



## MARSEILLE/FOS-SUR-MER



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## **EBOLA VIRUS – Update 3**

As previously advised the situation in the various countries of West Africa regarding the Ebola virus is very fluid and is changing on a daily basis.

In this context and further to our advice of 19.08.2014 and updates of 22.08.2014 and 27.08.2014 please find below a summary of the latest information we have received from various TCI Africa Offices in West Africa.

### **SENEGAL**

The first report case of Ebola in Senegal was announced on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. It concerned a man from neighbouring Guinea who managed to enter the country. He was quarantined in a specialised hospital in Dakar. So far no further measures or restrictions have been taken vis-à-vis the shipping community at Dakar.

### **GABON**

Further to a notice issued by the Gabonese Ministry of Transport in Libreville to the Port Authorities in Gabon on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 advising that any vessel calling at a Gabonese port coming directly from a county affected by the current Ebola virus outbreak (i.e. Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia & Nigeria) would not be allowed to enter or berth at the port we are advised that the port authority at Port Gentil has recently banned a vessel coming from Matadi DRC. Consequently we are waiting for an official notification as to whether DRC is to be added to the list of the 4 banned countries.

### **GHANA**

Whilst there has been no reported case of Ebola to date in Ghana the Port Health Authority has issued the following advice / precautionary measures

- Masters have been requested not to allow their crew to leave the vessel. They are to remain on board at all times keeping their cabins and portholes shut.
- Stevedores have been asked to work solely in their designated area and are not permitted to enter the vessel's accommodation.
- All documents are to be signed at a designated area provided by the vessel's administration (i.e. Chief Officer or Master) for health & safety reasons.
- Vessel's are still berthing and continue to work as usual without delay. Port Health Authority representatives always board vessels in port, not at the anchorage.

- Port security with regards to security & safety to ship is still in place due to the ISPS Code; however health & safety has been stepped up due to Ebola virus.
- Body search on dock workers is being carried out by selected officials from Port Health trained to handle such matters.
- Wearing of surgical gloves has been recommended by Port Health to avoid direct contact with others.

### **NIGERIA**

The first reported case of Ebola outside Lagos has been report in Port Harcourt on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Whilst those in contact with the deceased were quarantined TCI Lagos advises that so far there has been no effect on ship operations / movements at Port Harcourt or on the Bonny River and that no special measures, other than those already in place, are planned for the time being.

### **LIBERIA**

In the continuing fight against the spread of the Ebola virus the Liberian Maritime Authority issued the attached Marine Operations Note 08/2004 for all users of all sea ports in Liberia.

As well as indicating the measure taken with regards to port workers and entry / exit to the port the note also outlines measure taken with regard to visiting vessels and crews including no shore leave or crew changes.

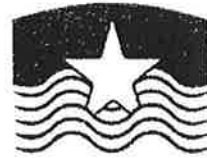
With the situation regarding the Ebola outbreak changing almost daily we strongly advise all Owners / Masters / Charterers to remain in contact with their local agent in order to ascertain prior to arrival the very latest and most up to date information regarding any new restrictions or health / sanitary procedures to be applied.

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

**Simon Webster**  
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**As Agents to the Managers of TCI AFRICA**



Republic of Liberia  
**Liberia Maritime Authority**  
P. O. Box 10-9042  
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia



**MARINE OPERATIONS NOTE 08/2014**  
**SUBJECT: EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ADVISORY FOR ALL SEAPORTS IN**  
**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

Ref: World Health Organization  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
SOS International  
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Republic of Liberia

To: All domestic vessels' owners, operators, agents, vessels calling at Liberian seaports, stevedores, and other port users.

The outbreak of Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Nigeria has gained global attention to the extent the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak in the four countries as "a global health emergency". Prior to WHO's declaration, the Government of the Republic of Liberia had already declared the Ebola outbreak in the country as a "national health emergency".

**Basic information about Ebola:**

- a. Infection is by **direct contact** (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with blood or body fluids (urine, saliva, feces, vomit, semen, breast milk) of a sick person or animal or by contact with contaminated objects (such as needles).
- b. Symptoms may include the following: fever (usually considered by the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to be 37.5 degrees Celsius (axillary) or higher, but may vary based on how the temperature is measured), severe headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.
- c. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to blood or body fluids of an infected person or animal, although 8 to 10 days is most common. A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- d. There is no specific treatment or vaccine available.
- e. Early recognition of Ebola is important for providing appropriate patient care and preventing the spread of infection.
- f. Ebola virus outside the body can be easily destroyed with heat, alcohol-based products, and bleach or bleaching powder at appropriate concentrations.

