



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 31 March 2020

Marine Notice No. 21 of 2020

COVID-19 Lockdown: South African Ports Open for Cargo Operations

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, MASTERS, SHIPS AGENTS; RECOGNISED ORGANISATIONS, AUTHORISED AGENCIES, SAFETY OFFICERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

To be read in conjunction with Marine Notice 20 of 2020, Marine Notice 19 of 2020, Marine Notice 18 of 2020, Marine Notice 16 of 2020, Marine Notice 15 of 2020, Marine Notice 14 of 2020, and Marine Notice 25 of 2014.

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform all stakeholders regarding Port Operations and the movement of Cargo through South African Ports during the lockdown period



IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

**THIS MARINE NOTICE IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
MARINE NOTICE 18 OF 2020 SOUTH AFRICA: 21-DAY LOCKDOWN**

DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 10(7) OF THE DIRECTIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 27(2) OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO.57 OF 2002): MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID -19 IN THE SEA PORTS

5. Prohibition on cruise ships calling at any of the sea ports

- (1) No crew changes are permitted in all commercial ports until further notice.
- (2) Cruise ships are prohibited from calling at any of the sea ports except the disembarkation of a returning South African crew and a permanent resident.
- (3) South African citizens and permanent residents are advised to refrain from use of this form of travel until further notice.
- (4) **The loading and off -loading of cargo in and out of commercial ports is permitted.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** On 23 March 2020, the President of the Republic declared a lockdown, effective from 23:59 on Thursday, 26 March 2020, for a period of 21 days, to stop the spread of the COVID-19 corona virus until 23:59 on Thursday, 16 April 2020.
- 1.2** In compliance with the lockdown, the Transnet National Port Authority (TNPA) has sent out numerous communications on how the ports will be operating during this period.
- 1.3** In support of this, the South African Maritime Safety Authority, on behalf of the Department of Transport, hereby would like to inform all stakeholders that:-

ALL SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS REMAIN OPEN FOR PORT OPERATIONS

CARGO OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN ALL PORTS

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ALL TYPES OF CARGO WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE LOADED AND OFF LOADED

- 1.4** The Department of Transport recognises that there have been numerous instructions distributed by various entities, causing confusion amongst various entities, service providers and shipping companies.
- 1.5** The Department of Transport would therefore like to clarify all requirements during the lockdown period.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS

- 2.1** All South African Commercial Ports will remain operational for Cargo Work

| WESTERN CAPE PORTS | EASTERN CAPE PORTS | KWA-ZULU NATAL PORTS |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cape Town | Port Elizabeth | Durban |
| Saldanha | Port of Ngqura | Richards Bay |
| Mossel Bay | East London | |

3. CARGO OPERATIONS

- 3.1 Following on the initial announcement by the President, there have been changes such as the enablement of the mining companies to approach their regulator Ministry on an individual basis and seek authorisation to continue operations, albeit on a limited basis.
- 3.2 Government has now decided that in the interest of ensuring a functional supply chain across all ports, that all cargoes will be accepted for loading and off-loading. Where possible, essential goods should receive preferential treatment over non-essential goods.
- 3.3 Transnet will be in a position to communicate which of its operations will be reactivated with the relevant customers and logistics partners.
- 3.4 Transnet will reactivate certain of its operations, these would be at a reduced level and not full capacity. The reactivated operations will be dictated to by the applicable regulatory framework, national priorities and contribution to the health of the economy and Transnet's ability to deploy its resources, having regard to people safety, which is of paramount importance.
- 3.5 Transnet's current priorities, in addition to all the essential services previously communicated, are:
- .1 The integrated container logistics system mainly around the Port of Durban and the link to the economic hub in Gauteng – ensuring that the complex system remains efficient to enable the movement of priority and essential containerized goods; this includes the movement of non-essential cargo to City Deep, only for purposes of decongesting the Port of Durban,
 - .2 The heavy haul rail and ports export system from the Northern Cape to the Port of Saldanha; and
 - .3 The domestic and export Coal and other GFB cargo through the Port of Richards Bay.
- 3.6 All other specific approvals granted by Government, which are dependent on the rest of the South African rail and ports system will be considered on a case by case basis, and our ability to respond responsibly will be communicated directly to customers making applications based on Government approvals granted.

**Please ensure all applications and evidence of approvals are submitted to the Transnet
Customer Nerve Center via email at**

transnet.cnc@transnet.net

- 3.7 Commodity managers and key account executives normally dealing with each customer remains the primary point of contact and channel of communication with all our customers.
- ### 4. STEVEDORING OPERATIONS
- 4.1 The provision of Transnet's service is subject to customers and their cargo handlers/siding operators taking necessary measures to protect Transnet staff who interface with their operations.
- 4.2 All port personnel (both Transnet, private stevedoring and any other category of employees) must have access to hygiene services, e.g. sanitation, soap and water which each employer shall cause to be provided together with standard operating procedures to ensure the highest hygiene practices.
- 4.3 This therefore means strict adherence to health and safety protocols will not be compromised.
- 4.4 Customers must provide Transnet with the Business Continuity Plans (BCP) and update Transnet daily on the status of their employees.

5. VESSEL OPERATIONS

5.1 Masters are to ensure that where possible the following standards are adhered to by the ship's officers and ratings:

- .1 Social Distancing maintained (between 1-2 meters between persons)
- .2 Crew to follow hand hygiene protocols i.e. regular washing of hands (20 seconds or more)
- .3 Personal Protective Equipment to be utilised i.e. Face Masks, Gloves, Boiler Suits, Disposable Boiler Suits (where possible), Safety Boots, Hard Hats, Safety Glasses
- .4 Any medical condition that develops during the ports stay are to be reported to Port Health immediately, focusing specifically on the following symptoms:
 - a. Dry Cough
 - b. Consistent Fever (>38.5°C)
 - c. Difficulty in Breathing (severe cases)
 - d. Tiredness

5.2 If any crew member displays these symptoms, they are to be immediately isolated until advised otherwise by Port Health.

5.3 Failure to comply may result in unduly delays to vessels in port or prevent cargo operations from continuing.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARITIME NATIONAL JOINT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (MNJOC) FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE MARITIME SECTOR DURING THE COVID 19 DISASTER MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Department of Transport has established a Maritime National Joint Operations Committee in order to coordinate the maritime sector for the period of the COVID 19 Disaster Management.

6.2 The MNJOC is linked to the National Command Council and comprises the following entities

- a. Department of Transport
- b. Transnet National Ports Authority
- c. SAMSA
- d. Ports Regulator

All queries related to the maritime sector during this period can be addressed to:

mnjoc@samsa.org.za

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