



**MEASURES, ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY THE BULGARIAN MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19**

I. General

On the 13 March 2020 in relation to COVID-19 outbreak the Bulgarian government announced "emergency situation", introducing number of restrictive measures, affecting all areas of our life. Following these measures and the prescriptions of the specially assigned National task force COVID-19, as well as the communications and guidelines of the European Commission, the International Maritime Organization, the World Health Organization, and other international bodies, the Bulgarian Maritime Administration has adopted and enforced emergency procedures with respect to maritime transport and calls of Bulgarian ports. Updated information is available on the BMA's website: www.marad.bg

II. Port State Control

1. Prior to the arrival in Bulgarian port shipmaster shall submit through the National Maritime Single Window (NMSW) a Statement containing information on the status of the ship's documents and the documents of the crew member. In case of expired documents the Statement must be accompanied by information issued by the flag or other issuing Administration on the matter.
2. The periodic inspections of foreign flagged ships are suspended.
3. Inspections may only be carried out on ships with applicable priority factors, such as:
 - a) Ships suspended or withdrawn from class for safety reasons since the last inspection carried out in the European Union or the MOU area.
 - b) Ships that are subject of a report or notification by another Member State.
 - c) Ships that cannot be identified in the inspection database.
 - d) Ships that:
 - have been involved in a collision, stranded or ran aground on the way to the port,
 - have been accused of failing to comply with the provisions in force regarding the discharge of dangerous substances or effluents,
 - have manoeuvred erratically or in unsafe way, without applying IMO-approved maritime traffic management rules or other safe navigation practices,
 - received MLC-2006 complaint.

III. State Environmental Control of Maritime Shipping in the Bulgarian Seaports

1. *In a state of emergency, state environmental control of ships will be carried out remotely, mainly through the National Maritime Single Window (NMSW)*
2. The regular physical State Environmental Inspections on board ships and the control of the sulfur content of the marine fuels (Sulfur Inspections) are temporary suspended. No inspections will be carried out on board the following ships:
 - arriving from high-risk countries;
 - having on board one or more persons (crew members or passengers) infected with COVID-19 or who have resided in/traveled to/via high-risk countries during the last 30 days prior to the arrival at a Bulgarian port, and on grounds for suspecting the possibility of contamination
3. Physical inspections on board ships may be carried out in the following circumstances:
 - upon receiving a legitimate request/report/signal from a foreign authority;

- upon receiving a signal for pollution or other violation of regulatory requirements for the prevention of environmental pollution by ships in a Bulgarian seaport;
 - when a violation related to the submission by the NMSW of documents required before arrival or departure is established.
4. Alerts for pollution, caused by ship or other violation of the environmental requirements in the field of shipping will be received 24/7 by MRCC (contact details: <https://www.marad.bg/en/node/1281>). Signals may also be submitted to the inspectors on duty in the State Environmental Control on Shipping on the following telephone numbers 00359 888 91 07 69 for DMA - Varna and 00359 887 78 73 19 for DMA - Burgas.
 5. With respect to ships, calling Bulgarian ports, the documents control will be intensified. Extra copies of ships' certificates, plans, logbooks, photographs, etc. may be required at the discretion of the inspectors. To this end, ship agents are required to fully cooperate with the officials of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration.
 6. Ship agents are required to familiarize the masters of all ships, calling the Bulgarian ports with the specific regulatory requirements of the Bulgarian seaports, related to the prevention of the environment from pollution from ships. A general notice thereto is available at: <https://www.marad.bg/bg/node/1635>.



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