To All Shipping Agents/Companies in Hong Kong,

Updated exemption condition for crew members of goods vessels with cargo operations which have called for ports of Group A1 specified places under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong

Point-to-point transportation requirements in crew change process

Please note that the exemption conditions for crew members of goods vessels with cargo operations has been updated as in Annex A. From 12 May 2021 onwards, goods vessels entering Hong Kong for cargo operation which have called for ports of Group A1 specified places under Cap. 599H during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong will be subject to additional conditions. We would like to draw your attention to the following highlights:

- No crew change (including sign-on and sign-off crew) is permitted for goods vessels which have called for ports of extremely high risk place specified in Group A1 under Cap. 599H during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong. These vessels will be allowed to enter Hong Kong for cargo operation without crew change. All crew members should remain on-board the vessels during the stay of the vessels in Hong Kong waters and should not get ashore; and

- Shipping companies / agents should indicate in the crew change application to the Marine Department whether the vessels have called for ports of any “Group A1 specified places” under Cap 599H within 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong.

The list of Group A1 specified places under Cap. 599H is available at the Government’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website. (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html) You may also wish to note that the quarantine arrangement for visiting vessels has been
updated. Please refer to Annex B for the "Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels" for reference.

We would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the point-to-point transportation requirements in the crew change process. The Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health issued the "Guidelines for vehicles providing point-to-point transportation arrangements for exempted persons (air crew, sea crew and others)" (Annex C). You and your agents / land transportation service providers must strictly follow the guidelines during the point-to-point transportation process for the sea crew members whilst commuting between the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and Government dockyard / container terminals. Shipping companies / agents failing to comply with the guidelines will be denied crew change applications for one month by the Marine Department. The Government will conduct routine and surprise checks at the boarding points at HKIA, Government dockyard, and container terminals to monitor compliance and collect evidence for follow-up actions against non-compliance if any.

To enhance understanding of shipping companies / agents as well as land transportation service providers on the guidelines, the Designated Hotel Scheme Team under the Food and Health Bureau will organise a zoom briefing at 1500 hours on 14 May 2021 (Friday). The Marine Department will soon send you the details. In case you have difficulties in identifying a suitable provider to provide point-to-point transportation services for your sea crew members, you may also contact Kwoon Chung Bus Holdings Limited (KCBHL) (Mr Linus KWOK - 9425 7798), which is the current Government contractor for providing point-to-point transportation services, at your own expenses. Please contact KCBHL if necessary three days before arrival of the vessel for arranging such services.

You are also reminded about the sign-off arrangement for sea crew who are Hong Kong resident. According to the Exemption Conditions, sea crew who are Hong Kong residents on-board goods vessels which have called the ports of Group B, C or D specified places under Cap. 599H 14 days or Group A2 places under Cap. 599H 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong and will stay in Hong Kong after signing off must also use land transportation designated by the Government to the designated quarantine hotels direct from the location where they go ashore. Please also contact Mr Linus KWOK of KCBHL for arrangement of point-to-point transportation three days before arrival of the vessel. There will be fares charged by KCBHL for such services.

If you have any enquiry on exemption conditions, please contact the duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702. For enquiry regarding designated quarantine hotels and the guidelines on point-to-point transportation, please contact Mr Bogan LAI by 3655 4091 or 9621 9601.
Thank you very much for your ongoing support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong)
for Director of Health

Annex A  : Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo operation

Annex B  : Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

Annex C  : Guidelines for Vehicles Providing Point-to-point Transportation Arrangements for Exempted Persons (Air Crew, Sea Crew and Others)
Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation
(Effective 12 May 2021)

Crew Change Arrangement Concerning Vessels which have called the ports of “Group A1 Specified Places” under Cap. 599H

No crew change (including sign-on and sign-off crew) is permitted for goods vessels which have called the ports of extremely high risk places specified in Group A1 under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong. These vessels will be allowed to enter Hong Kong for cargo operation without crew change. All crew members should remain on-board the vessels during the stay of the vessels in Hong Kong waters and should not get ashore.

