



Vessel Traffic Centre

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

From:	Director of Marine	To:	
Tel No.:	2233 7808	Attention	
Fax No.	2858 6646	Your Fax no.:	
E-mail:	pmovtc1@mardep.gov.hk	Your e-mail:	
Ref. No:	(39) in MD-VTC-F01-095-01C- 002-P001	Your ref. No.:	
Date:	15 June 2021	Total Pages:	9 (1+8)

To All Shipping Agents/ Companies in Hong Kong,

Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services & Updated Quarantine Arrangement of Visiting Vessels

Your attention is drawn to the attached self-explanatory letter from Department of Health regarding the "Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services & Updated Quarantine Arrangement of Visiting Vessels". Shipping Services refer to bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents. Please be advised that the aforementioned exemption conditions become effective from 15 June 2021.

You may wish to note that Annex C has been updated according to the aforesaid exemption conditions while details of exemption conditions could be found in Annex A.

Regarding submission for Pre-Arrival Notification (PAN) for the purposes of the abovementioned services, electronic business system (eBS) will be updated accordingly in due course. If you submit the PAN by fax 2858 6646 or by email to pmovtc1@mardep.gov.hk, please submit together with **a port of call list of the vessel within 21 days**.

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 -- Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services & Updated Quarantine Arrangement of Visiting Vessels

傳染病處



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

保障市民健康
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Communicable
Disease
Branch

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港口衛生科
Port Health Division

15 June 2021

To All Shipping Agents / Companies in Hong Kong,

**Exemption Conditions Applicable to Goods Vessels
Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services
&
Updated Quarantine Arrangement of Visiting Vessels**

We would like to inform you that from 15 June 2021 onwards, exemption will be granted to crew members onboard the non-cargo operating goods vessels visiting Hong Kong purely for shipping services¹ from compulsory quarantine if fulfilled all specified exemption conditions (**Annex A**). We would like to draw your attention to the following highlights of the exemption conditions:

- Sea crew onboard goods vessels purely for shipping services which have called the ports of extremely high risk places specified in **Group A1** under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H)² during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong **are not exempted from compulsory quarantine arrangement.**
- Crew change (including sign-on and sign-off crew) **is NOT permitted** for goods vessels visiting Hong Kong purely for shipping services.
- Shipping agents / companies are suggested to handle signing / exchange of documents by e-mail transmission as far as possible, or through a carrying basket or disposable plastic bags transferring between the supply barge and



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control

¹ Shipping services refers to bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents.

² The list of Group A1 specified places under Cap. 599H is available at the Government's Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website. (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html>)

the goods vessel. Please refer to the attached health precautionary protocol (**Annex B**) for more information.

- Shipping companies / agents are required to ensure that the goods vessels will only take shipping services provided by the shipping services companies which have complied with the conditions set in **Annex A**. If a goods vessel (or the sea crew on board) or ship agent fails to comply with the exemption conditions, Marine Department may disallow the ship agent from arranging goods vessels to visit Hong Kong for bunker and other shipping services for one month.

You may also wish to note that the quarantine arrangement for visiting vessels has been updated. Please refer to **Annex C** - "*Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels*" for details. If you have any enquiry on exemption conditions, please contact the duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702.

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

Yours faithfully,



(Dr YEUNG Yiu-hong)
for Director of Health

- Annex A : 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 : Health Precautionary Protocol for Handling Carrying Baskets or Disposable Plastic Bags Transferring between Local Supply Barges and 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 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 extremely high risk places specified in Group A1 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 A1 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.

Health Precautionary Protocol for Handling Carrying Baskets or Disposable Plastic Bags Transferring between Local Supply Barges and Goods Vessels Visiting Hong Kong Purely for Shipping Services (viz. bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents, etc.)

Signing / exchange of documents should be handled by e-mail transmission as far as possible. For goods vessels which **have not** called the ports of extremely high risk places specified in Group A1 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, the following set of health precautionary protocol should be followed if there is an operational need to transfer documents between the supply barges and the visiting goods vessels through a carrying basket or disposable plastic bags -

- (a) Only documents directly relevant to shipping or ship service operation should be transferred through a carrying basket or disposable plastic bags to / from the goods vessels concerned.
- (b) Workers onboard the local supply barge and the visiting goods vessel should **disinfect** the carrying basket, pen and folders containing the documents **every time after the basket is transferred to either the supply barge or the visiting vessel**. Adequate number of towels or wipes which are wet enough by soaking in 1 in 49 diluted household bleach or 70-80% alcohol (only for surfaces which cannot tolerate bleach) should be used for disinfection. Spraying disinfectants are not recommended as this practice could be harmful and would not reduce the risk of viral transmission. A plastic bag, if used, should be **disposed of immediately after it is transferred to either the supply barge or the visiting vessel**.
- (c) Workers handling the carrying basket or disposable plastic bags (as mentioned in (b) above) should put on appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including surgical mask, eye protection (goggles or face shield), gown and gloves. Gloves should be changed if soiled or damaged, and taken off at the end of procedure, followed by proper hand hygiene.

Annex C: Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels
(15 June 2021)

	Visited Group A1 specified place(s) (extremely high-risk) or Group A2 specific place(s) (very high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong #		Did not visit Group A1 specified place(s) (extremely high-risk) or Group A2 specific place(s) (very high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong #	
	Purpose of Visit and Type of Personnel	Quarantine Arrangement	Places(s) visited within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong	Quarantine Arrangement
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"> Did not visit Group A1 specified place(s) or Group A2 specific place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance[@] only under specified conditions
	For shipping services ⁵ without crew change (Crew)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ever visited Group A1 specified place(s) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not visit Group A1 specified place(s) or Group A2 specific place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical surveillance[@] only under specified conditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ever visited Group A2 specified place(s) but did <u>not</u> visit Group A1 specified place(s) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong 		
	Without cargo operation &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taiwan Group B or Group C specified place(s) 	<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

	Not for shipping services^s (Crew)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainland China ● Macao ● Group D specified place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ● Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days[^]
	Non-crew (Passenger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taiwan ● Group B or Group C specified place(s) 	<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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainland China ● Macao ● Group D specified place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ● Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days[^]
Fishing vessels (including local and non-local fishing vessels)	Crew (including fish collectors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taiwan ● Group B or Group C specified place(s) 	<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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Macao ● Group D specified place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ● Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainland China only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medical surveillance
	Non-crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taiwan ● Group B or Group C specified place(s) 	<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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainland China ● Macao ● Group D specified place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ● Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days[^]
Other vessels	All persons on board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taiwan ● Group B or Group C specified place(s) 	<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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainland China ● Macao ● Group D specified place(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ● Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days[^]

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>)

@ 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.

§ Shipping Services refer to bunkering, reprovisioning of necessities and switching of shipping documents.

* 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).

^ For persons who have been to at-risk place(s) in Mainland China that are temporarily inapplicable under the Return2hk Scheme (see the list at: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/at_risk_places_temporarily_inapplicable_underreturn2hk.pdf) in the past 14 days, shortening of compulsory quarantine period for fully vaccinated persons will not be applicable.

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