPA for review.
- Photo evidence is recommended to show the precautions implemented.
- Vessels must comply with the sanitation requirements mentioned in the accompanying appendix.

Other requirements and considerations:

- All vessels calling at PPA operated common-user berths (PH 1, 2, 3 and Utah Point) must complete the PPA Port Hedland COVID-19 vessel questionnaire and submit the same to PPA via the vessel’s agent.
- In case of crew change or any maritime crew wishing to disembark from a vessel onto land in Western Australia, they will need to apply for prior approval under paragraph 27(r) of the current directions before disembarking from the vessel, regardless of how long the vessel has been travelling since its last international port visit and then, the crew member will be required to enter into 14-days quarantine in a quarantine centre as directed by the local authorities.
- Prior POB (berthing and unberthing), the Master must ensure strict adherence to the requirements mentioned in the appendix to this Marine Safety Bulletin – “Requirements and considerations for all vessels prior to pilot boarding and during pilotage passage”.

Notes:

- Berthing within the 14-day quarantine period is at the sole discretion of PPA – Port Hedland.
- Due to the rapidly evolving situation, PPA may revise the requirements of this bulletin without notice and as required.
- This bulletin is supplemented by an appendix.
- In line with current state restrictions, seafarer shore leave access is suspended (with certain exceptions which will require prior approval (as above).

Any questions or feedback regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin should be addressed to the Port Hedland Marine Operations Team (PPAsipman@pilbaraports.com.au).