



Date: 02/08/2020

التاريخ: 2020/08/02

## **Circular No. (12) 2020**

### **Adopting the Protocol of resuming UAE Maritime activities with safety measures and the crew changes in UAE Ports and Waters.**

To:

- All Port Authorities in UAE.
- All ship owners.
- All ships managers, operators, agents and anyone who engaged in providing services for seafarer's onboard ships.
- All seafarers serving on board ships.
- To whomsoever it may concern.

In light of the continuous coordination with the competent authorities and the success of the efforts to contain the pandemic Corona Virus (COVID-19) in UAE, The Federal Transport Authority has decided to adopt and enforce from the date of this circular **the Protocol of resuming UAE Maritime activities with safety measures** (as attached) as part of the procedures for the gradual return of maritime activities in UAE.

In recognition of the seafarer's role in the shipping industry and the continuity of global supply chains and cargo flow and based on the outcomes of the Maritime Summit on Crew Changes held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 with the participation of UAE to facilitate crew changes, the protocol includes the permission to resume of crew changes activities in UAE ports and waters.

For further clarification please contact:  
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## **تعميم رقم (12) لسنة 2020**

### **اعتماد بروتوكول عودة الأعمال لأنشطة القطاع البحري وفقاً لتدابير السلامة واستئناف العمل بتغيير أفراد أطقم السفن في مياه وموانئ الدولة**

إلى:

- جميع سلطات الموانئ في الدولة.
- جميع مالكي السفن.
- جميع مديري السفن والمشغلين والوكلاء وأي شخص معني في تقديم الخدمات للبحارة العاملين على متن السفن .
- جميع البحارة العاملين على السفن .
- من يهمه الأمر .

في ظل التنسيق المستمر مع الجهات المختصة ونجاح جهود احتواء جائحة فيروس كورونا (COVID-19) في الدولة، فقد قررت الهيئة الاتحادية للمواصلات البرية والبحرية واعتباراً من تاريخ هذا التعميم اعتماد وإنفاذ بروتوكول عودة الأعمال لأنشطة القطاع البحري وفقاً لتدابير السلامة والمرفق مع هذا التعميم وذلك ضمن الإجراءات التخفيفية التي تنتهجها الدولة في هذه المرحلة، تمهيداً لعودة الأعمال في القطاع البحري تدريجياً إلى حالتها الطبيعية.

وتقديرًا واعترافاً منها بدور البحارة في نشاط النقل البحري ودورهم الحيوي في استمرارية سلاسل الامداد وتدفق البضائع، وبناء على مخرجات القمة البحرية الدولية لتغيير اطقم السفن التي عقدت في 9 يوليو 2020 بمشاركة دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة لتسهيل استبدال اطقم السفن، فقد تضمن البروتوكول الموافقة على إعادة العمل بنشاط تغيير افراد اطقم السفن في مياه وموانئ الدولة.

للاستفسار برجاء مخاطبة الهيئة على البريد الإلكتروني  
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## 1. Crew change procedures

Crew change is permitted in the UAE ports and waters, taking into considerations the following:

### 1.1 Signing-on:

- Obtain a seafarer entry visa (96 hours' visa).
- The compulsory laboratory test for all seafarers wishing to enter the country without any exemption. The shipping agent should bear the responsibility to return the seafarer to his ship or provide a safe medical shelter if the COVID test was positive in accordance with the required instructions imposed by the health authorities in UAE.



## 1.2 Signing-off:

- **Provide the port authority with the Maritime Declaration of Health confirming the crew are free from any symptoms or epidemics, subject to penalties in force in the UAE in the event of presenting an incorrect health declaration report.**
- **Provide the immigration office in the port with a copy of the same above mentioned declaration.**
- **Obtain confirmed flight booking (Departure Ticket) on the nearest available flight.**
- **Obtain a seafarer entry visa (96 hours' visa).**
- **The seafarer should go through the required COVID 19 test as specified by the UAE health authorities.**
- **in case of Positive result of the test, the shipping agent should follow the required instructions applied by the competent authorities**



