**Baltic States: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia – update 21 May 2020**

**Lithuanian ports**

* Entrance of cruise ships to Klaipeda Port is prohibited by the resolution of the Lithuanian Government.
* Entrance of cargo ships and movement of goods are not restricted.
* It is prohibited for foreigners to enter the Republic of Lithuania, except for drivers and crew members, when commercial and/or international carriage of goods is carried out, also there are other exceptions. A transit of persons returning to their country of residence or in whose respect a reasoned request has been made by a foreign country, also seafarers shall be allowed through the territory of the Republic of Lithuania without a necessary stop, in formed groups of persons or vehicles with ensured compulsory escort (convoy) of these groups from the entry into the Republic of Lithuania to the departure from it through the international border crossing points. The requirement to form a group of persons or vehicles and to ensure the compulsory escort (convoy) of these groups from the entry into the Republic of Lithuania to the departure from it through the international border crossing points shall not apply in the case of the citizens of the Republic of Estonia and of the Republic of Latvia and of persons lawfully residing in these countries. The facilitated transit of 3 persons through the Republic of Lithuania from the territory of the Russian Federation to Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation and backwards shall be carried out only at Kena railway border checkpoint and Kybartai railway border checkpoint under the conditions laid down by the Minister for Foreign affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. The transit of seafarers may be carried out after the shipping company or the ship’s agent has ensured their safe transportation from the entry into the Republic of Lithuania to the departure from it through the international border crossing points.
* Every person while not at home must have his mouth and nose covered (mask, respirator, scarf, etc.), so the same apply to the crews.
* 24 h prior to entering the port Captain must submit a health declaration. Information regarding health of a crew members must be updated 2 h prior entering the port. If the declaration indicated a sick person on board:
	+ After the vessel is berthed National Public Health Center (NPHC) under the Ministry of Health epidemiologists come onboard and investigate the situation;
	+ If symptoms are relevant, sick crew member is transferred by ambulance to hospital;
	+ By the order of NPHC vessel (cabins), other living quarters have to be disinfected by the crew with the disinfection means on board, if the crew has no means, disinfection has to be done by the licensed Lithuanian entity.
	+ After the cleaning and disinfection agents, stevedores, surveyors and others are allowed to come onboard.
	+ Persons (agents, others), who are contacting with the crew members have to wear means of personal protection.
	+ After the disinfection persons who are not in contact with a crew are allowed to participate in loading / unloading operations onboard.
* The crew members, who are employed in Lithuanian companies engaged in international commercial transportation, or who carry out international commercial transportation by all the means of transport, shall fall subject to isolation from the day of arrival in the Republic of Lithuania until the day of departure from its territory, but no longer than 14 days.

The state of emergency in the country is valid until 31 of May 2020.

**Latvian ports**

* All international passenger transportation was stopped from 17 March 2020, but special voyages required for repatriation of the residents from abroad are performed. Since 15 of May 2020 free movement around the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) is allowed for the residents of these countries is allowed. Since 18 of May 2020 Latvian airline AirBaltic resumed commercial flights to and from Vilnius, Tallinn, Oslo and Frankfurt. Calls of cruise ships to Latvian ports are still prohibited, excluding special (repatriation) voyages.
* Prior to entering the port all ship agents of all cargo ships calling at the ports shall provide the port authorities with accurate information on the composition of the ship's crew and the health status of all crew members. Any cases of illness or bad feeling among the members of the crew are to be reported to the authorities.
* The crew of foreign-flagged vessels calling at the Latvian ports shall be prohibited from coming ashore, except the specific cases to be agreed upon when necessary for the normal operation of the ship. Crew change in Latvia is not prohibited if the transportation of the seafarer from Latvia can be arranged. In case of emergency (accidents on board, illness of a crewmember), or in case where change involves only Latvian crewmembers, the authorities must be contacted prior to any actions are taken. Transportation of rotation crew by the vessels of the port auxiliary fleet: pilot vessels, towboats and sanitary water collection vessels, shall be strictly prohibited.
* All activities related to cargo handling and ship maintenance shall be performed to minimize physical contact between persons. The ships must refrain from current vessel repair and maintenance works by involving shore personnel, to the extent possible.
* Specific internal procedures have been introduced and changes made to operating procedures to minimize physical contact among shift employees, as well as any contact with crews of incoming ships. Pilots and other port personnel who, due to their duties, cannot avoid meeting with crew members shall be provided with personal protection and disinfection agents. Contacts between the vessel crew and pilot or vessel inspector is to be organised by observing distance of at least 2 metres.
* Since the beginning of May local marine doctors resumed PEME, so the seafarers now can undergo the commission. Out-patient medical services for the seafarers, who were abroad within the previous 14 days, are available only after passing Covid-19 test.

The security measures remain valid up to the moment of revocation thereof.

The state of emergency in the country is valid until 09th of June 2020.

**Estonian ports**

* Passenger traffic between Estonia and Finland is only allowed for returning citizens or in certain special cases. Due to the decline in demand related to the restrictions, passenger operators have made several adjustments to their schedules. On 14 of May 2020 the ferry link between Tallinn and Helsinki was partly reopened for work-related journeys. Travels for tourism are still not allowed.
* The ban on cruise ship calls directly concerns the cancellation of four scheduled ship calls. Tallinn-Stockholm cruises are prohibited
* Reintroduction of border control and ban on the entry for foreign nationals from 17 March 2020 is still in force, excluding residents of the Republic of Lithuania and The Republic of Latvia.
* The government decided  to lift the movement restrictions on Estonia's western islands from 8th of May and all people regardless of place of residence are able to move between the mainland and the islands as well as between the islands themselves. Passenger compartments are also opened. The general 2+2 rule remains in force - only two people can be in a public space together and a two-meter distance must be kept from others.
* There are no national restrictions on freight transport. There are no significant changes in the schedules of regular freight lines vessels (containers and ro-ro) due to COVID-19 and voyages continue as before the crisis. Also, there has been no significant change in bulk cargo handling.
* Port of Tallinn has made several changes to work processes to ensure the continuity of the service.
* Personal protective equipment is provided to all frontline personnel.
* There are some international flights from Tallinn airport, up to date flight information on [Tallinn Airport website](https://www.tallinn-airport.ee/en/).

The state of emergency in the country Was lifted on 18 of May 2020 but the above-mentioned restrictions remain in force.

Kind regards,
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