

本署檔號      Our Ref.    :    DH/PHD/P6/3002  
來函檔號      Your Ref.    :  
電話            Tel.         :    (852) 2543 1702  
傳真            Fax.         :    (852) 2543 2557

港口衛生科  
Port Health Division

5 February 2021

To All Shipping Agents in Hong Kong,

### Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has announced on 5 February 2021 to further tighten the conditions for persons who are exempted from compulsory quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap 599C) and Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap 599E), including crew members of goods vessels with cargo operation.

With effect from 20 February 2021, crew members of goods vessels with cargo operations will be subject to the exemption conditions as stated in **Annex 1**. You may also wish to refer to **Annex 2** for the updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels for reference. Major changes are summarised below.

- For goods vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China 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 ISO15189-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 Estimated Time of Arrival at Hong Kong and obtain a negative result; **OR**
  - (b) arrange the signing-off sea crew to take a SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test 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].

- Signing-off sea crew from good vessels which have called the ports of any country outside China during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong who are Hong Kong residents AND will stay in Hong Kong after signing off are no longer exempted from compulsory quarantine. They will be subject to the test-and-hold arrangement as mentioned above and 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. If there is such type of sea crew to be signed-off, please contact the duty Port Health Officer 72 hours before the vessel's arrival.
- For signing-on sea crew arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), they must only use the designated channel within the HKIA to arrive at the designate pick-up point located at Carpark 4 of HKIA (**Annex 3**). Please be reminded that coaches and light goods vehicles are prohibited from entering the car park.

If there is any enquiry, please contact the duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702. Thank you very much for your ongoing support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong)  
for Director of Health

Annex 1: Exemption Conditions Applicable to Crew Change for Goods Vessels with Cargo operation

Annex 2: Updated Summary Table of Quarantine Arrangement for Visiting Vessels

Annex 3: Designated Route for Exempted Persons other than Air crew at HKIA

**Exemption Conditions applicable to crew change  
for Goods Vessels with Cargo Operation**  
有貨物操作的貨船船員換班之豁免條件

For goods vessels with cargo operation which intend to conduct crew change, the following conditions will apply:

**Overall**

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 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. The crew change application should be submitted to both MarDep and the Department of Health (DH) by email –

MarDep: *pmovtcl@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. 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 on-board 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 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 SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test 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 SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test 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 20 February 2021)

		<b>Did not visit place(s) outside China (Mainland, Macao or Taiwan) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong</b>	<b>Visited place(s) outside China (Mainland, Macao or Taiwan) within 21 days before arriving Hong Kong</b>
<b>Goods vessels</b> (including OGVs and RTVs)	<b>Without cargo operation</b>	Crew members on board are subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 Days	Crew members on board are subject to compulsory quarantine for 21 Days
	<b>With cargo operation</b>	Crew members on board are subject to Medical surveillance* only under specified conditions	Crew members on board are subject to Medical surveillance* only under specified conditions
	<b>Non-crew (passenger)</b>	Non-crew members on board are subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 Days	Non-crew members on board are subject to compulsory quarantine for 21 Days
<b>Fishing vessels</b> (including local and non-local fishing vessels)	<b>Crew (including fish collectors)</b>	Medical surveillance* for crew members visited Mainland China only in past 21 days	Compulsory quarantine for 21 Days
		Compulsory quarantine for 14 days for crew members visited Taiwan/Macao in past 21 days	
	<b>Non-crew</b>	Compulsory quarantine for 14 Days	Compulsory quarantine for 21 Days
<b>Other vessels</b>	<b>Crew</b>	Compulsory quarantine for 14 Days	Compulsory quarantine for 21 Days
	<b>Non-crew</b>	Compulsory quarantine for 14 Days	Compulsory quarantine for 21 Days

