



Commercial, Legal and Maritime Consultants

HAITI

April 23, 2020

Coronavirus, COVID-19

On 19th March 2020, the President of Haiti issued a Decree in which took legal step “Etat d’Urgence” blocking all frontiers (border, ports & airports for passengers, however for cargo is open). All airports and ports remain operational only for cargo, nonetheless, there virtually no commercial flights. Therefore, crew changes or repatriations are not normally possible.

On a same note, the Minister of Interior announced that the border with the Dominican Republic will be closed to passenger traffic, only goods crossing the border will still be permitted if personnel transporting the goods are screened at the border.

In reference to the decree of 19th March 2020, which declares the state of sanitary urgency throughout the national territory to fight against the pandemic of Coronavirus (COVID-19), on March 20th 2020 the government established the curfew until further notice, from 8:00 P.M. until 5:00 A.M. throughout the country.

The government of Haiti has implemented measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Schools, universities, vocational centers, and factories are closed until further notice; gatherings larger than 10 people have been banned.

The Haitian Ministry of Health has quarantine measures in effect, nonetheless they are prioritizing home quarantine, and, also, have set up isolation mechanisms for suspected patients while they are conducting the test for COVID-19. The situation might change with the evolution of COVID-19.

The Government has considered that those activities which are urgent to enable international trade are exempted, therefore, ports and ships are operating. In principle, all ships calling Haitian ports must present specific pre-arrival information including the last ports called, crew changes, ship's medical book, crew temperature records among others.

In case the local authorities find a crewmember with symptoms of COVID-19, during clearance and while at anchor, the vessel will be turned away and not allowed to dock. They are very strict about this. Nevertheless, we strongly recommend that all crew must stay on board.

Surveyors' attendance on board would be subject to the particular circumstances of the case, and the possibility for them to attend at port or on board may be limited. Not only due to the risk of contracting the virus, also because the isolation is mandatory, and its breach is being prosecuted criminally by their authorities.

At the moment, there are 57 cases and 3 death due to the COVID-19.



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