Shipping Operations  updated 18 June 2020

This weekly bulletin is compiled to give all stakeholders an overview of the current impact of COVID-19 on Pacific Shipping activities. It draws on sources from government, commercial and humanitarian sectors. The Bulletin is circulated each Wednesday.

Overview

Difficulties in performing crew change remains one of the most pressing issues facing the international maritime industry. The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) is pushing governments around the world to designate ship crew as ‘key workers’ and to facilitate crew change.

Shipping companies in the Pacific region continue to report reduced cargo demand on reduced services. They have responded with a mix of blanked sailings, reduced frequency of services, alteration of scheduled routes and use of smaller vessels. Freight rate increases have been implemented on the majority of routes bringing cargo into the region. Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands have eased quarantine regulations and shipping companies are now reporting minimal delays. Kiribati continue to enforce a 5 day quarantine period once the cargo is landed onshore and Tuvalu enforces similar 8 day quarantine period.

No PICTs are currently reporting food security issues, or fuel shortages due to interrupted shipping supply, as far as we are aware.

State / Territory Date Source
Cook Islands 17-Jun-20 Matson Schedule
09-Jun-20 Cook Island Government

Fiji 02-Jun-20 PDL Trade Notice
08-Jun-20 Swire News (Website)

FSM 18-Jun-20 Mariana Express Line (MELI) Schedule

Kiribati 15-Jun-20 Kiribati Port Authority

Marshall Islands 06-Jun-20 Update Interim Health Travel Advisory and Restrictions Issuance 14
16-Jun-20 PDL Trade Notice/schedule

Nauru 22-Apr-20 Neptune Pacific Line(NPL) Trade Notice

New Zealand 15-Jun-20 Port of Auckland COVID-19 Operational Update

Niue 15-Jun-20 Matson Schedule and Matson Agent

Papua New Guinea 10-Jun-20 PNG Ports Website

Pitcairn 17-Jun-20 Pitcairn Administrator/ Marine Traffic

Samoana 17-Jun-20 Samoana Shipping Corporation

Solomon Islands 17-Jun-20 Solomon Star Online

16-Jun-20 Kyowa Shipping

17-Jun-20 Tradco Shipping Agent

Shipping has improved over the past few weeks with the new rules and we’re seeing much smaller, if any, delays to berthing the vessels which is positive. Hopefully there will be further easing particularly with 5DE ending in a few weeks.
Foreign Cargo Vessel Quarantine Period: Fourteen (14) clear days at sea or a combination at sea and anchor in the Solomon Islands UNLESS (a) if the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 1 – Five (5) clear days OR (b) if the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 2 – Nine (9) clear days OR (c) if the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 3 – Fourteen (14) clear days

TIER 1: 5 DAYS - PAPUA NEW GUINEA FII NEW CALEDONIA VANUATU MAURITIUS KIRIBATI TUVALU
TIER 2: 9 DAYS - AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND SOUTH KOREA
TIER 3: 14 DAYS - CHINA HONG KONG (SAR) MACAU (SAR) CHINESE TAIPEI JAPAN SINGAPORE MALAYSIA THAILAND INDONESIA PHILIPPINES ITALY UNITED KINGDOM USA SPAIN

Agents for Category 1, 2, or 3 vessels may apply to the Exemptions Committee for consideration for clearance less than the stipulated number of days under that tier. Such applications will only be considered based upon the urgency of need for those goods.