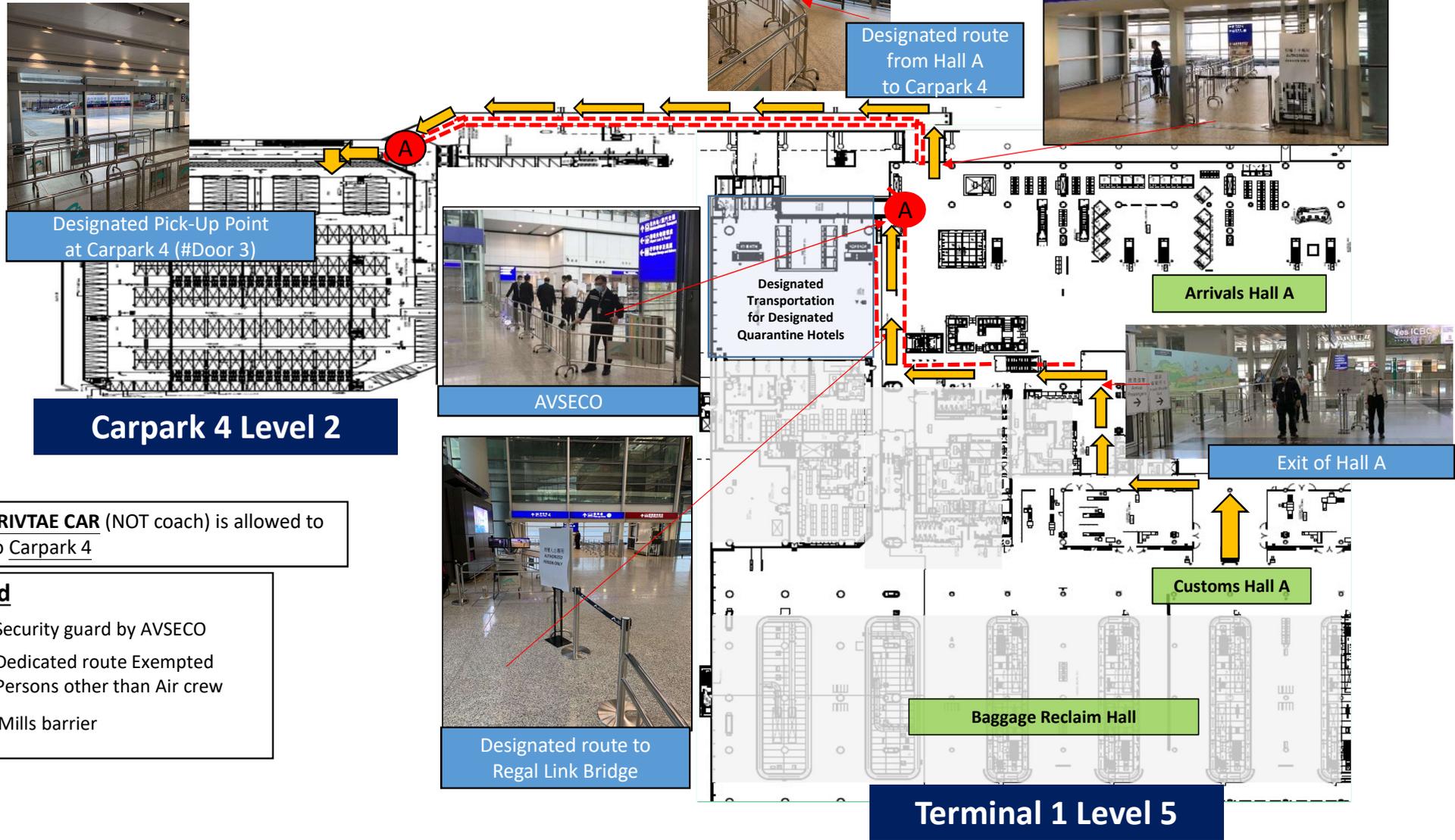
**\*Remarks:**

- 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 (arrived from Mainland, Macao or Taiwan) or 2125 1999 (arrived from place outside Mainland, Macao or Taiwan).
- You are allowed to operate another trip and must wear a surgical mask during work.

If there is any enquiries about the quarantine arrangement, please contact duty Port Health Officer by 2543 1702.

Annex 3: Designated Route for Exempted Persons other than Air crew

附件三：機場接載非機組人員類豁免人士之指定路線



Information on transferring signing-on/signing-off sea crew  
at Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard's Berth

With effect from 20 February 2021 until further notice, the Government designates Berth 4 of Government Dockyard at Stonecutters Island as the designated pier for transferring signing-on/signing-off sea crew by point-to-point transportation between airport and vessels. To ensure the transferring operation smoothness, parties concerned shall follow the below arrangements:

1. Agent shall apply to the Vessel Traffic Centre of the Marine Department for crew change 72 hours in advance;
2. Agent shall coordinate the arrival time of the transport coach and launch to the gate of Government Dockyard and the waters outside Government Dockyard respectively at the same time;
3. Agent shall report the actual arrival time of the transport coach and launch and number of personnel (including crew and other personnel) to Fleet Operations Section through telephone 23073685/94678595 or VHF radio telephone CH.13. The coach and launch concerned shall not enter the Government Dockyard without permission;
4. The coach driver must identify himself/herself to the security guard at the gate of Government Dockyard. With the permission of the security guard, the security guard will lead the transport coach to Berth 4. The signing-on/signing-off crew and other personnel concerned shall board the launch immediately after disembarking from the coach and cannot stay in the dockyard area;

**[Note: The security guard will only allow the transport coach to enter the Government Dockyard when the launch arrives.]**

5. When launch arrives at the waters outside the Government Dockyard at Stonecutters Island, the launch master shall report to Fleet Operations Section by telephone 23073685/94678595 or VHF radio telephone CH.13. Launch will only be allowed to enter the Government Dockyard with the permission of the Fleet Operations Section (location of Berth 4 please see

Annex 1 to Annex 3). The crews and other personnel concerned shall board the coach immediately after landing from the launch and cannot stay in the dockyard area;

**[Note: The Fleet Operations Section will only allow the transport launch to enter the Government Dockyard until the coach arrives.]**

6. The launch and coach concerned shall leave the Government Dockyard immediately after the crew and other personnel have boarded coach/launch.

