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To: The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Date: 13th Jan., 2021

Total Pages: 9

RE: ENHANCED QUARANTINE MEASURES IN KOREA RELATED TO COVID-19

(SUBMISSION OF PCR NEGATIVE CERTIFICATE)

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We would like to summarize the submission of PCR Negative Certificate regulation in Korea for the club's and the members' easy reference as follows:

[ENFORCED AS OF 03RD AUG 2020]

- **Announcement of new regulation for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports**

Due to the rapidly increased positive cases of COVID-19 from vessels calling to Korean Ports, KDCA(Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency) has announced new regulation for vessels calling at Korean Ports to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Based on the vessel's departure date on or after 03rd Aug 2020, if there was any on-signers and/or crew shore leave at 7 high risk countries(listed below), it is mandatory for the vessel to submit PCR negative certificate for those crew members who embarked the vessel and went ashore.**

* 7 high risk countries: Russia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan

- **PCR Negative Certificate must meet following 3 conditions.**

- ① Must be issued by designated facility by KDCA through diplomatic offices at each country
(Please kindly refer to the attachment for the list of facilities.)
- ② Must be issued within 48hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date. For example,
 - 0100hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
 - 1000hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
 - 2300hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
- ③ Must be issued before embarkation(on-signer) / returning to the vessel(shore leave)

- **Violation of the submission of PCR Negative Certificate**

- Crew disembarkation and/or shore leave is not permitted at Korean Ports.
- COVID-19 test will be performed for all crew members after calling at Korea Ports and the cargo OPS will be only permitted when all crew members are test negative.

[1ST UPDATE ON 08TH SEP 2020]

- **Strengthening of punishment regulations enforced for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports on or after 08th Sep 2020**

Due to many cases of non-submission and/or invalid submission of PCR Negative Certificate after the announcement of new regulation, KDCA has announced the strengthened punishment regulation for the violation of the submission of PCR Negative Certificate as follows:

- **Matter of Violation**

- Submission of invalid PCR Negative Certificate

- * Invalid certificate: Issued at non-designated facility / Not issued within the given timeframe

- Non-submission of PCR Negative Certificate

- Forgery/alternation of PCR Negative Certificate

- **Punishment**

- Penal Servitude up to 1 year or Fine not exceeding KRW 10,000,000

- * Under joint penal provision against employer and employee, fines can be given KRW 20,000,000 per crew, i.e. KRW 10,000,000 to the owners and KRW 10,000,000 to the master on behalf of the crew.

- * Thus, if there're 5 violated crews from one vessel, maximum fine amount will be KRW 20,000,000 X 5 crews = KRW 100,000,000

- **Measurements against violated vessel**

- By Quarantine

- 1) PCR test for all crews onboard will be performed.

- 2) No cargo OPS is available until the release of test result.

- 3) Test negative for all crew members, the vessel will be cleared by quarantine and cargo

OPS is available.

4) Test positive, following orders will be given by quarantine.

① Option 1. Denial of ship's entry.

② Option 2. 14 days of quarantine and transfer of test positive crew to local hospital.

■ By Coast Guard

1) Investigation will be conducted for master and/or crew who violated the submission of PCR Negative Certificate.

* Cargo OPS is available during the investigation once cleared by quarantine.

* Vessel's departure is not available till the completion of investigation.

2) Based on the investigation report by Coast Guard, the owners and the master will be prosecuted and the fines will be imposed.

■ By Port Authority

1) The vessel will be listed for "subject to entry permission" for 6 months.

[2ND UPDATE ON 20TH OCT 2020]

- **Relaxation of regulation for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports on or after 20th Oct 2020**

As the vessel may have no intention to call Korean Ports or Korean port of calls may have not been scheduled at the time of calling 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020, KDCA have announced the relaxation of the regulation on 20th Oct 2020 as follows:

