

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - CREW CHALLENGES

Overview

In the wake of COVID-19 have the BIMCO secretariat received a number of reports and circulars with imposed restrictions intended to keep the virus at bay. These restrictions have proven to disturb crew mobility. In this page, we'll guide our members on the restriction regimes BIMCO is aware of.

[INFORMATION](#)[PORTS](#)[RESTRICTIONS AND SANCTIONS](#)[CORONAVIRUS - COVID-19](#)[2020](#)

› Section 1 - restrictions depending on travel history

- › [Algeria](#)
- › [Australia](#)
- › [Bahrain](#)
- › [Taiwan](#)
- › [Cyprus](#)
- › [Dominican Republic](#)
- › [Indonesia](#)
- › [Israel](#)
- › [Japan](#)
- › [Kenya](#)
- › [Korea, Republic of](#)
- › [Kuwait](#)
- › [New Zealand](#)
- › [Myanmar](#)
- › [Qatar](#)
- › [Saudi Arabia](#)
- › [Sri Lanka](#)
- › [Sudan](#)
- › [Suriname](#)
- › [Trinidad and Tobago](#)
- › [United States of America](#)
- › [Uruguay](#)

› Section 3 - crew change is prohibited or borders are closed

- › [Albania](#) (25 March)
- › [Angola](#) (19 March)
- › [Argentina](#) (18 March)
- › [Azores](#) (25 March)
- › [Bahamas](#) (25 March)
- › [Bangladesh](#) (24 March)
- › [Brazil](#) (27 March)
- › [Cameroon](#) (24 March)
- › [Canada](#)
- › [Chile](#) (19 March)
- › [China](#) (27 March)
- › [Cyprus](#)
- › [Czech Republic](#)
- › [Denmark](#)
- › [Ghana](#) (25 March)
- › [Gambia](#) (24 March)
- › [Germany](#)
- › [Gibraltar](#) (27 March)
- › [Greece](#) (27 March)
- › [Guinea Bissau](#) (24 March)
- › [Guyana](#) (26 March)
- › [Kazakhstan](#) (25 March)

› Section 2 - restrictions depending on nationalities

- › Argentina
- › Australia
- › Bangladesh
- › Dominican Republic
- › Japan (25 March)
- › Korea, Republic of
- › Myanmar
- › South Africa (18 March)
- › Togo (24 March)
- › Vietnam (19 March)

- › Lebanon (19 March)
- › Libya (19 March)
- › Malta (18 March)
- › Malaysia
- › Morocco
- › Namibia (26 March)
- › Norway
- › Pakistan
- › Panama (19 March)
- › Philippines (19 March)
- › Poland
- › Russia (28 March)
- › Serbia
- › Singapore (23 March)
- › Slovakia
- › Spain (19 March)
- › Sri Lanka (19 March)
- › South Africa (18 March)
- › Turkey
- › Ukraine (19 March)
- › United Arab Republic
- › Venezuela (19 March)

Since the first reports of restrictions associated with COVID-19 were received by the BIMCO secretariat, a clear picture slowly emerged: The preventive measures would prove a significant disturbance to all crewing operations, such as:

- › If the crew are unable to disembark the ship due to recent port calls, they must stay on board
- › If the replacing crew is unable to enter the country for scheduled crew change due to their country of origin, some crew will have to remain on board on mutually agreed extended contracts
- › If service engineers are unable to access the ship, they cannot perform their specialised maintenance which could jeopardise the proper function of the ship's equipment

Initially, the restrictions mainly targeted Chinese citizens without even considering whether they had spent several months on board prior to the outbreak. When COVID-19 started local circulation in other countries than China, the restriction regimes gradually changed to include new clusters.

In general, restrictions are either depending on:

- › Travel history
- › Nationalities

If the restrictions are depending on travel history, it is important to take the following into account:

- › Where has the crew been recently and at which ports has the ship called?

- › What is the travel history for supernumeraries such as:
 - › Cargo superintendents
 - › Passengers
 - › Accompanying spouses and children
 - › Guards – if employed on other ships recently, these itineraries should also be considered

If restrictions are depending on nationalities, it is important to take the following into account:

- › What are the nationalities of the crew on board?
- › What is the ship's country of registry?

It is important to keep in mind that even though the incubation period for COVID-19 is generally accepted as being within two weeks, several countries are imposing even longer restrictions.

