



## NEWSLETTER

### **Covid-19: Updates in the North and Northeast ports and Crew Change proceedings in Brazil**

The current pandemic moment has caused the Brazilian federal government and the state governments to carry out coordinated actions, in order to avoid restrictions to cargo circulation during lockdown.

Following the understanding of the G20 and the IMO/UN, the Federal Government declared shipping to be fundamental to the country's supply chain and the economy not to collapse;

#### **Updates**

In the beginning of this month, the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) published the Informative Note 02/2020, providing a better interpretation on the rules regarding crew change, and relaxing the restrictions on repatriation processes.

In this Informative Note, ANVISA expressly states that do not apply anymore the terms of the Technical Note 86/2020, by which the repatriation of seafarers depended on the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The necessity of such approval became obsolete since the Ministries of Justice, Health and Infrastructure signed Ordinance 225/2020, which, making reference to the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (1958), establishes a safety protocol and relaxed the process for the crewmembers repatriation.

The Federal Police and National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) still need to be contacted and provided with information on the situation of the crewmembers who are to be disembarked for repatriation.

The entry of foreigners remains generally prohibited in Brazil, both by air and water. The exceptions to the seafarers exist only because cargo transportation/shipping sector is regarded as an essential service for supplying cities and the IMO had complained on the situation of seafarers who could not leave their vessels even when their contracts had expired, because the shipping company could not change the crewmembers, as the seafarers could not enter Brazilian territory.

Even so, the measures adopted due to COVID-19 continue to impact the routine of many ports in the North and Northeast of Brazil, as the restriction of the circulation of people and vehicles have side effects in the functioning of the delicate port logistics.

The air network continues to be severely restricted and with low demand, which ends up impacting the port / shipping sector, specifically the pilotage in the north of the country and the transport of surveyors / experts / crew and other professionals to more remote port areas.

#### **Santana (AP)**

- Reinforced controls by Health Authorities, as daily updates on crew members temperatures before free pratique granted.

- Immigration working from home office and all clearance will be done by electronic system. No papers are required.

- Crewmembers are not authorized to come alongside unless otherwise requested by local Authorities.
- Ports and terminals on skeleton staff

- All entrance clearances, boarding access to the vessels is highly suggested to be avoided and will be deeply checked by authorities, if not necessary it will not be granted.

- Due to issues in the aviation sector, pilots are struggling to reach the city in time, with some sailing maneuverers having been delayed. Upon suggestion of the pilot companies, charter flights are being used as an alternative, with the shipping companies paying for all the costs, until the situation is normalized.

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Municipal administration decrees curfew (except for essential activities) to take effect as of April 09. IFor these essential activities, workers must be wearing their company's uniform or name tag, to identify themselves and inform the authorities their line of work, be it in the port or while aboard the vessels.

### **Vila do Conde (PA)**

- Reinforced controls by Health Authorities, as per National standards

- Ports operations working with reduced staff due to risk of virus contamination, however without affecting any loading or discharge operation

- Crewmembers are not authorized to come alongside unless otherwise requested by local Authorities.

### **Itacoatiara (MA)**

Because of the rainy seasons and the lack of flights due to COVID-19, all night shift manoeuvres will be previously analysed by a Port Operations Specialist, taking into account the following conditions before approving the manoeuvres: river current ; amount of cargo and weather and crew.

Reinforced controls by Health Authorities, as daily updates on the crewmembers body temperature are required. Temperature measurement period to be confirmed.

Hermasa Terminal is minimizing the stay of their workers on vessel's deck, leading to the following changes:

- No availability of hand trimming. Loading plans must be adjusted considering it.

- Shifting of shiploader between holds will be done from shore side and shifts among the far end holds must be avoided at night time

- Mooring will be performed by shore side only, assisted by photos sent thru the agency
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### **ITAQUI/ ALUMAR / PDM (MA)**

São Luís, state capital with three ports, is reopening.

After the lockdowns on the capital and other cities were lifted on May 18th,

With such, previous restrictions are back in place. As transport and logistics are deemed essential services, the employees can leave their homes and work normally, with general caution measures.

#### **Port complexes**

Located in São Luís, the Public Port of Itaqui, the Ponta da Madeira Terminal and the ALUMAR Terminal are operating normally. Cargo Movement exempted from restrictions.

- Agents Port meeting, comercial visitors, workshops and training courses are suspended.
- Compulsory usage of facemask and gloves within Port premises and vessels.
- Crewmembers are not allowed to leave the vessel, except for medical needs. Crew change temporally suspended.

### **MUCURIBE / PECÉM (CE)**

June 1st – Lockdown ends in Fortaleza. Other cities are kept under lockdown.

Fortaleza, the state capital, is no longer under lockdown under lockdown, which lasted from May 8th. to May 31st.

After having accomplished the transition phase, the city is under phase 1 of 4.

There are barriers in the entries of some cities of the state under lockdown, but cargo transport is exempted from any restriction.

Port activity remains normal both in Mucuripe (Fortaleza) and Pecém.

- Many flights inbound to Fortaleza were cancelled due to the drop in the demand caused by the restrictions.
- Passenger Ships are not authorized to come alongside unless otherwise requested by local Authorities.
- Despite the lockdown, both Pecém and Fortaleza ports are functioning normally.

### **AREIA BRANCA / NATAL (RN)**

Rio Grande do Norte (RN) has two major ports. One of them is in Natal, the capital of the state, which is under general restrictions, with stores and offices closed so that people can stay at their homes. As essential services are exempted from these measures, cargo transport/shipping is normal, with typical restrictions on gatherings and personal contact.

The other port is the the Porto-Ilha, a port built for salt export in an artificial island deep sea, with a base in Areia Branca, a city which is the most important industrial pole for salt production in Brazil.

Areia Branca is under lockdown as of June 12th. The lockdown shall remain until June 21st. Apart from those who work in essential activities, people can only leave their houses for medical reasons and to buy

food. Cargo transport/shipping are also deemed essential activities, but it is not clear if the production of salt itself will be affected, which is unlikely as it generates much of the revenue of the municipality.

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Compulsory usage of facemask and gloves within Port premises and vessels.

#### **RECIFE (PE)**

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Compulsory usage of facemask and gloves within Port premises and vessels.

- Crewmembers are not allowed to leave the vessel, except for medical needs. Crew change temporarily under restrictions.

#### **MACEIÓ (AL)**

- Passenger Ships are not authorized to come alongside unless otherwise requested by local Authorities.

- Crew change under restrictions.

#### **TMIB (SE)**

- Reinforced controls by Health Authorities, as per National standards

#### **SALVADOR/COTEGIPE/ILHÉUS (BA)**

- Reinforced controls by Health Authorities, as per National standards

- Crewmembers are not authorized to come alongside unless otherwise requested by local Authorities.

- Strict policy for protective gear including face mask are also in force

Source: *Promare/Alphamar Agência Marítima*