- **The case that the vessel will be exempted for the submission of PCR negative certificate**
(Following 3 conditions are regarded that vessels have no intention to call at Korean Ports and/or it is hard to anticipate vessels calling at Korean Ports. Thus, if the vessel meets one of following 3 conditions, the submission of PCR negative certificate is exempted even though there have been on-signers and/or shore leave at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020.)
 - A. After departure from 7 high risk countries, 28 or more days should pass and the vessel should call at two or more ports before Korean Ports.
 - * 28 days was calculated by twice of WHO's standard(14 days of COVID-19 observation period)
 - Ex) 7 high risk countries(09.03. Departure) -> A -> B -> Korea(10.03. Arrival)
 - * A, B should NOT be 7 high risk countries.
 - B. Avoidance purpose caused by bad weather condition – The vessel initially has no intention to call at Korean Ports, but vessel's calling at Korean Ports is unexpectedly arranged to avoid bad weather condition.
 - C. Other unexpected or inevitable callings will be judged by Head of Quarantine Station
- **The case that PCR negative certificates are invalid caused by the delay of vessels departure, despite of the proper issuance of PCR negative certificates within 48hrs prior to vessel's departure at the initial stage. -> Invalid PCR negative certificates due to over 48hrs of issued time prior to vessel's departure can be properly accepted only if the vessel's departure is caused by one of following reasons and it is proven.**
 - A. Bad weather condition or natural disaster

B. Breakdown of the vessel

C. Other reasons of delay caused by unavoidable circumstances will be judged by the head of Quarantine

● **Amendment of PCR Test(Enforced as of 10.19.)**

BEFORE	AMENDED
③ Non-submission or Invalid submission of the certificate: All crews onboard are subject to PCR Test.	③ Non-submission or Invalid submission of the certificate: Crews who are listed as non-submission or invalid submission of the certificate are subject to PCR Test only.
*The vessel exempted for the submission of PCR Negative Certificate is not regarded as non-submission or invalid submission of the certificate.	

[3RD UPDATE ON 26TH OCT 2020]

➤ **Change of 7 high risk countries**

7 high risk countries has been changed as of 26th Oct 2020 as follows:

- **Removed: Pakistan**
- **Added: Nepal**

Thus, 7 high risk countries are Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan

[4TH UPDATE ON 29TH OCT 2020]

➤ **Change of designated PCR test facilities at Philippines**

- *Baguio Medical Center & PRI Medical Center* will be removed from the designated facility as of 05th Nov. Thus, the certificates from both facilities are valid till 04th Nov(Issuance date).

[5TH UPDATE ON 12TH NOV 2020]

➤ **Change of high risk countries**

7 high risk countries has been changed to 6 countries as of 12th Nov 2020 as follows:

- **Removed: Kazakhstan**
- Thus, 6 high risk countries are Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan

[06TH UPDATE - MINOR CHANGES AS OF 22ND DEC 2020]

➤ **RUSSIA - QR CODE MUST BE PRINTED AT THE CERTIFICATE**

- *PCR negative certificate issued on or after 17th Dec 2020 must have QR Code printed on the certificate that will be checked by Quarantine when the vessel calls Korean Ports.*

- *Some facilities are removed from the designated facilities as they are not capable to print QR Code on the certificate.*

➤ *Change of designated PCR test facilities*

- *Due to the continuous changes of the designated facilities, it is meaningless to provide the list of the designated facilities. Thus, it is highly recommended for the vessel to check the valid facilities at the time of the vessel's calling at high risk countries through their local agent to avoid the testing at non-designated facilities.*

[07TH UPDATE – TO BE APPLIED FROM 15TH JAN 2021]

- If the vessel calls Korean Port, PCR negative certificate are required for all on-signers embarked the vessel on or after 0000hrs 15th Jan 2021.

- *[PREVIOUS] PCR negative certificate is only required for crew who embarked at high risk countries.*
- *[CHANGED] PCR negative certificate is required for all crew who embarked at all foreign countries.*

A. 6 high risk countries – PCR negative certificates must be issued at the designated facilities.

B. Other countries – PCR negative certificates can be issued at any facilities.

** PCR negative certificate must be issued at the country of embarking port. The certificate issued at other countries, such as crew's home country, is not regarded as valid certificate.*

** PCR negative certificate must be written either in English or Korean. If not, the certificate should be translated to English or Korean and the translation certificate should be submitted as well.*

** Valid PCR test method is only by "Real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction".*

- Extension of issuing time of PCR negative certificate(FROM 48HRS TO 72HRS)
 - *[PREVIOUS] Must be issued within 48hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date.*
 - *[CHANGED] Must be issued within 72hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date.*

With our summary above on the regulation of PCR Negative Certificate, we sincerely hope that the members of JPIA can be fully aware of the regulation in advance and prepare necessary requirements in order to avoid possible punishment and/or delay of the vessel when calling at Korean Ports.

Should you have any concern or question, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Eastern Shipping Co., Ltd. as a correspondent of Japan P&I Club in Korea



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