In the following sections, please find non-exhaustive lists of imposed restrictions to crew mobility. The information provided is obtained from local agents and available public data. However, port authorities and port state health authorities can impose or change regimes with little to no notice. To get the extended information, we kindly refer to our [designated COVID-19 page](#).

Section 1 - restrictions depending on travel history

- Algeria
- Afghanistan
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Cambodia
- Canada
- China
- Egypt
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- India
- Iraq
- Italy
- Kuwait
- Lebanon

Nepal

Nigeria

Oman

Philippines

Russia

Spain

Sri Lanka

Sweden

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

USA

Vietnam

Australia

Mainland China

Italy

Iran

Korea, Republic of

Bahrain

China

Iran

Iraq

Korea, Republic of

Taiwan

Mainland China

Cyprus

China

France

Germany

Greece

Hong Kong

Iran

Italy

Japan

Korea, Republic of

Spain

Switzerland

United Kingdom

**Dominican
Republic**

China

Europe

Iran

Korea, Republic of

Israel Australia

 Austria

 France

 Germany

 Hong Kong

 Italy

 Japan

 Korea, Republic of

 Macau

 Mainland China

 Singapore

 Spain

 Switzerland

 Taiwan

 Thailand

Japan China

 Korea

 Italy

 San Marino

 Switzerland

 Spain

 Iceland

Indonesia Mainland China

Kenya China

Korea, Republic of China

Kuwait China and Hong Kong
Iran
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Korea, Republic of
Singapore
Thailand

New Zealand China

Myanmar China
Korea, Republic of

Qatar China
Not otherwise specified

Saudi Arabia Bahrain
Egypt
Iraq
Italy
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Lebanon
Syria
United Arab Emirates

Singapore China mainland
France
Germany
Iran
Italy
Korea, Republic of
Spain

Sri Lanka Not otherwise specified

Sudan China
Not otherwise specified

Suriname China

**Trinidad and
Tobago**

China
Iran
Italy
Korea, Republic of
Singapore

**United States
of America**

Austria
Belgium
China
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom

Uruguay

China

France

Germany

Iran

Italy

Korea, Republic of

Singapore

Spain

United States of America

Section 2 - restrictions depending on nationalities

Argentina European Union
Islamic Republic of Iran
Japan
Mainland China
Korea, Republic of
Schengen Area
United Kingdom
United States of America

Australia Mainland China

Bangladesh Europe

Dominican Republic China

Japan China

Myanmar China

Ivory Coast Countries with more than 100 cases - [overview](#) for reference

Korea, Republic of China

South Africa China

Hong Kong SAR

Germany

Iran

Italy

Korea, Republic of

Portugal

Singapore

Spain

United Kingdom

United States of America

Togo Affected countries (Not otherwise specified)

Vietnam	China
	Denmark
	Finland
	French
	Germany
	Hong Kong
	Iran
	Italian
	Italy
	Japan
	Korea
	Macau
	Norway
	Spain
	Sweden
	United Kingdom

Section 3 - crew change is prohibited or borders are closed

Albania

Angola For 15 days, starting 20 March. Duration is extendable

Argentina Ship's crew are excepted from the provisions in [presidential decree 274/2020](#) which otherwise prohibits foreigners to enter Argentina. Other restrictions may apply.

Azores

Bahamas

Bangladesh

Brazil Valid for 30 days

Cameroon

Canada US citizens are excepted from these provisions

Chile

China C Visa - crew members on ships and flights - are excepted from the restrictions

Cyprus

Czech Republic Including outbound Czech citizens

Denmark Crew change operations are uninterrupted

Gambia

Ghana

Germany

Gibraltar

Greece

Guinea Bissau

Guyana

Kazakhstan Until 15 April

Lebanon Until 29 March

Libya

Malta

Malaysia Malaysian crew are excepted from these provisions

Morocco

Namibia

Norway Crew change operations is possible, though quarantine restrictions may apply

Pakistan

Panama

Philippines

Poland

Russia Borders closed until 00.00 1 May - ships crew are excepted from these provisions

Serbia

Singapore

Slovakia

South Africa

Spain Crew change reportedly allowed

Sri Lanka Until 25 March

Turkey Except citizens in Russia, Qatar and Libya

Ukraine Two weeks from 16 March - extendable

United Arab Emirates Abu Dhabi

Fujairah

Jebel Ali

Venezuela

Feedback or a question about this information?

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