

To: The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Date: 08th Jul., 2021

Total Pages: 15

RE: ENHANCED QUARANTINE MEASURES IN KOREA RELATED TO COVID-19

(SUBMISSION OF PCR NEGATIVE CERTIFICATE)

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We would like to summarize the submission of PCR Negative Certificate regulation in Korea for the club's and the members' easy reference as follows:

- Page No.1 ~ 14: History & Detailed updates of the regulation
- Page No.15 ~ 17: Summary of the regulation

[HISTORY & DETAILED UPDATES OF THE REGULATION]

[ENFORCED AS OF 03RD AUG 2020]

- **Announcement of new regulation for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports**

Due to the rapidly increased positive cases of COVID-19 from vessels calling to Korean Ports, KDCA(Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency) has announced new regulation for vessels calling at Korean Ports to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Based on the vessel's departure date on or after 03rd Aug 2020, if there was any on-signers and/or crew shore leave at 7 high risk countries(listed below), it is mandatory for the vessel to submit PCR negative certificate for those crew members who embarked the vessel and went ashore.**

* 7 high risk countries: Russia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines,

Uzbekistan

- **PCR Negative Certificate must meet following 3 conditions.**

- ① Must be issued by designated facility by KDCA through diplomatic offices at each country
(Please kindly refer to the attachment for the list of facilities.)
- ② Must be issued within 48hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date. For example,
 - 0100hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
 - 1000hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
 - 2300hrs 10. 05. departure -> valid certificate is the one issued on or after 0000hrs 10.03.
- ③ Must be issued before embarkation(on-signer) / returning to the vessel(shore leave)

- **Violation of the submission of PCR Negative Certificate**

- Crew disembarkation and/or shore leave is not permitted at Korean Ports.
- COVID-19 test will be performed for all crew members after calling at Korea Ports and the cargo OPS will be only permitted when all crew members are test negative.

[01ST UPDATE ON 08TH SEP 2020]

- **Strengthening of punishment regulations enforced for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports on or after 08th Sep 2020**

Due to many cases of non-submission and/or invalid submission of PCR Negative Certificate after the announcement of new regulation, KDCA has announced the strengthened punishment regulation for the violation of the submission of PCR Negative Certificate as follows:

- **Matter of Violation**

- Submission of invalid PCR Negative Certificate

- * Invalid certificate: Issued at non-designated facility / Not issued within the given timeframe

- Non-submission of PCR Negative Certificate

- Forgery/alternation of PCR Negative Certificate

- **Punishment**

- Penal Servitude up to 1 year or Fine not exceeding KRW 10,000,000

- * Under joint penal provision against employer and employee, fines can be given KRW 20,000,000 per crew, i.e. KRW 10,000,000 to the owners and KRW 10,000,000 to the master on behalf of the crew.

- * Thus, if there're 5 violated crews from one vessel, maximum fine amount will be KRW 20,000,000 X 5 crews = KRW 100,000,000

- **Measurements against violated vessel**

- By Quarantine

- 1) PCR test for all crews onboard will be performed.

- 2) No cargo OPS is available until the release of test result.

- 3) Test negative for all crew members, the vessel will be cleared by quarantine and cargo

OPS is available.

4) Test positive, following orders will be given by quarantine.

① Option 1. Denial of ship's entry.

② Option 2. 14 days of quarantine and transfer of test positive crew to local hospital.

■ By Coast Guard

1) Investigation will be conducted for master and/or crew who violated the submission of PCR Negative Certificate.

* Cargo OPS is available during the investigation once cleared by quarantine.

* Vessel's departure is not available till the completion of investigation.

2) Based on the investigation report by Coast Guard, the owners and the master will be prosecuted and the fines will be imposed.

■ By Port Authority

1) The vessel will be listed for "subject to entry permission" for 6 months.