**Government Fleet Division, Marine Department**

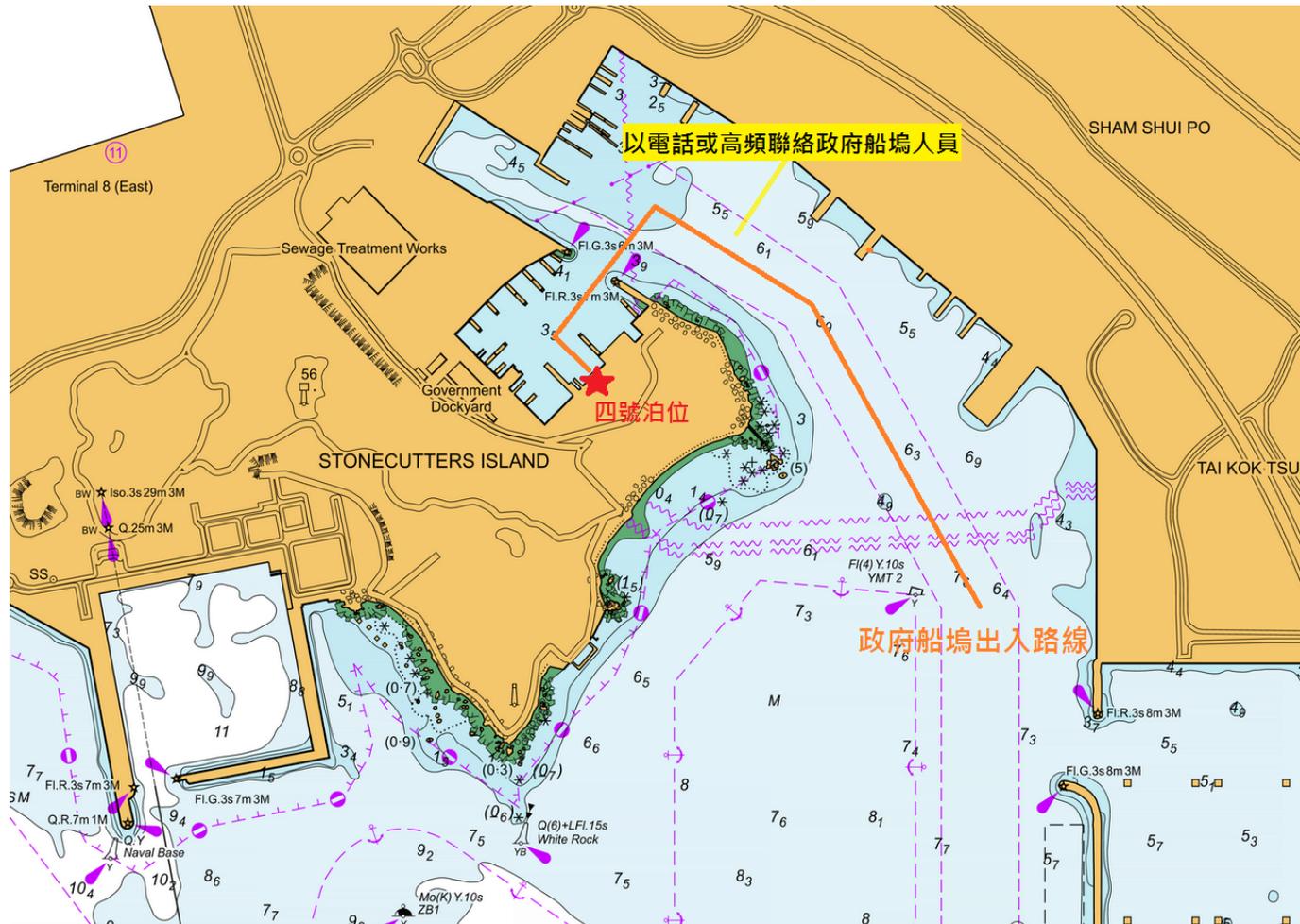
**9 February 2021**

Annex 1- Location of Berth 4 at Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard

Annex 2- Entrance of Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard (Seaway)

Annex 3- View of Berth 4 of Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard

# Annex 1- Location of Berth 4 at Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard



Annex 2- Entrance of Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard (Seaway)



Annex 3- View of Berth 4 of Stonecutters Island Government Dockyard