Crew Change Arrangement Concerning Vessels which have called the ports of Places other than “Group A1 Specified Places” under Cap. 599H

For goods vessels with cargo operation which have not called the ports of “Group A1 specified places” under Cap. 599H during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong and intend to conduct crew change, the following conditions will apply:

1. Shipping companies/agents shall submit the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) and Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) of vessel together with the details of the sign-on and sign-off crew to be changed (including their names and flight schedules) 72 hours prior arrival of the vessel for the Marine Department (MarDep)’s approval. For out-going crew members of goods vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong (and have not called the ports of Group A1 specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong), shipping companies/agents should declare in its crew change application how would the out-going crew member concerned take the SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test according to the means as mentioned in clause 8 below. In the crew change application, ship companies/agents should also indicate the out-going sea crew who is a Hong Kong resident and will stay in Hong Kong after signing off. Ship companies/agents should indicate in the crew change application whether the vessels have called the ports of any “Group A1 Specified Places” under Cap. 599H during the 21
days prior to arrival in Hong Kong. The crew change application should be submitted to both MarDep and the Department of Health (DH) by email –

MarDep: pmovtc1@mardep.gov.hk
DH: pa_rp@dh.gov.hk

2. All crew members should remain on-board the vessels during the stay of the vessels in Hong Kong waters and should not get ashore.

3. Point-to-point transfers should be arranged by the shipping companies/agents for crew members to and from the vessel. Use of public transport including MTR, airport shuttle train and taxi for crew transfer is prohibited. Crew members should wear masks during the entire journey to and from the vessel.

Sign-on Crew

4. Signing-on crew members should only arrive Hong Kong when their vessels are berthed in Hong Kong and should get onboard immediately upon arrival.

5. Signing-on crew members arriving Hong Kong at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to sign-on goods vessels must have a negative result of SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test at an ISO 15189-accredited laboratory or a laboratory recognised by the Government where the laboratory is located with the specimen collected within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight to Hong Kong. All signing-on crew members must take a post-arrival SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test at the DH’s Temporary Specimen Collection Centre upon arrival at HKIA and wait for the results there or any other location as designated by DH (“test and hold”). Upon arrival, they must only use the designated channel within the HKIA to arrive at the designate pick-up point. They should wear masks during the entire journey from the HKIA to the vessel.

6. Shipping companies/agents should declare on a letter of certification that the signing-on crew member concerned has been tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid with the specimen collected within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight to Hong Kong (as mentioned in clause 5). The letter should also include an emergency local contact phone number for prompt contact with the concerned crew under emergency situation.

7. Signing-on crew members are required to present MarDep’s approval letter (as mentioned in clause 1), the negative test report (as
mentioned in clause 5) and letter of certification (as mentioned in clause 6) to staff of DH when he/she enters Hong Kong at HKIA. The shipping companies/agents should prepare at least one copy of the certification letter to be carried by each crew when arriving Hong Kong for submission to DH staff. Crew members who fail to present and submit the abovementioned documents to DH staff will be denied entry, and the shipping companies/agents concerned are required to arrange these crew members to fly back to their originating country(ies) forthwith.

**Sign-off Crew**

8. Signing-off crew members who have completed their service onboard will be required to stay onboard the vessel during their stay in Hong Kong and travel directly for repatriation to their home countries so as to minimise contact with the local community. For goods vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong (and have not called the ports of Group A1 specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong), ship companies/agents are required to **EITHER** –

(a) arrange a SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test for the signing-off sea crew at an ISO 15189-accredited laboratory or a laboratory recognised by the Government where the laboratory is located with the specimen collected within 72 hours prior to the vessel’s ETA at Hong Kong and obtain a negative result; **OR**

(b) arrange the signing-off sea crew to take a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 by one of the recognised testing institutions in Hong Kong upon the vessel’s arrival, and these crew members will need to stay on board his/her cargo vessel until the result (negative) is available [i.e. test-and-hold arrangement on board the vessel in Hong Kong].

9. Signing-off crew who are Hong Kong residents and who will stay in Hong Kong after signing off are required to take a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 as in clause 8(b) above. They are not exempted from compulsory quarantine, and are subject to the prevailing quarantine arrangement as with other non-exempted persons. These signing-off Hong Kong crew must use land transportation designated by the Government to the designated quarantine hotels direct from the location where they go ashore. Shipping companies/agents will be provided with a list of land transportation designated by the Government.
for their direct contact to make land transportation arrangement to
designated quarantine hotels.

