



MIN 616 (M+F) Amendment 4

COVID-19: Guidance on minimising risk to ships' crews and other maritime sector workers

Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crew of Merchant Vessels, Skippers and Crew of Domestic Passenger Ships and Inland Waterways Vessels

This notice should be read with This notice should be read in conjunction with the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, as amended and replaces MGN 616 (M+F) Amendment 3.

This MIN expires 31st May 2021.

Summary

This Note draws attention to UK Government guidance for companies and employers regarding management and mitigation of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

In this notice "shipowner" includes fishing vessel owner and "seafarers" includes fishermen.

The links include the use of PPE and face coverings on public transport and a safety alert for PPE designated as complying with KN95 standard.

Amendment 4 does not alter substantially, only to outline Public Health England guidelines on social distancing (including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metre distance from others or, where that is not possible, 1 meter with a face covering or other precautions) and to extend the guidance to cover the expected duration according to current government guidelines.

1. Introduction

1.1 Keeping shipping services running during the current COVID-19 outbreak will be vital to the fight against and recovery from the outbreak and seafarers have been identified as key workers. It is therefore crucial that robust protective measures are in place to minimise the risk to seafarers who are working to maintain essential supply chains and supporting services.

1.2 The International Safety Management Code section 1.2.2. says that:

Safety management objectives of the Company should, inter alia:

.1 provide for safe practices in ship operation and a safe working environment;

.2 assess all identified risks to its ships, personnel and the environment and establish appropriate safeguards



- 1.3 It is recommended that companies include measures for tackling risks posed by COVID-19 as part of their operational procedures for ships.
- 1.4 In addition, under the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, employers and shipowners have a duty to ensure the health and safety of seafarers and other affected by their undertaking and to put in place measures to reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.5 While social distancing is fundamentally a public health measure introduced to reduce the spread of infection, it is also relevant to controlling risks within the workplace.
- 1.6 Shipowners and employers should ensure that seafarers are able, where possible, to follow the current Public Health England guidelines on social distancing (including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metre distance from others or, where that is not possible, 1 meter with a face covering or other precautions) and hygiene (washing their hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds).
- 1.7 Where one or other of these measures is not practicable, other protective or mitigating measures should be taken to minimise the risk to seafarers. See links in Annex A.

2. Government Guidance

- 2.1 Links to relevant official UK Government guidance are appended in Annex A. This includes guidance on the availability of coronavirus testing for essential workers who are self-isolating.

More Information

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Published: September 2020
Please note that all addresses and
telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

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COVID-19 UK Government Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

COVID-19 –Getting tested

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): 5 steps to working safely

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely>

COVID -19: Guidance for public transport operators

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators>

COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

COVID-19: Face coverings and face masks

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/face-coverings-and-face-masks.htm>

COVID- 19 Supply issues with PPE and working safely during the COVID-1i outbreak

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/non-healthcare/supply-issues-and-working-safely.htm>

Safety alert: Face masks designated KN95 standard

https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/use-of-face-masks-designated-kn95.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kn95-safety-alert&utm_term=alert&utm_content=stakeholder-12-jun-20

