



COVID-19 Preventive Measures: Maritime Pilot Transfer Arrangements - suggested procedure at Walvis Bay and Luderitz 2 April 2020

The Marine division is identified as an important section of Namport exercising control over safe movement of vessels within port limits, providing and maintaining Search and Rescue services at sea, pollution combating, and ensuring compliance of applicable International Conventions and laws, thereby facilitating to maintain supply chains and trade.

Pilots, Marine staffs, other port and maritime operators have been identified as 'Essential Workers' by the Namibian Government and therefore expected to carry out their roles in as normal a way as possible whilst being mindful of guidance on limiting the potential spread of COVID-19.

This guidance is intended to supplement other existing operational procedures and does not attempt to alter or replace the safety guidance contained in the Pilot Code and International Good Seamanship practices, but merely highlight procedures that will contribute to limiting the risks presented by infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

Suggested procedures:

Due to limited space by designs of tugs and pilot boats operations, it will not always be practically possible to follow the Government's guidance to maintain a one-metre distance at all times during pilotage, pilot boat and tugs operations. However the following measures could greatly reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19 if followed closely as far as practically possible but subject to review:

- Prior to boarding a Pilot boat or tug, the coxswain/tug master and crew should ensure they are not suffering with any of the symptoms of COVID-19 nor are any members of their household, i.e. the people they live with (in this case they should self-isolate in line with Government guidance)
- The Pilot boat/tugs crew shall have all washed their hands thoroughly prior to boarding the craft
- The coxswain/tug master and crew shall ensure that the floating craft is clean and that appropriate areas such as handrails and seats are wiped down with a soap-based or disinfectant solution or wipes after each run. They should also aim to have an on board supply of hand sanitisers/wipes which are used regularly, especially on entry into the bridge
- Where possible the Pilot boat/tug should be as ventilated as far as possible with fresh air by keeping the door or windows open
- The pilots shall also be symptom free, having thoroughly washed their hands prior to boarding the Pilot boat/tug



- If the pilot is joining from a ship, the Pilot boat/tug crew should where possible provide hand sanitiser or disposable hand wipes to the pilot and have a suitable way to dispose of them after use
- Pilots should observe the highest precautions with their own health and to minimize exposure whilst on board the Pilot boat/tug, and minimize physical contact with Pilot Boat/tug crew members if not essential or make use of gloves and masks where possible, maintaining as much distance as practicable
- To aid physical distancing, for small vessels operations only one pilot allowed at a time on a Pilot boat for transfer, while on the tugs it will be subject to tug boat size and seating arrangements in an attempt to maintain as close as is possible to a 1-metre space for those on board
- Consumption of food or drink whilst on board the Pilot boat/tug should be avoided unless essential
- Prior to boarding, the Pilot can, if possible, confirm via radio with the master of the ship that requirements of Notice 1 of 2020 provided to Port Control, that all on board are healthy.

There could be differences on the rare occasions where a pilot may be asked/required to board a visiting ship that has, or suspects it has a member/s of crew experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Namport must seek advice from the Ministry Of Health (Port Health) about how this should be approached and what procedure including the specification of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) might be required. Separate advice as how to dress and de-clothe this PPE must also be sought from the Port Health.