### Preventive measures:

- a. Avoid contact with ill persons experiencing the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising. If direct contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable, use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves. If exposure to large amounts of body fluids is expected, rubber boots or booties (shoe covers) are recommended.
- b. Avoid all contact with blood and body fluids and any items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids.
- c. Avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals.
- d. Avoid handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola.
- e. Seek urgent medical attention if you feel sick (fever, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising).
- f. Avoiding routine social physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging) may prevent spread of Ebola or other illnesses from sick persons.
- g. Wash your hands regularly with chlorinated water. If chlorinated water is not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use a waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- h. Handle animals with heavy-duty gloves and protective clothing.
- i. Wear impermeable disposable gloves while cleaning the ship and throw used gloves away in BIOHAZARD containers when cleaning is done or if they become soiled or damaged during cleaning. If cleaning areas are contaminated by blood or body fluids, also wear face mask, eye protection, impermeable gown, and rubber boots or booties (shoe covers).
- j. When using personal protective equipment, remove equipment carefully to avoid contaminating hands or clothing, and immediately wash hands.

### Mandatory measures to be observed at all seaports and port facilities:

To prevent the further spread of the deadly Ebola virus within the territorial limits of the Republic of Liberia and support its subsequent elimination, the below measures **MUST BE** strictly observed and adhered to without any exception:

- a. All port users **MUST** wash their hands at every entry and exit access point. **HAND WASHING IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS PORT AND PORT FACILITIES.**
- b. All port users (including drivers) **MUST** disembark from vehicles to wash their hands and be screened for fever upon entry to the port or port facilities;
- c. All port users **MUST** wear appropriate long **SLEEVES** and long **PANTS**.
- d. All port users for whom contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable (e.g., health staff) **MUST** have their own PPE to gain access. Required PPE for persons who have contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons includes: face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves, and rubber boots or booties (shoe coverings). **SHARING OF PPE IS NOT ALLOWED.**

- e. All soiled or damaged PPE should be properly disposed of in a BIOHAZARD container for appropriate safe disposal (e.g., incineration).
- f. No boarding of vessels will be allowed except by authorized personnel performing official duties. All authorized personnel boarding vessels must put on impermeable disposal gloves at the gangway before boarding the vessel and remove the gloves upon disembarking.
- g. All port users MUST seek urgent medical attention if sick (fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising). They should contact the medical facility in advance if possible, and avoid contact with others while traveling to seek care.

**All vessels calling at Liberian seaports and authorized personnel boarding vessels must observe the below measures:**

- a. Only authorized personnel performing official duties shall have access to inbound and outbound vessels;
- b. All authorized personnel MUST wash their hands with chlorinated water at the gangway before embarking and disembarking the vessel.
- c. All authorized personnel MUST wear long sleeves and long pants. Personnel must put on impermeable disposal gloves at the gangway before boarding the vessel and remove the gloves upon disembarking.
- d. All port users for whom contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable (e.g., health staff) MUST have their own PPE to gain access. Required PPE for persons who have contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons includes: face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves, and rubber boots or booties (shoe coverings). **SHARING OF PPE IS NOT ALLOWED.**
- e. All soiled or damaged PPE should be properly disposed of in a biohazard container;
- f. No shore leave/pass will be issued to any crewmember except in cases of medical evacuation at which time the Port Doctor MUST be contacted for further action.
- g. No crew changes will be allowed until further notice.
- h. All vessels coming into port MUST report passengers/crew members experiencing any of the following symptoms [fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising] prior to coming into port.

*By Directive of the Commissioner/CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority, Hon. Binyah C. Kesselly, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014.*

**Useful contact points to report suspected Ebola cases at Liberian seaports:**

Ebola hotline: **4455**

Monrovia – MRCC: +231 (0) 777 290 158 / e-mail: [MRMRCC@lma-liberia.com](mailto:MRMRCC@lma-liberia.com)

Port Clinic: +231 (0) 886 516 869

Port Safety/Security: +231 (0) 886 613 407 / e-mail: [gbassinc2@aol.com](mailto:gbassinc2@aol.com)