[02ND UPDATE ON 20TH OCT 2020]

- **Relaxation of regulation for vessels called at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 and calling at Korean Ports on or after 20th Oct 2020**

As the vessel may have no intention to call Korean Ports or Korean port of calls may have not been scheduled at the time of calling 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020, KDCA have announced the relaxation of the regulation on 20th Oct 2020 as follows:

- **The case that the vessel will be exempted for the submission of PCR negative certificate**
(Following 3 conditions are regarded that vessels have no intention to call at Korean Ports and/or it is hard to anticipate vessels calling at Korean Ports. Thus, if the vessel meets one of following 3 conditions, the submission of PCR negative certificate is exempted even though there have been on-signers and/or shore leave at 7 high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020.)
 - A. After departure from 7 high risk countries, 28 or more days should pass and the vessel should call at two or more countries before Korean Ports.
 - * 28 days was calculated by twice of WHO's standard(14 days of COVID-19 observation period)
 - Ex) 7 high risk countries(09.03. Departure) -> A -> B -> Korea(10.03. Arrival)
 - * A, B should NOT be 7 high risk countries and.
 - * A, B should be different countries.
 - B. Avoidance purpose caused by bad weather condition – The vessel initially has no intention to call at Korean Ports, but vessel's calling at Korean Ports is unexpectedly arranged to avoid bad weather condition.
 - C. Other unexpected or inevitable callings will be judged by Head of Quarantine Station
- **The case that PCR negative certificates are invalid caused by the delay of vessels departure, despite of the proper issuance of PCR negative certificates within 48hrs prior to vessel's departure at the initial stage. -> Invalid PCR negative certificates due to over 48hrs of issued time prior to vessel's departure can be properly accepted only if the vessel's departure is caused by one of following reasons and it is proven.**
 - A. Bad weather condition or natural disaster

B. Breakdown of the vessel

C. Other reasons of delay caused by unavoidable circumstances will be judged by the head of Quarantine

● **Amendment of PCR Test(Enforced as of 10.19.)**

BEFORE	AMENDED
③ Non-submission or Invalid submission of the certificate: All crews onboard are subject to PCR Test.	③ Non-submission or Invalid submission of the certificate: Crews who are listed as non-submission or invalid submission of the certificate are subject to PCR Test only.
*The vessel exempted for the submission of PCR Negative Certificate is not regarded as non-submission or invalid submission of the certificate.	

[03RD UPDATE ON 26TH OCT 2020]

➤ **Change of 7 high risk countries**

7 high risk countries has been changed as of 26th Oct 2020 as follows:

- **Removed: Pakistan**
- **Added: Nepal**

Thus, 7 high risk countries are Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan

[04TH UPDATE ON 29TH OCT 2020]

➤ **Change of designated PCR test facilities at Philippines**

- *Baguio Medical Center & PRI Medical Center* will be removed from the designated facility as of 05th Nov. Thus, the certificates from both facilities are valid till 04th Nov(Issuance date).

[05TH UPDATE ON 12TH NOV 2020]

➤ **Change of high risk countries**

7 high risk countries has been changed to 6 countries as of 12th Nov 2020 as follows:

- **Removed: Kazakhstan**
- Thus, 6 high risk countries are Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Uzbekistan

[06TH UPDATE - MINOR CHANGES AS OF 22ND DEC 2020]

➤ **RUSSIA - QR CODE MUST BE PRINTED AT THE CERTIFICATE**

- *PCR negative certificate issued on or after 17th Dec 2020 must have QR Code printed on the certificate that will be checked by Quarantine when the vessel calls Korean Ports.*

- *Some facilities are removed from the designated facilities as they are not capable to print QR Code on the certificate.*

➤ *Change of designated PCR test facilities*

- *Due to the continuous changes of the designated facilities, it is meaningless to provide the list of the designated facilities. Thus, it is highly recommended for the vessel to check the valid facilities at the time of the vessel's calling at high risk countries through their local agent to avoid the testing at non-designated facilities.*

[07TH UPDATE – TO BE APPLIED FROM 15TH JAN 2021]

