

CREW CHANGES IN THE NORDICS

2 November, 2020

As a response to ease the repatriation of the stranded seafarers during the present covid-19 pandemic, the guidelines for crew changes in the Nordics were introduced at the end of July. The seafarers are regarded as key persons in the global logistics chains with a critical function for ensuring the continuity of carriage of supplies. The well-being of the crews and possibilities for crew changes needed to be adjusted accordingly.

The routine crew changes are presently allowed in all Nordic countries. For covid-19 tests and quarantines the shipowners are recommended to follow the IMO general guidelines for Coronavirus "*Circular Letter No.4302/Add.14*". As per 1st November the following applies within the Nordics:

Denmark:

Covid-19 test: A person travelling on a seaman's book to embark a ship must, if traveling from a high-risk corona-country, present proof of a negative covid-19 test carried out no more than 72 hours before entry to Denmark. Otherwise no tests nor quarantines are required.

For entering a Danish port, the Master of the vessel needs to complete the Maritime Health Declaration.

Crew shore leaves: Not allowed.

Other: It is presently mandatory to wear facial masks in all public places indoors, including transport and airports, these must be provided by the vessel.

Greenland and Faroe Islands:

For their isolated locations Greenland and Faroe Islands are not natural hubs for crew changes. For the same reason different and stricter policies apply for crew changes, covid-19 tests and quarantines in Greenland and Faroe Islands. For further information please contact info@nordicpandi.com

Norway:

Covid-19 test: All persons entering Norway from a high-risk country should undergo 10 days of quarantine. This with an exception of a provision of a negative covid-19 test taken after arrival in Norway, which to be followed by a second negative test result, taking place earliest 48 hours after the first test, and no earlier than five days after arrival. When arriving from areas subject to quarantine, seafarers may be exempted from quarantine when travelling to/from a vessel as they are considered as having a position which is essential for the function of the society. Seafarers that have signed on in Norway are exempt from quarantine when the vessels return to Norway as long as no crew or passengers have been ashore, and no new crew or passengers have joined the vessel.

The entry to a port in Norway is subject to a Maritime Health Declaration completed by the Master.

Crew Shore leaves: Limited leaves are permitted in certain ports for crew having spent more than 10 days at sea.

Other: On and off signers must travel directly from/to airport/ship. No overnight stay in a hotel is allowed.



Sweden:

Covid-19 test: The Swedish authorities do not require a proof of a negative covid-19 from persons traveling with seamans book to Sweden to embark a vessel. The seafarers embarking the ships are not subject to quarantine requirements.

Maritime Health Declaration shall be completed by the Master of the vessel prior entering a Swedish port. If all crewmembers are healthy then vessel will be allowed to berth.

Crew shore leaves: Leaves onshore are restricted as per local rules at respective ports.

Finland:

Covid-19 test: No proof for a covid-19 test from a person travelling with a seamans book to embark a ship, nor a quarantine of any form is required by the authorities. This applies also to seafarers travelling from a country regarded as a high-risk corona-country.

On a practical level, the Finnish ports recommend the ship owners to follow the IMO general guidelines for Coronavirus "*Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14 "Coronavirus (COVID-19)"*".

Crew shore leaves: Permitted.

Other: Transportation between the vessel and airport should be arranged directly without any stops or overnight accommodation. Facial masks recommended in the public transportation.

Crew members are entitled for hospital treatment in emergency cases, whether the emergency is due to covid-19 or other critical incident. In such cases the Master needs to contact the Radio Medical.

The above is subject to changes by the respective governments on a short notice. For most up-dated information you are welcome to contact us at info@nordicpandi.com

NORDIC P&I GROUP serves You 24/7

Norway: + 47 2241 5905

Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands: + 45 5370 4075

Sweden: + 46 728 85 3805

Finland: + 358 207 309 892

Mariika V-Poulsen, LL.M., Director, Nordic P&I Group, Denmark