

ANNEX I of Bass 049-2020

Fairway: GNB area - Scheldt Harbours - Belgian Coastal Ports

Subject: ANNEX I - Guidelines to prevent spreading of the COVID-19 Coronavirus

The Common Nautical Authority, considers it of the utmost importance to avoid spreading of the coronavirus COVID-19 and has therefore, in consultation with the Public Health Authority of Belgium and the Netherlands has issued some extra guidelines in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Further useful information for ship operators can be found at

https://www.healthygateways.eu/Portals/0/plcdocs/EU_HEALTHY_GATEWAYS_COVID-19_MARITIME_20_2_2020_FINAL.pdf?ver=2020-02-21-123842-480

Measures to be taken by both crew members and visitors such as government officials, pilots, shipping agents, dockers, etc. on board all vessels, including shortsea and inland navigation vessels, calling harbours within the Scheldt estuary, including the Belgian Coastal Ports (Zeebrugge, Oostende and Nieuwpoort):

- contacts between crew members and visitors have to be limited to a strict minimum, do not shake hands
- in case contacts cannot be avoided (e.g. pilots on the bridge of a vessel), a social distance of minimum 1.5 meters has to be maintained
- a suitable cleaning solution has to be provided for:
 - pilots in order to enable them to clean 1 VHF and 1 radar for personal use of the pilot during the pilotage job
 - shipping agents, surveyors,...for cleaning desks, screens,...and other ship-related equipment they need to use during their stay on board
- both crew members and visitors should apply the general hand and respiratory hygienic measures:
 - frequent hand washing using soap and hot water and/or alcohol-based hand rub
 - avoidance of touching the face including mouth, nose and eyes with unwashed hands
 - cover nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when sneezing, coughing, wiping and blowing the nose
 - if a tissue is not available, cover nose and mouth and cough or sneeze into a flexed elbow
- visitors and crew members must avoid exchange of uncooked food, exchange of other food and drinks must be minimized. Again, at all circumstances, the social distance of 1.5 meters has to be maintained.



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Personnel with symptoms of COVID-19 and fever will not be on the job. Checking the temperature of visitors is not necessary and the visitor is allowed to refuse. The visitor will not have to sign any declaration which can lead to any liability issues later on. Moreover, the unnecessary exchange of forms might increase the risk of contamination and must be avoided.

Gloves offer **no** protection against COVID-19 and could create a false perception of safety. Face masks might offer some protection. However, in Belgium and The Netherlands absolute priority is given to medical health services while distributing face masks. Therefore, the use of gloves and masks can not be imposed. Masks and gloves offered to visitors will not be accepted, nor can they be exchanged.

Guidelines in case a possible infected person is on board (ref. Bass 2020-45):

- Follow-up closely the instructions of the Public Health Organisation of Belgium (Saniport) or The Netherlands (GGD)