



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 4 November 2020

## Marine Notice No. 50 of 2020

### COVID-19: Humanitarian Relief Project to Support Stranded Yachts to enter South Africa during Lockdown Period

TO YACHT OWNERS, PORT AUTHORITIES, YACHT CLUBS, MARINAS, AUTHORISED AGENCIES, SHIP AGENTS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

*To be read in conjunction with: - Marine Notice No. 47 of 2020 COVID-19 - Level 1 Crew Changes; Marine Notice 24 of 2020 Medical Evacuations from Vessels (MEDEVAC) & Marine Notice 26 of 2020: Coronavirus Information and Emergency Contact details*

#### *Summary*

This Marine Notice serves to notify the industry of South Africa's of the implementation of humanitarian relief project to support during the Covid-19 Pandemic

#### 1. BACKGROUND

Shipping is vital to the world supply chain. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that all personnel involved are protected from infection, including those onboard ships and shore personnel who may need to temporarily go onboard ships or interact with seafarers. Many seafarers on board ships (and personnel in the offshore industry) have been on enforced extended contracts during the COVID-19 pandemic, with restrictions on travel making it difficult for crew to leave ships and for new crew to join ships.

These extended stays on board could have significant repercussions for crew wellbeing as well as for safe ship operations. The Regulations for Alert Level 3 as published on 28 May 2020 in Government Gazette No. 43364 in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) provides, amongst others, that  All borders will remain closed during the period of the national state of disaster, except for ports of entry designated by the Cabinet member responsible for home affairs, for specific reasons inclusive of the return of a South African national or permanent resident to his or her place of employment, study or residence, outside the Republic. With the introduction of Level 2 Covid Restrictions and Level 1 Covid Restrictions, seafarers were gradually permitted to embark and disembark at either Cape Town or Durban.

#### 2. UPDATE

The South African government is continuously reviewing its processes and procedures to identify challenges within the Maritime Sphere during the Covid-19 Pandemic. As such, the government has found that there is a need to address the challenges faced by the yachting industry.

To address these challenges, the Department of Transport, in consultation with other Government Entities and industry stakeholders, hereby release the following directive.



## home affairs

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### **HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROJECT TO SUPPORT STRANDED YACHTS TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICA DURING LOCKDOWN PERIOD**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The issue of stranded yachts has become a topical issue in the past months and it is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic that had dire consequences for the ocean cruising community. This community utilizes a wide range of Yachts or Small Pleasure Crafts to navigate their way across the oceans and who primarily sail the world's oceans as a way of life. As a response to COVID-19, many countries around the world closed their borders and making it extremely difficult for sailors to proceed with their traditional sailing voyage along the Indian Ocean. The current weather patterns along the Indian Ocean is posing a huge risk to Yachts and sailors.

#### **NATJOINTS/NATIONAL CORONA COMMAND COUNCIL (NCCC) RESOLUTION**

The National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) acknowledges receipt of requests from various local and international clients and stakeholders for entry into South Africa. It is noted that the request requires international movement of crew and disembarkation of other persons and conveyances as well as port services. The proposal to allow yachts into South Africa was presented and approved by the NCCC as a once off project to offer a safe corridor for yachts stranded on humanitarian grounds. It has been approved subject to strict conditions as the disembarkation is not provided for in the current COGTA Regulations. It is for this reason that the

responsible work stream in the NATJOINTS developed specific guidelines (as captured below) to allow this movement.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RELIEF PLAN FOR YACHTS TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa will offer a safe corridor and offer humanitarian services to yachts stranded along the Indian Ocean from 9<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Yachts falling within this category must only utilize Yacht Clubs situated within Port of Richards Bay, Port of Durban and Port of Cape Town. All yachts will be eligible to receive all services including stores, provisions, refuelling, repairs, maintenance and disembarkation of foreign sailors.

The standard application procedure must be followed through the Department of Transport as per attached guidelines.

### OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

Responsible Authority	Protocols
Maritime Security Department of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request/application for entry into RSA should be directed to the National Department of Transport by South African Sailing 96 hours prior to arrival;</li> <li>• The National Department of Transport will issue a list of approved requests 48 hours upon receipt and share with South African Sailing for communication with their clients;</li> <li>• The National Department of Transport will forward a list of approved requests with Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), South African Police Service (SAPS) – Border Police, State Security Agency (SSA), South African Defence Force (SANDF), Department of Home Affairs and Department of Health;</li> </ul>
Port Health Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South African Port Health protocols for travellers arriving at a port of entry must be adhered to;</li> <li>• Application for free pratique to be submitted to the port health authorities 24 to 48 hours prior disembarkation at Yacht Club;</li> <li>• Upon arrival at designated Yacht Club, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests must be conducted on board at sailor's cost.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only sailors with negative PCR test results will be allowed to disembark for admission to the Republic in compliance with Immigration requirements</li> </ul>
Immigration Management Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard Immigration requirements must be adhered to (no exemptions).</li> <li>Disembarkation is subject to compliance with Health and Transport protocols.</li> <li>Period of visit into the country should be aligned with the entry visa.</li> </ul>

### SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

The applications or requests for entry must be forwarded to [mscc@dot.gov.za](mailto:mscc@dot.gov.za) and copy [Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za](mailto:Nepfumbadam@dot.gov.za);

Each Yacht must have the following fields completed accurately;

Name of YACHT	Registration Number	Last Port of Call and Date of Departure	SA 1 <sup>st</sup> Port of Call	SA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Port of Call	Estimated Date of Arrival	Total Number of Sailors on Board and Nationalities

### N.B

These operational procedures are only applicable to Yachts that fall within the humanitarian scope as outlined above;

*Signed*

**STEPHEN VAN NEEL**

**NATJOINTS TRAVEL & BORDER SECURITY WORKSTREAM: CHAIRPERSON**

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