- If the vessel calls Korean Port, PCR negative certificate are required for all on-signers embarked the vessel on or after 0000hrs 15th Jan 2021.
- *[PREVIOUS] PCR negative certificate is only required for crew who embarked at high risk countries.*
- *[CHANGED] PCR negative certificate is required for all crew who embarked at all foreign countries.*
 - A. *6 high risk countries – PCR negative certificates must be issued at the designated facilities.*
 - B. *Other countries – PCR negative certificates can be issued at any facilities.*
 - * *PCR negative certificate must be issued at the country of embarking port. The certificate issued at other countries, such as crew's home country, is not regarded as valid certificate.*
 - * *PCR negative certificate must be written either in English or Korean. If not, the certificate should be translated to English or Korean and the translation certificate should be submitted as well.*
 - * *Valid PCR test method is only by "Real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction".*

- **Extension of issuing time of PCR negative certificate(FROM 48HRS TO 72HRS)**
 - *[PREVIOUS] Must be issued within 48hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date.*
 - *[CHANGED] Must be issued within 72hrs prior to 0000hrs of ship's departure date.*

[08TH UPDATE – MINOR CHANGES AS OF 02ND FEB 2021]

- **Change of high risk countries**

6 high risk countries has been changed to 7 countries as follows:

- **Added: England, South Africa as of 29th Dec 2020**
- **Removed: Uzbekistan as of 27th Jan 2021**
- Thus, 6 high risk countries are **Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, the UK, South Africa.**

- **The required info on PCR negative Certificate**

- **Previous: Name(Same of Passport) of Donor, Name of Test, Result of Test, Issuance date of the certificate**
- **Added on 27th Jan 2021: DOB of Donor, Date of Test, Official seal(stamp) or Signature of the facility**
- **Thus, Name(Same of Passport) of Donor, Name of Test, Result of Test, Issuance date of the certificate, DOB of Donor, Date of Test, Official seal(stamp) or Signature of the facility must be stated on PCR negative certificate.**

[09TH UPDATE – MINOR CHANGES AS OF 15TH FEB 2021]

➤ **Change of high risk countries**

7 high risk countries has been changed to 5 countries as follows:

- **Removed: Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh as of 08th Feb 2021**
- Thus, 5 high risk countries are **Russia, Nepal, Philippines, the UK, South Africa.**

➤ **Issued place of PCR negative certificate**

- **Previous: PCR negative certificate must be issued at the country of embarking port.**
- **Changed: PCR negative certificate can be issued at third countries if it can be issued within 72hrs prior to the vessel's departure.**

(PCR negative certificate can be issued at any country, but it must be issued within 72 hrs prior to the vessel's departure. It is updated for the crew who get the certificate at his home country and/or transit country and fly to the country where he/she will embark the vessel. Previously, PCR negative certificate issued at his/her home country and/or transit country was not accepted as a valid certificate. But, after the update, PCR negative certificate issued at his/her home country and/or transit country can be accepted as a valid certificate if the certificate was issued within 72 hrs prior to the vessel's departure.)

➤ **PCR negative certificate after embarkation**

- **Previous: PCR negative certificate must be issued before embarkation(within 72 hrs prior to the vessel's departure).**
- **Changed: If on-signer failed to get PCR negative certificate at his/her embarking port, it can be issued at other ports before calling Korean Port.**

(If the crew embark the vessel without PCR negative certificate, he can get the certificate at the next ports before calling Korean Port. Previously, it was not accepted as a valid certificate, but after the update, the certificate issued at transit port can be accepted as a valid certificate. Likewise other cases, the certificate must be issued within 72 hrs prior to the vessel's departure as well.)