**General**

10. Shipping companies/agents should keep and if requested provide
information on the testing, transportation and logistics arrangement of the
crew members (such as details of the flights taken by the crew concerned,
licence plate number and driver details of the vehicles, name of ferry and
coxswain details used to transfer the crew members, exact time and location
of the picking up/setting down of the transfers, laboratory reports, etc.) for
ease of contact tracing.

11. Shipping companies/agents must report to the MarDep immediately
upon receipt of information of any COVID-19 positive cases of their
seafarers.

12. Shipping companies/agents failing to comply with the above
conditions and/or provide the required information will be denied future
crew change for one month.
## Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels
### (Effective since 12 May 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goods vessels (including OGVs and RTVs)</th>
<th>Visited Group A1 specified place(s) (extremely high-risk) or Group A2 specific place(s) (very high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong#</th>
<th>Visited Group B specified place(s) (high-risk) or Group C specified place(s) (medium-risk) or Group D specified place(s) (low-risk) or China only within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Without cargo operation (Crew)        | Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status                                                     | • Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days
• Completed COVID-19 vaccination course*: compulsory quarantine for 14 days                                                |
| With cargo operation (Crew)           | Medical surveillance@ only under specified conditions                                                                        | • Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days
• Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days                                                    |
| Non-crew (Passenger)                  | Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status                                                   | • Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days
• Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days                                                    |

*Note: Completed COVID-19 vaccination course means that the person has completed the full vaccination course as specified by the Hong Kong Government.

@Medical surveillance only under specified conditions means that the person will undergo medical surveillance under specified conditions, usually involving regular health checks and monitoring for specific periods.

#The dates mentioned in the table are not specified in the text.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Visited Group A1 specified place(s) (extremely high-risk) or Group A2 specific place(s) (very high-risk) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong#</th>
<th>Visited Group B specified place(s) (high-risk) or Group C specified place(s) (medium-risk) or Group D specified place(s) (low-risk) or China only within 14 days before arriving Hong Kong#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing vessels (including local and non-local fishing vessels)</td>
<td>Visited Group B or Group C specified place(s) ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days</td>
<td>Visited Taiwan/Macao or Group D places ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing vessels (including local and non-local fishing vessels)</td>
<td>Visited Mainland China only ⚫ Medical surveillance</td>
<td>Visited Group D specified place(s) or China ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew (including fish collectors)</td>
<td>Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status</td>
<td>Visited Group B or Group C specified place(s) ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-crew</td>
<td>Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status</td>
<td>Visited Group D specified place(s) or China ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vessels</td>
<td>Visited Group B or Group C specified place(s) ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 21 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days</td>
<td>Visited Group D specified place(s) or China ⚫ Not completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 14 days ⚫ Completed COVID-19 vaccination course: compulsory quarantine for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All persons on board</td>
<td>Compulsory quarantine for 21 days regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# The list of Groups of specified places and relevant quarantine measures required by Cap. 599H is available at the Government’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 thematic website at (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html)

*A person is deemed to have “completed a COVID-19 vaccination course” if he/she arrives at Hong Kong on or after the 14th day after completing the vaccination. The 14th day after a person has completed a COVID-19 vaccination course is counted by taking the next day after the person received the last dose of COVID-
19 vaccine as the 1st day. For example, for a person who received the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine on 10 May 2021, the “1st day” would be 11 May 2021 and the “14th day” would be 24 May 2021.

(i) For both the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac vaccine) and Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine), completing the vaccination course involves receiving two doses in general. For persons previously infected with COVID-19, they may be deemed to have completed the COVID-19 vaccination course after receiving one dose of Comirnaty vaccine.

(ii) For individuals who received COVID-19 vaccines in places outside of Hong Kong and have received the recommended doses as stipulated in relevant guidelines, the vaccines received should be those COVID-19 vaccines that are recognised for relevant purposes as specified by the respective specification or direction which is available at the Government COVID-19 thematic website (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf).

@ Upon arrival at Hong Kong, you must pay attention to your health condition, take body temperature twice daily and report to your shipping company/agent. If you feel unwell, please call 2125 1133 (have stayed in Mainland, Macao or Taiwan) or 2125 1999 (have stayed in all overseas countries/territories). You are allowed to operate another trip and must wear a surgical mask during work.

