

**SANITARY GUIDELINES FOR THE MASTER OF INCOMING VESSELS
ARRIVING FROM YELLOW FEVER ENDEMIC COUNTRIES WITHIN
30 DAYS AT VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT**

All vessels that have touched any port in Yellow Fever endemic countries of Africa or South America (Annexure 1) and are arriving in India within 30 days of departure – irrespective of the number of intermediate ports touched before 30 days – must undergo Health Screening by the **Port Health Organization (PHO)** and obtain free pratique before the commencement of port operations.

PRE-ARRIVAL SHIP PREPARATION

1. General high standards of sanitation must be maintained throughout the vessel.
2. The vessel must hoist the “**QQ Flag**” (two Yellow Quarantine Flags) until free pratique is granted.
3. No person is permitted to board the vessel before free pratique is granted. In case of a Medical Emergency or if provisions or crew change are required, prior permission must be obtained from the Port Health Officer.
4. If the vessel remains at anchorage for more than 3 days, the deck must be cleaned and cleared of standing water, every fourth day of the stay.
5. The vessel must be entirely free of vectors, such as rodents and insects (including cockroaches, mosquitoes). Appropriate pest control measures must be applied if any pests are detected.
6. The vessel must be free of deck water collection and verified 24 hours & 6 hours before arrival to the port.
7. Open water storage in drums or other temporary containers are strictly prohibited. All such water storage appliances must be drained 24 hours & 6 hours before arrival to the port.
8. If there is water rationing, the storage appliances must be securely covered.
9. If live water plants are there on board, their beds, floors or racks must be inspected and dried clean. Weekly cleaning must be carried out for all such areas.
10. Swimming Pools must be scrubbed clean & treated with insecticide spray once before arrival at anchorage.
11. All Laundry rooms, toilets, bathrooms, galley, ship decks, lifeboats (open type), rescue boats, forward and mooring rope areas, safe valve opening points or drip tray points on deck, containers, any plastic sheets or open drums, paint drums, tyres, manifolds (tankers), free space between deck & containers, compressor points of the freezer containers must be kept dry.

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Rescue boat motor testing drums to be scrubbed clean and dried prior to arrival, and stored.

Garbage collection drums on deck must be covered. The floor beneath garbage drums must be free of stagnant water, inspected, scrubbed clean and sprayed with insecticide once before arrival at anchorage.

Tarpaulin sheets covering pilot ladders or machineries must be scrubbed clean weekly and once before arrival at anchorage.

Note: All such operations must be logged in the official logbook for inspection.

12. **Pyrethrum based insecticide** must be sprayed at all designated places, immediately upon departure from the infected port of departure and 24 hours & 6 hours prior to arrival to the anchorage point. (**Empty insecticides cans must be retained on board for verification by port officials**)
13. All **container vessel** must provide details regarding Freezer Containers loaded within the last 30 days, including their ports of call, discharge ports and the number of empty containers. The vessel must instruct the shipping lines to ensure that all compressor area to be kept free of water collections, cleaned and sprayed with insecticide prior to loading.
14. All **Car Carriers** must ensure that the ramp deck, side ramps, lashing floor holes, storerooms, tyres, all machineries received from previous ports, tally room, toilets & other rooms must be free of water collections, kept dry and sprayed with insecticide.
15. All crew members must possess a valid **Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate** conforming to the WHO International Health Regulations (1969 or 2005). The Vaccination book must contain the date of vaccination, official stamp and signature of the issuing authority, the vaccine batch number & manufacturer, stamp of the vaccination centre and the signature of the vaccinee.
 - If any of these details are missing, the certificate will be deemed invalid.
 - If there is unvaccinated crew on board, the sanitary measures or vessel quarantine will be enforced for 6 days following inspection, or until vector control measures are completed on board, whichever is earlier.
 - Note: Yellow Fever Certificates are now recognized as valid for the lifetime of the crew, regardless of the vaccination date.
16. A detailed report of **Port Operations in Yellow Fever Endemic Countries** must be submitted with details:
 - a) Duration of the port stay.
 - b) Whether operations took place at Jetty or at stream 500 meters to 3 miles from shore or at an anchorage point greater than 3 miles from shore.
 - c) The nature of the cargo operations carried out.
 - d) If the vessel remained at anchorage only, the details of vessel operations carried out and the number of times shore vessels came in contact with the ship.
 - e) Whether any local personnel stayed on board for cargo operations, if yes, specific details.
 - f) Whether any shore personnel received any medical assistance from the ship during port operations, if yes, specific details.

