



№ 15/CIRC/MSD

27 / March / 2020

To: All Shipowners, Operators, agents, Pilots, Masters and Officers
of Merchant Ships, To Whom it May Concern

SUBJECT: PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) IN GEORGIA

REFERENCE: THIS CIRCULAR WITHDRAWS 12/CIRC/MSD FROM 16 MAR 2020

1. Since 02 March 2020, the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia has implemented different measures in order to avoid the risk of community spread of the CORONAVIRUS Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Georgia.
2. Government of Georgia has also put up health advisories at the sea checkpoints to inform travelers and ship crew on the precautionary measures to take when travelling, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices.
3. On March 21, Georgian President declared a nationwide state of emergency effective until April 21. According to President, the extraordinary decision is aimed at “protecting the public health and reducing the looming threat.” The President stated she had made the decision in response to the Prime Minister’s request and based upon the article 71 of the constitution.
4. Government of Georgia implemented dedicated web page (available in Georgian and English languages) <https://stopcov.gov.ge/>.
5. MTA Georgia implemented MARITIME HEALTH DECLARATION together with its Annexes - ATTACHMENT TO MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH FOR CREW AND PASSENGERS.

Border Restrictions

6. As part of coronavirus (COVID-19) preventive measures, the Government of Georgia made a decision to impose restrictions on the entry of foreign nationals. The restrictions will become effective from 18 March 2020, 00:00. The restrictions will apply to any foreign national except:

- Representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to Georgia and their family members;
- Mixed families where one of the spouses or their under-age child is a citizen of Georgia;
- Persons arriving in Georgia as part of humanitarian mission – if trip of such mission (doctors, volunteers) to Georgia becomes a necessity;
- Individuals who have been granted the status of stateless person by respective authorities of Georgia;
- Individuals holding status-neutral travel documents;
- Individuals having a refugee status in Georgia;
- The issue of official delegations will be decided on a case-to-case basis.

7. With immediate effect, Georgia will cease port calls for all cruise vessels.

Further Precautionary Measures

8. All ships calling the Georgian ports shall at least 24 hours before calling the port submit MARITIME HEALTH DECLARATION together with its Annexes - ATTACHMENT TO MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH FOR CREW AND PASSENGERS.

9. If a Ship, her Crew or Passengers entered the countries considered to be High Risk countries (i.e. Peoples Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark or Austria) within last 21 days they will be subject to Thermal Screening by the authorized officers of Customs Department of the Revenue Service of Georgia.

10. While ship's Master has the obligation to submit completed forms before entering Georgian ports, he/she is also responsible for observing further health of ship's crew and passengers while alongside, at anchorage points or in waiting areas and shall communicate any suspicious cases to the Harbour Master and appropriate authorities of subject Port without undue delay.

11. If submitted documents show the existence of COVID-19 case or after screening the existence of COVID-19 is proved on board the ship, all possible contacts will be restricted with the subject vessel according to the recommendations issued by the World Health Organization.

12. Pilots acting in Georgian ports must use personal safety equipment while going on-board of all ships, including: Mask, Single Use Gloves and Safety Glasses.

13. Harbor Master office requests all crew to put on masks and PPE required for the prevention of spread of virus before meeting with pilot embarking on the weather deck. The Bridge team are also required to put on masks during pilotage. All vessels should follow this guideline closely.

Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY 

Tamar Ioseliani