## 2. Dry Docks and Ship Repairs Facilities Procedures

1. Provide dry docks and ship repair facilities with the Maritime Declaration of Health, that seafarers are free of any infectious diseases or epidemics before accepting the vessel.
2. Dry docks and ship repair facilities measure seafarers' temperatures on a daily basis until their departure, in anticipation of any Covid-19 cases.
3. Restrict seafarers' movement around to prevent unnecessary contact in the docks and maintenance workshops
4. Appoint a designated person by the dry dock or the ship repairs facilities to record the names of the supervisors and their employees on a daily basis those who are in charge of the maintenance of the ship, in order to facilitate the information of those in contact with the suspected cases on the ship later.
5. Follow all required isolation procedures on the ship in the event that there is a suspected case of Covid-19 or any other contagious diseases, and promptly inform the concerned health authorities.



### **3. Ships and Off Shore Supply Vessels Procedures**

- 1. Request a Maritime Declaration of Health (according to the model provided by the WHO) and a pledge by the captain that confirms the vessel is free of any contagious diseases, as an alternative for the requirements for any tests.**
- 2. Imposing quarantine on ships and marine units suspected of having symptoms of infectious diseases or any epidemics between their crew. The suspected ship or marine unit is not allowed to carry out any operations in UAE waters and ports except after going through the required tests as specified by the UAE health authorities.**
- 3. Resume issuing Entry and Exit visas for seafarers with residence permits, who are working on national or foreign ships and off shore supply vessels which has a navigation license in the UAE, to ensure facilitation of its business and its transportation inside and outside the UAE.**



#### **4. Passenger Ships Procedures**

- 1. Maintain prohibiting Passenger ships from calling and docking in UAE waters and ports.**
- 2. Maintain prohibiting Passenger ships already docked at UAE ports from conducting any activity whatsoever.**

#### **5. Ferries Procedures**

**Continue to prohibit any passenger ferries activity at the present time in UAE waters and ports, with the exception of deporting the stranded passengers only, and after taking the necessary approvals from the local authorities in the UAE and the concerned embassies to ensure the smooth reception of them in the country of arrival.**

#### **6. Wooden Ships (Dhows) Procedures**

**Maintain existing procedures to prevent wooden ships (Dhows) from staying for more than 7 days, and not to receive the ships without confirming the presence of goods ready to be transported, in order to reduce the period of their stay in UAE waters.**



## 7. Yachts and Leisure Boats Procedures

- 1. Lift the restrictions on the use of leisure boats, yachts, commercial charter, pleasure and touring activities, taking into consideration adhering to the approved capacity of 50% of the actual vessel capacity at this stage, and complying with the approved health guidelines and using the personal protective equipment.**
- 2. Allow visiting foreign flag yachts to call UAE waters, ports and marinas, and resume issuing the sailing permit for them by the Federal Transport Authority –Land & Maritime, so long as they present Maritime Declaration of Health (according to the model provided by World Health Organization) confirming that the crew are free from any symptoms or contagious diseases before arriving at the first point of entry in the UAE, subject to the penalties in force in the UAE in the event of presenting an incorrect health declaration report.**
- 3. Restrict the use of the Jet ski by its rider only, without allowing additional passenger.**



## 8. Shore Passes Procedures

1. Suspend the 24 hours' shore passes (permits to visit the city), with possible exception for seafarers on board yachts, recreational boats and ships which has been in the country for a period of more than 14 days, provided that they comply with the enforced health requirements in the UAE.
2. The agent should provide the seafarers with all Covid-19 pandemic relevant laws and precautionary measures followed in the UAE and the importance of adhering to them, in addition he should provide them with the information related to the penalties imposed in case of violation, he should document their acknowledgment of receiving these information from him.
3. The port should measure seafarer's temperature before authorizing them to leave the port gate as a precautionary measure to monitor any symptoms that may indicate infection with Covid-19.

## 9. Protocol Review and Update Mechanism

In coordination with the concerned entities in the UAE, the competent authorities will review and update the protocol periodically and when needed in the event of substantial developments in the Covid-19 pandemic procedures.