[10TH UPDATE – MINOR CHANGES AS OF 31ST MAR 2021]

➤ Change of high risk countries on 04th Mar 2021

5 high risk countries has been changed to 6 countries as follows:

- **Added: France as of 04th Mar 2021**
- Thus, 6 high risk countries are **Russia, Nepal, Philippines, the UK, South Africa, France.**

➤ Change of high risk countries on 25th Mar 2021

6 high risk countries has been changed to 5 countries as follows:

- **Removed: Nepal as of 25th Mar 2021**
- Thus, 5 high risk countries are **Russia, Philippines, the UK, South Africa, France.**

[11TH UPDATE ON 07TH APR 2021 – CHANGE OF PUNISHMENT]

➤ Previous punishment for both non-submission & submission of invalid PCR negative certificate

- Penal Servitude up to 1 year or Fine not exceeding KRW 10,000,000

* Under joint penal provision against employer and employee, fines can be given KRW 20,000,000 per crew, i.e. KRW 10,000,000 to the owners and KRW 10,000,000 to the master on behalf of the crew.

* Thus, if there're 5 violated crews from one vessel, maximum fine amount will be KRW 20,000,000 X 5 crews = KRW 100,000,000

➤ New punishment applied as of 07th Apr 2021

- **Non-submission: Same as above.**
- **Submission of invalid PCR negative certificate: KRW 1,000,000 per crew**

[12TH UPDATE – MINOR CHANGES AS OF 24TH APR 2021]

- **Change of high risk countries as of 24th Apr**
 - **Added: Bangladesh on 16th Apr 2021**
 - **Added: Pakistan on 23rd Apr 2021**
 - **Added: India on 24th Apr 2021**
 - Thus, 8 high risk countries are **Russia, Philippines, the UK, South Africa, France, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India.**

[13TH UPDATE – CHANGE OF PUNISHMENT]

- **Additional Fine by Immigration Office**
 - **In addition to new punishment applied as of 07th Apr 2021 from Quarantine as explained above by 11th update, there'll be KRW 1,000,000 of additional fine to the master from Immigration for the violating of Korean Immigration Act – Transport of unqualified person to Korean territory.**
 - **The additional fine is applied for on-signers who joined the vessel on or after 0000hrs 20th May 2021 without valid PCR negative certificate.**

[14TH UPDATE – MINOR CHANGES AS OF 30TH JUN 2021]

- **Change of high risk countries as of 28th Jun**
 - **Removed: the UK on 28th May 2021**
 - **Added: Indonesia on 28th Jun 2021**
 - Thus, 8 high risk countries are **Russia, Philippines, South Africa, France, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Indonesia**

[15TH UPDATE ON 01ST JUL 2021]

➤ Change of the subject

- Previous: On-signers at one of high risk countries on or after 03rd Aug 2020 & On-signers at any foreign country on or after 15th Jan 2021

- **Changed: On-signers at any foreign country on or after 24th Feb 2021**

: Thus, on-signers before 24th Feb 2021 are not subject to the submission of PCR negative certificate as of 01st Jul 2021.

➤ Exception of the validity of PCR negative certificate

- PCR negative certificate must be issued “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure”. For example,
 - 29th Jun: PCR negative certificate issued
 - 01st Jul: Signed on
 - 10th Jul: Vessel’s departure

In this case, PCR negative certificate must be issued on or after 07th Jun to ensure the validity of PCR negative certificate – “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure”. Thus, if on-signer signed on the vessel on 01st Jun with PCR negative certificate issued just before the embarkation, it is not valid as it is not issued “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure”.

- **[Exception] PCR negative certificate issued within 72hrs prior to the embarkation date can be accepted as a valid certificate as well ONLY IF one of following conditions are met.**

- ◆ **At the time of arrival in Korea, it passes 14 days or more from the departure date at the port with on-signers.**

For example,

- 29th Jun: PCR negative certificate issued
- 01st Jul: Signed on
- 10th Jul: Vessel’s departure
- 25th Jul: Arrival in Korea

Previously, PCR negative certificate issued just before embarkation was not accepted as a valid certificate. However, as of 01st Jul(vessel’s arrival date in Korea basis), PCR negative certificate issued on 29th Jun(within 72hrs prior to

the embarkation) can be accepted as a valid one as well with 14 or more days of voyage from the port with on-signers to Korean Port.

◆ In case, Untact(Non Face to Face) Cargo Operation is available. The following type of vessels are listed for Untact Cargo Operation Vessel.

