

As you may concern, the restrictions have been tightened due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in some major ports in China and Members may face delays and shortage of provision of supplies and bunker when the vessels call at Chinese ports, especially for Nanjing and Shanghai areas. Given this, to safeguard the Club/Members' best interests, we summarize the latest information regarding COVID-19 restrictions among major Chinese ports as below for your easy reference.

Ports Covered by Dalian Branch

The COVID-19 policy remains unchanged at present. All crew on a foreign vessel need to take a nucleic acid test. If any crew is tested positive, all crewmembers' disembarkation will not be permitted. In Bayuquan port (Yingkou, Liaoning Province), if any crew tested positive, all the crew shall be subjected to a 14-day quarantine and recheck. Operation may resume until all the crewmembers onboard are tested negative. However, In Dalian port, whether the operation can resume is on a case by case basis, because it has not been clearly instructed from the local authority yet.

Ports Covered by Qingdao Branch

Weifang port

Embarkation is permitted on vessels haven't passed through any high risk areas lately. However, this policy is prone to change from time to time.

Yantai port

All embarkation is prohibited.

Longko Port

Embarkation is permitted temporarily. A nucleic acid test within 48 hours issued by local authority is needed.

Shidao, Weihai

Embarkation is permitted temporarily. A nucleic acid test within 48 hours issued by local authority is needed.

Dongjiakou:

Embarkation will be approved under normal circumstances.

Dagang port:

Embarkation will be approved under normal circumstances.

Huangdao port:

Embarkation varies depending on types of the terminal. Embarkation is permitted in bulk cargo terminal under normal circumstances. At container terminal, all embarkation is prohibited.

Lanshan, Rizhao port:

All embarkation is prohibited.

Lianyungang (Jiangsu Province):

All embarkation is prohibited.

Dongying:

All embarkation is prohibited.

Ports Covered by Tianjin Branch

The COVID-19 prevention policy basically remains the same, except tightening the inspection of nucleic acid within 48 hours provided by staffs intended to board international vessels of shipping agents, ship maintenance companies or third-party inspection organizations.

Ports Covered by Xiamen Branch

There is a time restriction on berthing and sailing in Xiamen port. And surveyors are prohibited to board vessels. The requirements are as follows.

COVID-19 Prevention Requirement:

1. If a vessel called at a port of India and adjacent countries within 28 days, the Customs will attend on board vessel for nucleic acid inspection after berthing. It takes about 12 hours to get the test result. Prior to the result no cargo operation is allowed.
2. If there are crew changes during last 14 days the crew shall hold a nucleic acid test report within 3 days prior to signing-on. Such report shall be issued by institution recognized by Chinese government. After vessel's berthing, the Customs will board the vessel for nucleic acid inspection. It will take about 12 hours to get the test result. Prior to the result, no cargo operation is allowed.
3. There must be no crew affected with COVID-19 on board the vessel.
4. Time period for Berthing: 0600lt-2000lt /Time period for Sailing: 0600lt-2300lt

Other ports in Fujian province remain unchanged at present.

Ports Covered by Ningbo Branch

The COVID-19 prevention policy remains the same at present.

Ports Covered by Guangzhou Branch

The COVID-19 prevention policy basically remains the same, except tightening the inspection for staffs intended to board international vessels of any shipping agents, ship maintenance companies or third-party inspection organizations.

Ports Covered by Shanghai Branch

Extensive COVID-19 restrictions have been imposed in Jiangsu Province where the restrictions have led to delays. The new local regulations are as follows:

- 1.1** All port reception facility providers which provide services for vessels engaged in international voyages shall establish designated shift of personnel to carry out operation. All the pollutants/wastes such as garbage and sewage shall be received, transferred and disposed of by reference to requirements of the disposal of medical waste

1.2. Service providers who provide onboard services for vessels engaged in international voyages shall draw up designated shift plan which shall be approved by local authorities. Approval shall be given by local authorities before onboard operation takes place. Close loop management shall apply. During the shift, the designated shift of personnel are only allowed to stay in work place and designated area where they are required to take temperature every day and receive nucleic acid test every three days at least. After shift ends they have to receive 2 nucleic acid tests with an interval of 48 hours and if both results are negative, they could leave the shift/designated area. If crew member tests positive for COVID-19, the personnel shall receive nucleic acid test and quarantine as per the local regulation.

1.3 Provision of service for vessels engaged in international voyages at anchorage is prohibited. Ferry/traffic/launch boat service is suspended except for rescue service for the injured or sick personnel and transportation of pilots. Provisions services including bunkering and reception of wastes and temporary repair at anchorage is not allowed. The service providers for provision of supplies including bunkering and reception of wastes and temporary repair at berthing for vessels engaged in international voyages shall take precautions as per local regulation.

2. We understand from local agents in various ports in Jiangsu Province

2.1 Nantong:

Due to the shortage of workers after the new regulation, the cargo operation has been affected. In the meantime, local authorities are reluctant to grant foreign vessel's port entry application in normal circumstances. It is advised by a local agent that the restrictions are changeable and they are notified verbally.

2.2 Taicang:

Foreign vessels are not allowed to anchor at temporary anchorage in Taicang. For chemical terminal, quarantine officers from the Customs can only inspect 6-8 vessels per day and this may delay cargo operation in chemical terminals to a certain extent. Cargo operation has been affected.

2.3 Zhangjiagang:

Cargo operation has been affected in particular for bulk or general cargo carriers where cargo operation is labor-extensive.

2.4 Jiangyin:

The cargo operation has not been affected but there is a shortage of pilots due to new requirements.

2.5 Changshu:

The operation of 6 out of 9 terminals in Changshu have been resumed, after their designated shift plans had been approved by local authorities.

2.6 Zhenjiang:

The operation of the terminal is normal.

2.7 Yangzhou:

The operation of the terminal is gradually back to normal but due to strict control policy of the city, the berthing and unberthing operation may be affected due to shortage of pilots because some pilots are subject to stay-at-home order.

2.8 Nanjing:

Cargo operation has been affected. There is a shortage of pilots. The bunker supply via barge is not allowed when the vessel is at berth.

Recent days, we are advised by some agents that the requirements for entering Chinese ports become more and more strict due to the new outbreak. As the restrictions vary from port to port and are prone to change in a short notice, we suggest that Members consult with local agent before proceeding to the port of call. Due to the strict restriction policies taken by local government, together with the isolation or traffic limit of local people working for port affairs at the request of local government especially at Yangzhou and Nanjing cities, there has been an apparent shortage of local workers/pilots/Customs officers serving for ocean-going vessels.