

COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 51

15 October 2020

This update is for the maritime industry and port supply chain



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In this guide

1. Required Testing Order update	3
2. Ongoing sector engagement	4
3. Update from Seafarers Welfare Board for New Zealand (SWBNZ)	5
4. Answering your questions	6
5. Key sources of information	7

1. Required Testing Order update

New Zealand border workers are a key line of defence in helping keep New Zealand workplaces, families and communities safe from COVID-19. The Required Testing Order is part of keeping COVID-19 out of the community and we have been working to support government to refine the approach through the recent amendments.

It has been confirmed that there will not be further amendments to the Order until after the general election, while we work through some of the feedback you have given us on recent draft proposals.

In the meantime, those agencies working on the border response, including Maritime NZ, will continue to progress the other key initiatives that are underway to support the implementation of ongoing testing and minimise the burden on border workplaces, border workers and their employers. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

The Maritime Industry Update is issued weekly, usually on each Wednesday. However, publication days might change when there is a need to provide a quick update.

If you have any questions about updates, or suggestions for what you would like included, please contact Maritime NZ by emailing MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz.

2. Ongoing sector engagement

The first phase of stakeholder engagement on improving the implementation of the Required Testing Order is coming to a close this week, with the final piece of this phase being an interview with marine pilots.

A number of issues have been identified through the engagement which Maritime NZ and the Ministry of Health are turning into a work programme for their respective roles. These include:

1. An alternative to deep nasal testing for those who are regularly tested
2. Identifying all people who board a ship
3. Improving processes for New Zealand workers who stay on a ship over night
4. Developing consistency around supplying clearance of a ship to shipping agents

There has also been additional engagement on a proposed portal, aimed at simplifying the process for employers and workers to be able to maintain the status of high risk workers, and notifying those workers when tests are due. A Proof of Concept process has commenced within Wellington MIQs this week and it is expected to continue to roll out across the country to interested employers post POC updates.

3. Update from Seafarers Welfare Board for New Zealand (SWBNZ)

The following was written by Morris Van van Voornveld, the National Coordinator for the Seafarers Welfare Board for New Zealand, on the recent welfare initiatives for seafarers.

As a nation reliant on shipping and therefore reliant on the crews that staff those vessels, we need to do more than just consider seafarer welfare - we need to do something about it. The Government signed New Zealand up to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC2006); an all-encompassing convention covering seafarers including access to welfare support in ports. The SWB was officially designated as the Welfare Board for New Zealand under MLC2006 by the Government.

COVID-19 and its impact on all aspects of life including shipping, brought into focus that changes needed to be made in the way services were provided to crews in view of the reduced ability to come ashore for shore leave once health requirements had been met. For many vessels, shorter stays in port made taking shore leave more challenging, notwithstanding the health requirements that needed to be met (more than 14 days since last overseas port, negative COVID test, etc.).

To help cope with the extra demands COVID-19 placed on their lives, seafarers expressed a need for WIFI at minimal or zero cost so that they can communicate with family in their home countries. Other needs included the provision of a shopping service for personal items when seafarers couldn't get to the shops, including items such as chocolate, chips, other fast foods, as well as items like PlayStations.

Talking to someone for support that is not another member of the crew or related to work such as the pilot or the agent, was also a need that was identified. This 'support' person would typically be able to refer someone for additional professional help should the crew member present with health problems or express a need to see someone to help with an issue they may be facing.

Seafarer welfare has been recognised as an important part of shipping safety and not just a 'nice to have', and in response to COVID-19, The Ministry of Transport (MOT) and Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) have provided support, information and initial funding for six months to SWBNZ for welfare services. This initial funding from MOT has helped SWBNZ begin providing consistent services across the country.

Thanks to the support of port companies and through the MOT funding, WIFI units are now available at all New Zealand ports receiving international vessels. The photo shows some of the crew of the FW Excursionist using Northport provided WIFI on board.



4. Answering your questions

There are a huge number of stakeholders in the maritime industry and ports' supply chain, and all of you are affected in different ways by COVID-19 and New Zealand's response to it.

If you have questions you would like answered, please email MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz by 5pm, Friday each week.

5. Key sources of information

The following links provide you with key sources of information.

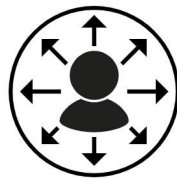
- For all your questions, and to provide information and make suggestions – Maritime NZ
MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz
- Port and maritime guidelines and other information
www.maritimenz.govt.nz – click on the COVID-19 banner on the home page
- Official health advice, including PPE guidance – Ministry of Health
www.health.govt.nz/
- Up-to-date information across the transport sector (land, sea and air) – Ministry of Transport
www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/
- New Zealand's campaign to stamp out COVID-19
www.covid19.govt.nz
- Information for businesses operating under alert levels
www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/operating-at-alert-levels/
- Wage Subsidy Scheme information
www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/resurgence-wage-subsidy/index.html
- Managed Isolation and Quarantine
www.miq.govt.nz/

Stamp it out



Practise good hygiene →

Wash your hands with soap. Cough or sneeze into your elbow. Clean surfaces.



Keep track of where you've been →

If COVID-19 reappears, help our health services reach people quickly to stop any further spread.



Stay home if you're sick →

If you have cold or flu symptoms, you should stay home and call your doctor or Healthline.