If you have any enquiries about the quarantine arrangement, please contact duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702.
Guidelines for vehicles providing point-to-point transportation arrangements for exempted persons (air crew, sea crew and others)

13 March 2021 revised highlighted in Yellow

Each dedicated vehicle should:

- Be used exclusively for transporting certain type of exempted persons (e.g. the dedicated taxis are exclusive for CX air crew) and not to carry any other passengers on the same day and until and unless they have been properly disinfected in accordance with the requirements of Department of Health (DH).
- Display suitable signage at prominent location to distinguish the exclusive use of such designated vehicles.
- Carry at most half of the maximum capacity of passengers allowed.
- Keep social distancing of at least 1 metre inside the compartment where feasible. In case social distancing cannot be maintained inside the compartment (e.g. in a dedicated taxi), the vehicle should only accommodate passengers with same exposure history (e.g. belonging to the same household) for the same journey. If feasible, for small vehicles such as dedicated taxis, physical partition should be installed between the driver’s and the passengers’ seats to offer better protection to the drivers.
- Maximise fresh air intake by either (a) maximising air intake using air conditioning system of the vehicle; or (b) opening of windows if feasible.
- Provide hand sanitisers for passengers inside the compartment.
• Disinfect every piece of baggage with at least several pieces of clothes or wipes which is wet enough by soaking in 1 in 49 diluted household bleach or 70-80% alcohol (only for surface cannot tolerate bleach) before its uploading onto the vehicle. Spraying disinfectants is not recommended as this practice could be harmful and would not reduce the risk of viral transmission. Driver or supporting staff who help with baggage disinfection should put on appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g. surgical mask for all, eye protection if there is risk of splash to the eyes or within 1 metre of passengers, gown and gloves if body or clothing may come into contact with body fluid or contaminated surfaces or disinfectants).

• Ensure that passengers are wearing masks and observe hand hygiene during the journey. Avoid having the passenger sitting next to the driver to minimize the chance of physical contact with the driver and hence contamination.

• Be equipped with a CCTV (camera can just record street view) inside the compartment for monitoring the events therein throughout the journeys (for making sure that there is no detour / stopover, and that the vehicle is not taking passengers other than the designated type of exempted persons, etc.)

• Upon completion of every single journey, the service provider must thoroughly clean and disinfect both the interior (including back luggage compartment, passenger seat, hand rails, safety belts, buckles, air inlet, air outlet, window control button etc.) and exterior of the vehicle. Persons responsible for conducting disinfection should put on appropriate PPE (surgical mask, eye protection, gown and gloves). Properly clean and disinfect with at least several pieces of clothes or
wipes which is wet enough by soaking in 1 in 49 diluted household bleach, in particular, areas frequently touched by the driver and/or passengers. For areas contaminated by body fluid, disinfect with 1 in 4 diluted household bleach.

Drivers of the dedicated vehicle should:

- Drivers without direct physical contact and who could maintain social distancing with the passengers who are exempted persons should wear surgical mask when driving.
- The putting on of surgical mask, eye protection, gown and performing hand hygiene is a minimum when social distancing within the compartment of the vehicle is difficult to maintain and there is likelihood of physical contact with passengers. Wearing gloves is not a must when there is no contact with body fluid. If gloves are to be worn, gloves should be changed if soiled or damaged, followed by hand hygiene.
- Undergo full training on disinfection of vehicle internally and externally if they are responsible for decontamination of the vehicle.
- Undergo COVID-19 test every 14 days.
The above requirements (except for the training requirement on disinfection of vehicles) are also applicable to working staff if there is any travelling on the designated vehicle.

**Vehicle companies should:**

- Keep records on the vehicles used for exempted persons.
- Keep records on the drivers and working staff deployed to drive/man the vehicles.
- Keep records on disinfections of vehicles.
- Keep training records on its staff on infection control measures.
- Keep CCTV records of the compartments of the vehicles.
- All the above records should be kept for a period of at least 21 days and be made available to the Government for inspection as and when required.

In addition, passengers who are exempted persons should be requested to install and use the “LeaveHomeSafe” COVID-19 exposure notification mobile application for the purpose of keeping a more precise record of their whereabouts to assist in epidemiological investigation if confirmed.

Department of Health and Food and Health Bureau

**12 March 2021 revised**