

STATEMENT ON THE RECEPTION OF PILOTS ON BOARD OF SHIPS WITH REGARD TO COVID-19 ADDRESSED TO SHIP'S CREW, MASTERS, SHIP OWNERS AND SHIP AGENTS.

1. Business Continuity Management (BCM) in the Port of Delfzijl and Eemshaven is essential for the Netherlands in the abatement of the COVID-19 virus. The health of the harbour community including ship's crews is constantly monitored and a very important element of BCM.
2. Dutch pilots are - amongst other organizations and companies - considered as vital and therefore the Dutch pilots will be supported to execute their job as long as possible.
3. In the Netherlands, healthy people will not be tested on COVID-19 and this applies to the pilots as well.
4. In the Netherlands, face masks are meant for health care and not for vital jobs like the pilots. And beyond this, face masks will not prevent anyone from contamination in the context of maritime operations. The normal procedures and precautions like hygiene, social distancing and disinfection of hands and gear will be applied.
5. Pilots with symptoms of COVID-19 and fever will not be on the job. So checking the pilot's temperature is actually not necessary. The pilot is allowed to refuse so.
6. The pilot will not have to sign any declaration which could lead to liability issues later on. If the master or ship owner demands such a declaration the ship will not be received in the port of Delfzijl and Eemshaven.

I hope you will contribute to the business continuity of our ports in Delfzijl and Eemshaven. We will do this together. I wish you all good health and following seas,

P. van der Wal
Harbour master Groningen Seaports