- Container Vessel
- Chemical/Crude/LPG
- Other type of vessels whose cargo operation can be arranged by machine without manpower. Please kindly check with each local quarantine office who is governing the vessel's actual port of call to find out more details.

[SUMMARY OF THE REGULATION]

1. Subject - crew members who need to submit PCR negative certificate

- On-signers at any foreign country on or after 24th Feb 2021

2. The condition of valid PCR negative certificate

- Must be issued “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure”.

Thus, if there’s any crew member who joined the vessel holding PCR negative certificate which was issued at 72hrs before the vessel’s departure, PCR Test must be re-arranged 1~3 days before the vessel’s departure in order for the crew member to have PCR negative certificate issued “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure”.

If on-signer failed to get PCR negative certificate at his/her embarking port, it can be issued at other ports before calling Korean Port. In case of PCR Test at other ports, the issuance date “within 72hrs prior to the vessel’s departure” should be met.

[EXCEPTION] PCR negative certificate issued within 72hrs prior to the embarkation date can be accepted as a valid certificate as well ONLY IF one of conditions are met.

- At the time of arrival in Korea, it passes 14 days or more from the departure date at the port with on-signers.

- In case, Untact(Non Face to Face) Cargo Operation is available.

- Must be NAATs(Nucleic acid amplification tests) based test, such as PCR, LAMP, TMA, SDA, NEAR.

Other test method, such as RAT, ELISA, and “at-home-test” are not considered as a valid test method.

- Must be printed:
 - Name(Same of Passport) of Donor
 - Name(Method) of Test
 - Result of Test
 - Date of Test
 - Issuance date of the certificate
 - DOB of Donor(It can be replaced by Passport Number or ID Number)
 - Official seal(stamp) or Name of the facility
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- Non high risk countries - PCR negative certificate can be issued from any facility, but it should be written either in English or Korean.
 - High risk countries – PCR negative certificate must be issued at the designated facilities. At the moment, only two(Philippines and Russia) of 8 high risk countries have designated facilities, so PCR negative certificate by the designated facility is only required from Philippines and Russia. However, there's possibility that Korean Government expand the designated facilities to other high risk countries, so it is highly recommended for the owners to check the necessity of the designated facilities at other high risk countries at the time of signing on of crew members at high risk countries.

4. Exemption of the submission of PCR negative certificate

- If the vessel meet both conditions at the time of the vessel's arrival in Korea, the submission of PCR negative certificate is exempted.
 - **28 or more days** has already passed since the vessel's departure from the port with on-signers.
 - The vessel has called **two or more countries** since the vessel's departure from the port with on-signers.(At the initial stage, two or more countries should not be one of high risk countries. But, any of two countries including high risk countries are fine now.)

5. Delay & Fine for the non-submission or submission of invalid certificate

- PCR Test will be conducted for crew members upon arrival in Korea.
(Basically, PCR Test will be conducted for those who're subject to the submission of PCR negative certificate. However, under the attending quarantine officer's judgement, PCR Test can be conducted for all crew members onboard.)
 - It will take about 1 day to get the test result.
 - The vessel will be cleared only after receiving the negative result.
 - Non-submission: Penal Servitude up to 1 year or Fine not exceeding KRW 10,000,000
 - * Under joint penal provision against employer and employee, fines can be given KRW 20,000,000 per crew, i.e. KRW 10,000,000 to the owners and KRW 10,000,000 to the master
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on behalf of the crew.

- **Submission of invalid PCR negative certificate: KRW 1,000,000 per crew**
 - **Additional fine by Immigration for both non-submission & submission of invalid PCR negative certificate: KRW 1,000,000 to the master**
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With our summary above on the regulation of PCR Negative Certificate, we sincerely hope that the members of JPIA can be fully aware of the regulation in advance and prepare necessary requirements in order to avoid possible punishment and/or delay of the vessel when calling at Korean Ports.

Should you have any concern or question, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Eastern Shipping Co., Ltd. as a correspondent of Japan P&I Club in Korea



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