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- g) Whether the vessel received any stores, bunkers or water through vessels while at anchorage.
- h) Whether rainfall occurred during port operations.
- i) Whether rainfall occurred during the voyage.
- j) Details of crew granted shore leave.

17. The following documents to be submitted via e-mail to Port Health Organisation 5 days prior to arrival at Vizhinjam International Seaport.

- a) Maritime Declaration of Health with the filled attached schedule
- b) Crew list with joining dates
- c) Port of call list with arrival and departure dates with country
- d) Yellow fever vaccination list
- e) Medical log book entry for the last one month
- f) Shore medical assistance logbook in past month with details in the attached schedule of the maritime declaration of health
- g) Details of all newly signed-on crew, including nationality, port and date of sign-on, travel route, transit time at airports, stay outside airport, hotel stays, their current health status in past month
- h) Ship Sanitation Certificate
- i) Medicine chest certificate

To keep the hard copies of the aforementioned documents ready for the port health officer's physical inspection, during health screening for free pratique.

Under **Indian Port Health Rules 1955, Rule-11**: "In the case of all **infected and suspected ships** and ships having on board persons suffering from typhus or relapsing fever the Health Officer shall, and in the case of all other ships the Health Officer may, proceed on board and medically examine the ship, and the master of the ship shall give him every facility for the examination of the passengers, crew, baggage, cargo, provisions, water supply and any part of the ship which the Health Officer may consider it necessary to examine. **This examination shall not be undertaken between sunset and sunrise** except in such unusual circumstances as, in the opinion of the Health Officer, justify doing so. After every medical examination the Health Officer shall classify the ship as infected, suspected or healthy in accordance with special provisions relating to quarantinable and infectious diseases in this part of the Rules".

As per this rule, all vessels suspected of Yellow Fever exposure will be inspected between sunrise to sunset only, to facilitate a thorough physical examination of the breeding of Mosquitoes in egg, larva, pupa or adult stages, to examine the crew and to enforce necessary vector control measures if evidence of breeding or symptomatic crew is discovered.

By Order,
Port Health Officer,
Port Health Organisation Vizhinjam,
Directorate General of Health Services,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India.

Port Health Organisation Vizhinjam
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt.of India.

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Annexure 1

Yellow Fever Endemic Countries – the list is updated on 03 January 2023 by WHO

Africa			Central and South America
1. Angola	12. Ethiopia		1. Argentina
2. Benin	13. Gabon		2. Bolivia
3. Burkina Faso	14. The Gambia		3. Brazil
4. Burundi	15. Ghana	24. Senegal	4. Colombia
5. Cameroon	16. Guinea	25. Sierra Leone	5. Ecuador
6. Central African Republic	17. Guinea-Bissau	26. Sudan	6. French Guiana
7. Chad	18. Kenya	27. South Sudan	7. Guyana
8. Congo	19. Liberia	28. Togo	8. Panama
9. Cote d'Ivoire	20. Mali	29. Uganda	9. Paraguay
10. Democratic Republic of Congo	21. Mauritania		10. Peru
11. Equatorial Guinea	22. Niger		11. Suriname
	23. Nigeria		12. Trinidad and Tobago
			13. Venezuela

YF VESSELS SANITARY INSPECTOR